

# Commit and Improve: Pig Farmers' Approach to Sustainability



America's pig farmers are committed to improving the environment and our communities. We are guided by the six ethical principles of our We Care commitment and evolving and improving practices across our supply chain toward the safest, highest-quality pork supply in the world.


## Food Safety

By managing the health of our herds and employing the latest technologies, we minimize food safety threats. We achieve this through comprehensive training programs, biosecurity practices and disease prevention and mitigation plans.

*Providing safe, nutritious food is our most important responsibility.*  
- Joe Dykhuis, Michigan

 **71,000**  
farmers and farm personnel voluntarily participate in PQA Plus<sup>2</sup>

 **85%**  
of all U.S.-raised pork comes from PQA Plus certified farms<sup>3</sup>

 **31,000**  
industry animal handlers and transporters have TQA certification<sup>5</sup>

## Animal Well-being

Good animal care is required to raise healthy animals that produce quality food for consumers. We provide feed, water, veterinary care and an environment that protects pigs at every stage of their lives.

### Animal diets should be:




Nutritionally balanced



Produced efficiently



Protected from biosecurity hazards

 Today's barns keep animals safe from harm, keep predators out, prevent feed or water contamination, protect biosecurity and provide for the needs of animals at all stages of life.

**97%**  
of pig farmers have biosecurity standard operating procedures.<sup>1</sup>

**99%**  
of PQA-certified sites comply with animal welfare practices.<sup>1</sup>

**98%**  
comply with barn best practices.<sup>1</sup>

## Environment

Our livelihoods are tied to the air, water and land and it's our responsibility to protect our resources. By using manure as a nutrient-rich fertilizer, using barns and lagoons that protect water quality, implementing renewable energy and reducing odors and emissions, we can protect the environment for our children.

In the past six decades, pig farmers have reduced our environmental footprint, using<sup>2</sup>:



**75.9%**  
↓ less land



**25.1%**  
↓ less water




**7.0%**  
↓ less energy




**7.7%**  
↓ fewer carbon emissions

Agriculture accounts for **9.39%** of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions but pork production accounts for just **0.46%**.<sup>3</sup>



**262%** more food produced with **2%** fewer inputs<sup>3</sup>





## Public Health

Pig farmers have contributed to the U.S. food supply's strong reputation for safety. We use antibiotics responsibly and have put biosecurity practices in place that protect the food supply. We're also focused on providing a lean source of protein for consumers.



### 43% drop in use

of medically important antimicrobials in food-producing animals between 2015-2017<sup>4</sup>



### 8

cuts of pork are leaner than they were 20 years ago<sup>1</sup>



## Our People

Farm safety is no accident and our comprehensive training programs including PQA Plus and TQA help ensure a safe workplace where employees are treated fairly and with respect.

### Pig farmers:



Comply with applicable Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations



Leverage resources including the Employee Safety Toolkit and Barn Culture Toolkit



Participate in national, third-party benchmarking



Receiving training through PQA Plus, TQA and the Certified Swine Manager Program

### 99%

of caretakers know the training needed for their particular duties.<sup>45</sup>



## Our Community

We understand our trust is earned and we're committed to giving back to create a better quality of life in our communities.

**1,300** volunteers told the pig farm story of innovation, quality and stewardship **10,000** times to **288,000** people in **45** states and **80,000** students through Operation Main Street.<sup>6</sup>

### Pig Farmers' Charitable Giving in 2018<sup>1</sup>

**804,644** pounds of pork donated, totaling 3.2 million servings

**57,570** hours of time volunteered

**\$5.5M** donated to charitable causes



**Learn more at [PorkCares.org](http://PorkCares.org)**

### SOURCES

<sup>1</sup> National Pork Board.

<sup>2</sup> Retrospective Analysis of US Pork Production from 1960 to 2015 Using LCA. <https://www.pork.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/16-214-THOMA-final-rpt.pdf>. July 7, 2018.

<sup>3</sup> U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2016.

<sup>4</sup> FDA. The 2017 Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals. <https://www.fda.gov/media/119332/download>

<sup>5</sup> "Operation Main Street Shares Facts about Pig Farming with 10,000 Groups." National Pork Board. <https://www.pork.org/news/operation-main-street-shares-facts-pig-farming-10000-groups/>