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.

- **71,000** farmers and farm personnel voluntarily participate in PQA Plus²
- **85%** of all U.S.-raised pork comes from PQA Plus certified farms³
- **31,000** industry animal handlers and transporters have TQA certification⁵

*Providing safe, nutritious food is our most important responsibility.*

- Joe Dykhuis, Michigan

### 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.

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.¹
- **99%** of PQA-certified sites comply with animal welfare practices.¹
- **98%** comply with barn best practices.¹

### Animal diets should be:

- Nutritionally balanced
- Produced efficiently
- Protected from biosecurity hazards

### 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, using²:

- **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%**.³

262% more food produced with

- **2%** fewer inputs³

porkcares.org
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.

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.

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.

Pig Farmers’ Charitable Giving in 2018
- 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

SOURCES
1 National Pork Board.
3 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), 2016.
4 FDA. The 2017 Summary Report on Antimicrobials Sold or Distributed for Use in Food-Producing Animals. https://www.fda.gov/media/119332/download