

Myth vs. Fact



Setting the Record Straight on Modern Pork Production

Most Americans have never been on a farm, so it is easy to understand why opinions on pork production may be based on outdated or inaccurate information. By understanding a few basic facts, more people will appreciate the important role pork production plays in providing consumers with healthy and affordable food.

Myth	Fact
Pork comes from factory farms.	Family farms comprise 96% of all U.S. hog farms and 81% of hog inventories. The farms range in size and type in order to meet a wide variety of consumer needs. More than 60,000 U.S. farmers made up this diverse industry spanning all 50 states. Regardless of size, farmers are committed to best practices in animal welfare based on sound science, safeguarding natural resources, producing abundant and nutritious food, and caring for employees in the communities where they live and operate.
Pork is unhealthy and unsafe.	The pork products produced today have approximately 16% less fat and 27% less saturated fat compared with 30 years ago and select cuts are certified as heart-healthy by the American Heart Association. Pork is a good source of protein, vitamins and minerals and is often included in a healthy diet. The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service and other government agencies provide rigorous oversight to ensure pork's safety.
Pigs are crowded and mistreated.	Animal well-being is a moral responsibility and a top focus every day for pig farmers. In order for pig farmers to raise safe and nutritious pork, they must ensure their animals are comfortable and well cared for, which includes providing optimal safe housing. Pig farmers are committed to providing the best possible care for their pigs, leading to the highest standard of well-being.
Pig farming is bad for the planet.	Pig farmers understand their livelihoods are directly tied to the air, water and land, so they are committed to a sustainable future and recognize that their operations must protect the quality of our planet's natural resources. As food needs rise, pig farmers are working to reduce farming's impact on the environment and to advance animal agriculture's environmental and conservation efforts, while also producing more food. Over the past five decades, pig farms have reduced their environmental impact by using: <ul style="list-style-type: none">-75.9% less land-25.1% less water-7% less energy-7.7% lower carbon emissions per pound of pork
There is no oversight over pig farming.	Food production in the United States is a highly regulated industry, and producers must comply with a host of legislative and regulatory policies at the federal, state and local levels. These are important checks and balances to ensure that the food supply remains safe and nutritious, natural resources are protected and pig farms provide a safe work environment.
Pig farmers want cheap labor.	Pork producers provide jobs with good pay and benefits. Unfortunately, there are not enough local workers to fulfill their needs, so they rely on nondomestic workers to help close the gap. The H-2A visa program cannot be used for most of the pork industry's labor needs because of its seasonal limitation. The H-2A program should, therefore, be reformed to benefit both workers looking for opportunities and farmers currently facing a labor crisis.

To learn more about the pork industry's We Care Commitment, please visit porkcares.org.

We invite you to learn more about policy issues to support and strengthen America's pork producers at NPPC.org.

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