

Let's Talk Pork

An advocate's guide to
production and policy



Introduction

The National Pork Producers Council developed this guide to help you speak up and speak knowledgeably on pork policy. Whether you have a vested interest in the pork industry or are a seasoned policy professional, we all can benefit from learning more about pork production and how to advocate effectively.

In this reference tool, you will find information on:

- **NPPC’s focus and the pork industry’s role as a pillar of the U.S. economy.**
- **Helpful tips for becoming a pork industry advocate.**
- **A “birth to bacon” primer on the basics of U.S. pork production.**
- **A glossary containing important terms and definitions to expand your policy knowledge and help your outreach efforts.**

Take charge of your advocacy efforts with this guide—**because with your support, our voice gets stronger.**

What does NPPC do?

We speak up as the global voice for the U.S. pork industry.



NPPC represents the interests of America's pork producers. The team of legislative, regulatory, animal health, and international trade experts works with Congress, the executive and judicial branches, federal agencies, and state governments to communicate the enormous contributions the pork industry makes to the U.S. economy and thousands of communities across America.

What sets NPPC apart:

- A collaborative approach to legislative and regulatory policy solutions.
- Consistent, influential support of trade and expanding markets for pork exports.
- Access to technical and policy experts who provide members, legislators, regulators, and the media with information and perspective not available through other sources.
- Opportunities to engage with pork producers and allied industries on issues of common interest.
- Pork producers trust NPPC to protect their livelihoods. It's our sole purpose, and every day we work to ensure this industry can thrive for future generations.

When we succeed, it leads to reasonable policies — and often prevents unreasonable ones — that help pork producers and their partners prosper. That's why we speak up, every day. **Get involved at [NPPC.org](https://www.nppc.org).**

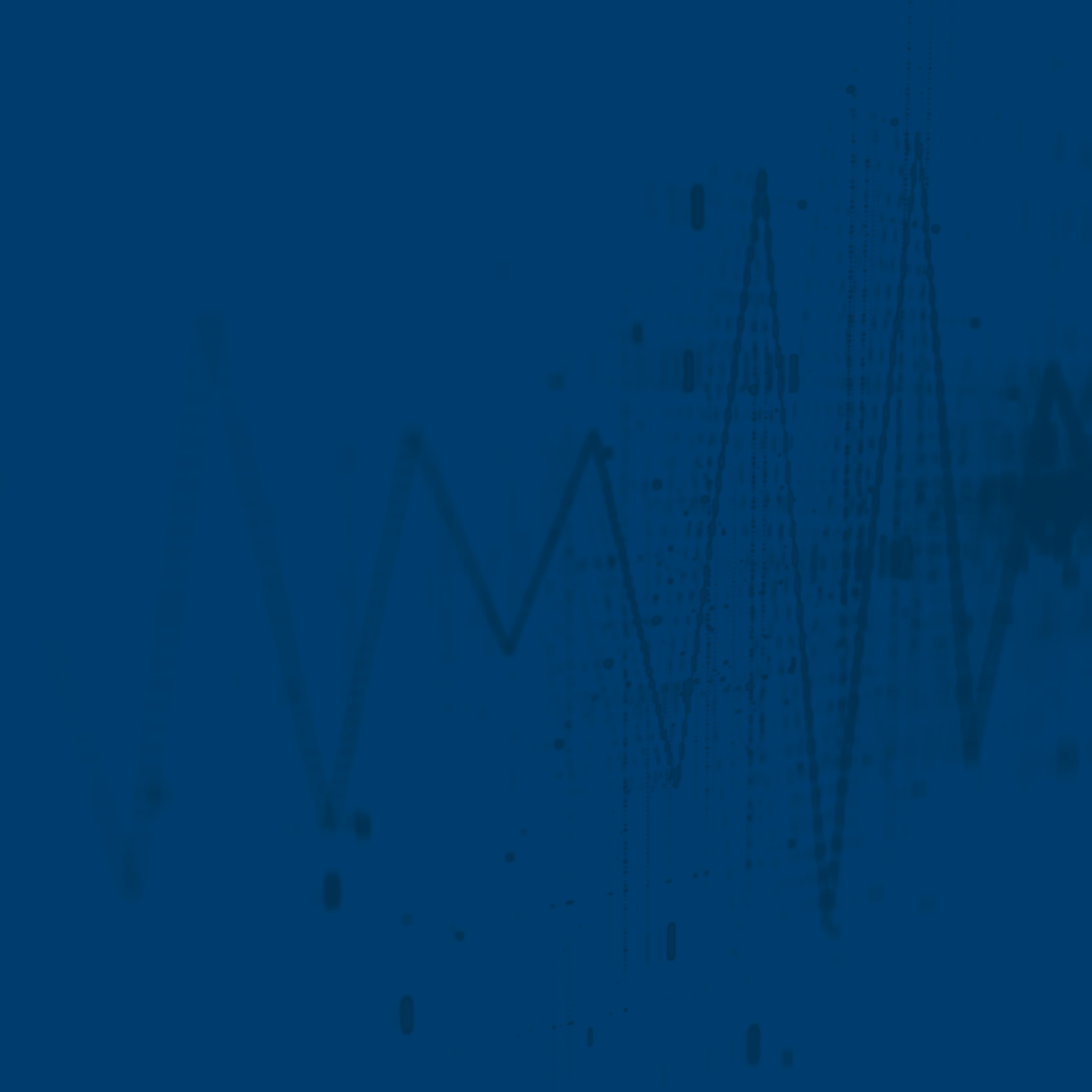
Our Purpose We exist to ensure everyone in the pork production supply chain can operate freely.

Our Mission We advocate for the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of U.S. pork producers and their partners by fighting for reasonable public policy, advancing our freedom to operate, and expanding access to global markets.

Our Vision We advance the U.S. pork industry today and for future generations.

We will always speak up.

To ensure your voice is heard.



more than
✔ **573,000**
jobs

more than
✔ **\$62 billion**
added to the
U.S. GDP

more than
✔ **\$37 billion**
in personal
income
generated



U.S. pork around the world

In 2024, more than 21 billion pounds of pork were consumed domestically, and an additional 7.1 billion pounds of U.S. pork were exported. Exports accounted for more than 25% of total pork production and totaled \$8.6 billion dollars, equating to **an average of more than \$66 in value from each hog marketed.**

- ✓ **7.1 billion pounds exported**
- ✓ **\$8.6 billion export value**



Our Advocacy Wins
We believe
America's pork
producers deserve
and need a strong
voice in our society.

At NPPC, we focus our advocacy work on four key areas that affect pork producers, consumers, and our nation's economy. By helping legislators, regulators, and trade organizations understand the process of raising and delivering safe and nutritious pork products, we work to give producers the freedom to operate sustainably today and for generations to come.



Animal Health

We speak up to protect pigs and the U.S. and global food supply. U.S. pork producers are focused on the health and well-being of their animals. NPPC advocates for science-based approaches to swine health and management to ensure safe food for consumers.



Environment & Energy

We speak up for the next generation of producers. With 96% of pig farms being family-owned, pork producers are dedicated to protecting land, air, and water for the next generation. That's why NPPC speaks up for science-based practices and policies that sustainably manage valuable resources.



International Trade

We speak up to increase global opportunities. U.S. pork producers export to more than 100 countries. With exports essential to keeping the pork industry strong, NPPC speaks up to increase global opportunities.



Commerce & Production
















We speak up to remove barriers to pork production. The pork industry provides more than 573,000 jobs and more than \$62 billion to the U.S. economy. With so much at stake, NPPC speaks up for fair policies and regulations that aim to increase innovation in pork production and support the food chain.



Terms and Definitions


Every group in business, government, or society has its own acronyms and terms. They serve as shorthand in conversations to help us reach common understanding more quickly. But to those outside the group, they may lead to confusion. The following terms and acronyms are commonly used in the pork industry and within our government.


-  **Animal Science**
-  **Legislative/Regulatory**
-  **Economic**
-  **Trade**


A


-  **AAA**
Animal Agriculture Alliance: Safeguards the future of animal agriculture and its value to society by bridging the communication gap between the farm and food communities.
-  **AASV**
American Association of Swine Veterinarians.
-   **AFBF**
 American Farm Bureau Federation: National grassroots organization advocating for farmers, ranchers, and rural communities through business and policy.
-   **AFIA**
American Feed Industry Association.
-   **AGOA**
 African Growth and Opportunity Act: Provides duty-free treatment to goods of designated sub-Saharan African countries with a goal of promoting economic growth through good governance and free markets.
-  **AHI**
Animal Health Institute: Represents the companies that develop and produce animal medicines.
-   **ALLIANCE MEMBER/PARTNER**
The program for allied industry companies to join the National Pork Producers Council. Members and partners help fund NPPC's advocacy mission.
-  **AMENDMENT**
A proposal by a member of Congress to alter the language of a bill or resolution while being considered by Congress.
-  **AMR**
Antimicrobial resistance.



  **AMS**
Agricultural Marketing Service (USDA): Federal agency administering programs that create domestic and international marketing opportunities for U.S. producers of food, fiber, and specialty crops. AMS provides valuable services to ensure the quality and availability of wholesome food for consumers around the world.

 **ANTHELMINTIC**
A drug treatment used to expel parasitic worms; an example of a typical anthelmintic is Ivermectin.



 **ANTIBIOTIC/ANTIMICROBIAL**
A product that stops the growth of, or kills, a microorganism, and is administered via feed, water, or injection.


 **ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE**
Ability of a microorganism (such as a bacteria) to withstand the effects of a certain antibiotic (a type of antimicrobial).


 **ANTIBODY**
A protein produced by the immune system to fight specific infections.


  **APEC**
Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation: Premier forum for facilitating economic growth, cooperation, trade, and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.


 **APEX**
American Pork Export Trading Company.



  **APHIS**
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA): Federal agency tasked with protecting the health and value of U.S. agriculture and natural resources.


 **APPROPRIATIONS BILL**
A law of Congress that provides agencies with budget authority.

 **AQSIQ**
China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection, and Quarantine: China's equivalent regulatory agency to USDA Food Safety Inspection Service.


 **ARS**
Agricultural Research Service (USDA): USDA's chief scientific in-house research agency.

 **ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION**
Depositing semen into the reproductive tract of breeding herd animals through means other than sexual intercourse.

  **ASEAN**
Association of Southeast Asian Nations: A geopolitical and economic organization that aims to accelerate economic growth, social progress, and cultural development among its members while promoting peace and stability in the region and providing opportunities for member countries to discuss differences peacefully.

 **ASF**
African swine fever.

 **AUJESZKY'S DISEASE**
Another term for pseudorabies.

 **AUTHORIZATION BILL**
In Congress, a bill passed out of a committee.


 **AVERAGE DAILY GAIN**
Rate of weight gain per day over a specified period of time.

 **AVMA**
American Veterinary Medical Association.

B



 **BARROW**
A castrated male hog.


  **BEAGLE BRIGADE**
A team of canines and their human handlers who, as part of the USDA's APHIS, inspect luggage at U.S. airports for agricultural products and enhance U.S. Customs and Border Protection's layered approach to safeguard the nation from invasive plant pests and foreign animal diseases.



 **BICAMERAL**
A legislative body made up of two houses, branches, or chambers. (Example: The House of Representatives and the Senate.)

  **BILATERAL AGREEMENT**
An agreement between two countries.



 **BILL**
A legislative proposal introduced by a member of Congress.


  **BIOENGINEERED**
Foods that contain detectable genetic material that has been modified through certain lab techniques and cannot be created through conventional breeding or found in nature. Other terms include genetically engineered and genetically modified organism.

 **BIOSECURITY**
Holistic term used to describe management practices on farm to protect animals from biological threats including endemic and foreign swine diseases.


  **BLS**
The Bureau of Labor Statistics: Unit of the U.S. Department of Labor that is the principal fact-finding agency for the U.S. government in the field of labor economics and statistics.


 **BOAR**
An uncastrated male pig.


  **BOP**
Balance of Payments: Accounting record of all monetary transactions between a country and the rest of the world. These transactions include payments for the country's exports and imports of goods, services, and financial capital as well as financial transfers.



 **BUDGET RESOLUTION**
An existing resolution of the House and Senate that recommends spending limits for government activity.


C


 **CAFO**
Concentrated (or confined) animal feeding operation: An agricultural operation without growing vegetation, where animals are kept and raised in confined situations 45 or more days per year. A regulatory term within the Clean Water Act, CAFO has become an all-encompassing term for most livestock operations.


 **CALENDAR**
The agenda for pending legislative business.



 **CAUCUS**
An informal organization of members of the House or Senate, or both, to discuss issues of mutual concern and possibly to perform legislative research and policy planning for its members.


  **CDC**
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: National institute to protect public health and safety through the control and prevention of disease, injury, and disability.


 **CET**
Common External Tariff: Tariff in which members of a customs union, common market, or economic union impose on non-members.


 **CFSAN**
The Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition: One of six product-oriented centers, in addition to a nationwide field force, that carry out the mission of the Food and Drug Administration.


 **CHAIRMAN/CHAIRWOMAN**
Appointed leader of the majority party for each House and Senate committee. Sets the agenda, calls hearings, selects witnesses, and decides which bills receive action.



  **CHECKOFF**
The Pork Act of 1985 established this common fund into which all U.S. pork producers are required to contribute. It also established the National Pork Board, which is mandated to conduct promotion, education, and research.


 **CLERK OF THE HOUSE**
An officer of the U.S. House of Representatives whose primary duty is to act as the chief administrative officer.


 **CLOSED RULE**
A rule granted by the House Rules Committee that prohibits amendments to a particular bill during floor action. Under a "closed rule," the House must either accept or reject the bill as recommended by the sponsoring committee.

 **CLOTURE**
The only procedure by which the Senate can vote to place a time limit on consideration of a bill or other matter, and thereby overcome a filibuster.

 **CNMP**
Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan: Total planning tool detailing the animal production-related activities for a specific farming operation.


  **CODEX**
Codex Alimentarius Commission:
Develops food standards, guidelines, and related texts such as codes of practice for the harmonization of food standards to facilitate trade. Codex is the international standard-setting body for the Food and Agriculture Organization and the World Health Organization.


 **COLD STORAGE**
Storage facility — usually a large warehouse — that can be temperature-controlled so perishable goods can be stored to extend shelf life.


 **COLOSTRUM**
First milk produced by the sow, which helps provide immunity to baby pigs in the first few weeks of life.


 **COMMON MARKET**
Agreement among two or more nations to eliminate trade restrictions with each other, adopt a common trade policy with other nations, and allow free movement of resources among their countries.


 **COMPANION BILL**
Identical legislation introduced in both the House and the Senate.


 **CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**
A special committee formed by the House and Senate to reconcile differences between differing versions of a bill passed by both chambers. Members are appointed to the committee by the bill's sponsoring committee in each chamber.


 **CONGRESSIONAL RECORD**
A printed daily account of the House and Senate proceedings.

 **CONTINUING RESOLUTION (CR)**
A spending bill for a short period of time that provides funds until Congress and the president agree on an appropriations bill.


 **COOL**
Country of origin labeling.



 **CPTPP**
Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for TransPacific Partnership: Free trade agreement formed by the 11 remaining members of the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) after the United States withdrew. Reduces and eliminates tariff and non-tariff barriers and establishes enforceable trade rules.


 **CREEP FEED**
A starter ration for piglets high in protein, usually from sugar and milk proteins for energy.


 **CRISPR**
Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats: Technology that research scientists use to selectively modify the DNA of living organisms.



 **CSF**
Classical swine fever.



 **CUSTOMS UNION**
Agreement between two or more countries to remove trade barriers and reduce or eliminate customs duty on mutual trade. A customs union, unlike a free trade area, generally imposes a common external tariff on imports from non-member countries and generally does not allow free movement of capital and labor among member countries.



  **CVM**
Center for Veterinary Medicine (FDA): Federal agency that protects public and animal health by ensuring animal drugs and medicated feeds are safe and effective and food from treated animals is safe to eat.

 **CWA**
Clean Water Act: Establishes the basic structure for regulating discharges of pollutants into Waters of the United States (WOTUS) and regulating water quality standards for surface waters.

 **DGAs**
Dietary Guidelines for Americans: Updated every five years by USDA and HHS to inform all federal nutrition programs, including school breakfasts and lunches, and provide recommendations used by health professionals.


  **DNR / DEQ**
Department of Natural Resources or Department of Environmental Quality: State agencies that work to improve and grow natural resources using data and partnerships through ecological, social, and economic outcomes.

  **DOC**
U.S. Department of Commerce: Federal agency concerned with promoting economic growth, jobs, and opportunities for the American people.

  **DOT**
U.S. Department of Transportation: Federal agency responsible for planning and coordinating federal transportation projects and setting safety regulations.

 **DR-CAFTA**
The Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement: encompasses the United States, the Dominican Republic, and the Central American countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua.

D

 **DEFICIT**
Sum of debits minus the sum of credits, or the negative of the surplus.

E



ECONOMIC UNION

Agreement between two or more countries that allows the free movement of capital, labor, and all goods and services. Involves the harmonization and unification of social, fiscal, and monetary policies.



EFSA

European Food Safety Authority.



ELECTROLYTES

Mineral salts that get absorbed into the body to repair problems often associated with dehydration, diarrhea, and fever.



ELISA

Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay: A test used to detect the presence of antibodies.



EMS

Environmental Management Systems: Term used by the EPA to describe a set of processes and practices enabling an organization to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency.



EPA

Environmental Protection Agency: Federal agency charged with protecting human health and the environment.



ERS

Economic Research Service (USDA): A federal agency that provides economic information and research on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural development.



EU

European Union: Economic and political union of 28 member states located primarily in Europe.

F



FAD

Foreign animal disease.



FAEA

Food and Agriculture Export Alliance: Organization dedicated to working with foreign regulatory agencies to harmonize import policies and food safety measures. FAEA strives to eliminate non-scientific trade constraints and create a positive environment to enhance trade and food safety.



FAO

Food and Agriculture Organization: A specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger and achieve food security for all.



FARM BILL



A package of legislation passed roughly once every five years that has a tremendous impact on farming livelihoods, how and what food is grown, and federal nutrition programs.



FARROW

The process of pigs giving birth.



FAS



Foreign Agricultural Service (USDA): Federal agency that links U.S. agriculture to the world to enhance export opportunities and global food security.



FDA

Food and Drug Administration: Federal agency responsible for protecting public health by ensuring the safety, efficacy, and security of human and veterinary drugs, biological products, medical devices, our nation's food supply, cosmetics, and products that emit radiation.



FEDERAL INSPECTION



Status given to processing plants with USDA inspectors on-site during livestock slaughter. Federal inspection status allows plants to transport meat across state lines and internationally and ensures compliance with USDA standards of a safe and quality product for consumers.



FEED ADDITIVES

Supplements added to rations including vitamins, amino acids, fatty acids, and minerals.



FEED EFFICIENCY

A measure of how well a pig converts feed into weight gain, an important factor when choosing pigs for farrow-to-finish.



FICC

Food Industry Codex Coalition: Comprised of more than 70 U.S. food and beverage companies and trade associations interested in the international standard-setting activities of the Codex Alimentarius.



FILIBUSTER

The continuation of debate by a senator speaking for an extended period of time in order to maintain the floor to delay or entirely prevent a decision.



Animal Science



Economic



Legislative/Regulatory



Trade

**FISCAL YEAR**

The accounting period for the federal government, which begins October 1 and ends September 30.

**FLOOR LEADER**

Members of the House/Senate minority and majority to steer legislative action and carry out decisions and goals on behalf of their party.

**FMCSA**

Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration: Federal agency under DOT charged with regulating the safety of trucks, including livestock haulers, operating on the nation's highways.

**FMI**

Formerly the Food Marketing Institute, the Food Industry Association is a nonprofit organization providing research, education, industry relations, and public affairs on behalf of its 1,500 members, including their subsidiaries — food retailers and wholesalers and their customers in the United States and around the world.

**FOIA**

Freedom of Information Act: Provides any person the right to request access to federal agency records or information, except to the extent the records are protected from disclosure.

**FOOD PRICE OUTLOOK**

USDA Economic Research Service forecasts changes in all food via Consumer Price Index through the next calendar year, as well as price forecasts for broad categories of food (pork, beef, etc).

**FSIS**

Food Safety Inspection Service (USDA). Federal agency charged with protecting public health by ensuring that meat, poultry, and egg products are safe, wholesome, and properly labeled.

**FSMA**

Food Safety Modernization Act (FDA): Overhaul of our nation's food safety practices, including new regulations for farms that grow fresh produce and food processing facilities. Congress enacted FSMA in response to dramatic changes in the global food system and understanding and consequences of foodborne illness.

**FTA**

Free Trade Agreement: Trade agreement between a designated group of countries that have agreed to eliminate tariffs, quotas, and preferences on most goods and services traded between them.

**FUTURES**

Contracts obligating the buyer to purchase an asset or the seller to sell an asset at a predetermined future date and price. In the lean hog market, futures are utilized to hedge risk or to speculate on price movements.

G**GATT**

General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade: Treaty organization affiliated with the United Nations to facilitate international trade. GATT was superseded by the World Trade Organization.

**GENOME**

The DNA makeup of an organism.

**GERRYMANDERING**

Drawing of legislative district boundaries to benefit a party, group, or incumbent. Gerrymandering is often challenged in the courts.

**GESTATION**

Pregnancy. For swine, 114 days in length (+/- 2 days) or 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days.

**GHP**

Good handling practice.

**GILT**

A young female pig that has not yet farrowed or given birth to a litter of piglets.

**GIPSA**

Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (USDA): Federal agency that facilitates the marketing of livestock, poultry, meat, cereals, oilseeds, and related agricultural products and promotes the fair and competitive trading practices for the overall benefit of consumers and American agriculture.

**GMO/GE**

Genetically modified organism or genetically edited. See BIOENGINEERED on page 18.

**Animal Science****Economic****Legislative/Regulatory****Trade**

H



H-2A VISA

Program that allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary agricultural jobs.



HACCP

Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point: Management system in which food safety is addressed through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement, and handling, to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product.



HEARING

House or Senate committee meeting in which testimony is given from interested parties.



HHS

Health and Human Services: Federal agency with broad jurisdiction over health and science issues. It splits jurisdiction with USDA over development of the Dietary Guidelines.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Made up of 435 representatives who make and pass federal laws. The House is one of Congress' two chambers (the other is the Senate), and part of the federal government's legislative branch. Representatives are elected every two years and must be 25 years of age, a U.S. citizen for at least seven years, and a resident of the state (but not necessarily the district) they represent.



HOUSE RULES COMMITTEE

The Rules Committee sets the rules for debate in the full House.



HPAI

Highly pathogenic avian influenza.

I



ICT

International Commission on Trichinellosis: Organization of scientists who serve as a resource of knowledge on *Trichinella* and trichinellosis (roundworm parasite or roundworm parasite infection) in animals and humans.



IMMUNITY

The ability of an animal to resist, or be impacted less by, a specific infection.



IMPEACHMENT

The process by which charges are brought against a governmental official for committing a crime. The House of Representatives brings the articles (charges) of impeachment, and the Senate holds a trial to determine whether or not to remove the official from office.



IMS

International Meat Secretariat: Non-profit organization that brings together livestock producer associations, national and regional meat associations, meat exporter associations, meat processing companies, government, and corporate partners from around the world representing over 75% of the global production of cattle, pig, and sheep meat.



INCUMBENT

Elected official already in office, running for re-election.



ISO

International Organization for Standardization: Non-governmental organization that brings global experts together to enable trade and cooperation between people and companies.



ISOLATE

A single variety of a bacteria or virus.



ITA

International Trade Administration: Federal agency that strengthens the competitiveness of U.S. industries, promotes trade and investment, and ensures fair trade and compliance with trade laws and agreements.



ITC

United States International Trade Commission: Independent, quasi-judicial federal agency with broad investigative responsibilities on matters of trade. Also serves as a federal resource where trade data and other trade policy-related information are gathered and analyzed.

J



JECFA

Joint Expert Committee on Food Additives: International expert of the scientific committee administered jointly by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Health Organization.



Animal Science




Economic



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  **JEMRA**
Joint (FAO and WHO) Expert Meetings on Microbiological Risk Assessment.


 **JOINT COMMITTEE**
Congressional committee that includes members of both the House and the Senate.



K


  **KORUS**
US-Korea Free Trade Agreement.


L

 **LAC**
Legislative Action Conference: NPPC member event that allows attendees to experience the inner workings of the democratic process, learn about current legislative and regulatory challenges, and advocate directly to their legislators.


 **LEADR**
Legislative Education Action Development Resource: NPPC's leadership development program that works to build, maintain, and coordinate an effective grassroots movement of trained and willing volunteers who can be mobilized to advance important pork industry issues.

  **LEAP**
Livestock Environmental Assessment and Performance: FAO multi-stakeholder initiative that seeks to improve the environmental sustainability of the livestock sector through harmonized methods, metrics, and data.


 **LEGISLATIVE HEARING**
Public congressional hearing where committee members hear witnesses representing various viewpoints.


 **LIMIT FEEDING**
Regulating the feed of sows and boars to avoid obesity and lengthen the time or pigs they will be able to produce.



 **LIVE WEIGHT**
The weight of the whole animal before slaughter.



 **LMA**
Livestock Marketing Association: Membership organization dedicated to supporting, representing, and communicating with and for the entire livestock marketing sector.




M


 **MAHA**
Make America Healthy Again: Trump administration political initiative to address childhood chronic disease but also has potentially heavy impacts on farmers, sound science, and healthy food. Primarily led by the heads of HHS, USDA, and EPA.


 **MAJORITY/MINORITY LEADERS**
Depending on which party is in power, one party leader serves as majority leader and the other as minority leader. Both party leaders, also called floor leaders, serve as the spokesperson for their party's positions on the issues and coordinate their respective legislative strategies.


  **MARKET ACCESS**
Refers to the ability of a company to sell products or services in a foreign country.

  **MARKET INTEGRATION**
Removal of barriers between two markets for the same product so prices on the two markets become more closely linked.


  **MARKET RESTRICTION**
 Any government imposed or legal requirement that impedes the ability of suppliers and demanders to interact freely, such as limits on quantity or price.

 **MARKUP**
When committee members change a bill before it goes to the full House or full Senate for a vote.

 **MASH**
Feed that has been ground; usually fed to young pigs and sick pigs.

 **MEAL**
Feed ground to a fine texture (think cornmeal).

 **MEAT PRICE SPREADS**
The Economic Research Service (USDA) produces monthly average price values at the farm, wholesale, and retail stages of the production and marketing chain for selected cuts of beef, pork, and broilers. Price spreads, or marketing margins, are the difference between prices at different stages of the supply chain.

 **MICROORGANISM**
A microscopic life form. Examples include bacteria and viruses.



MOTION TO TABLE

Congressional procedure which disposes of the pending matter adversely and without a direct vote on its substance.



MRL

Maximum Residue Limit: Highest level of residue that is legally tolerated in or on food or feed when antibiotics are used correctly.



MTN

Multilateral Trade Negotiations: Term initially applied to negotiations between General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade member nations conducted under the auspices of the GATT and aimed at reducing tariff and nontariff trade barriers.

N



NAFB

National Association of Farm Broadcasting.



NAFTA

North American Free Trade Agreement: Signed in 1992 by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, NAFTA established a free-trade zone in North America. It was replaced by USMCA.



NAIS

National Animal Identification System: Modern, streamlined information system that helps producers and animal health officials respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States.



NASDA

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.



NASS

National Agricultural Statistics Service: Statistical branch of the USDA and a principal agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System. NASS is responsible for conducting hundreds of surveys and issues reports on production, economics, and demographics, and conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years.



NFPA

National Fire Protection Association: A standard-setting association that develops draft versions of the fire, electrical, and building codes – which are adopted into law by state and local governments. NFPA has amended its code for animal housing to require sprinklers for livestock farms.



NIAA

National Institute for Animal Agriculture: Provides a resource for individuals, organizations, and the entire animal agriculture industry to obtain information, education, and solutions for challenges facing animal agriculture.



NPIC

National Pork Industry Conference: Built upon three pillars: education, networking, and family. The conference offers a wide array of sessions focused on current swine industry topics, nutrition, health, safety, marketing, and more.



NRCS

National Resources Conservation Service (USDA).



NTBs

Non-tariff barriers: Form of restrictive trade where barriers to trade are set up and take a form other than a tariff.

O



OCE

Office of the Chief Economist (USDA): Advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of policies and programs affecting the food and fiber system and rural areas. The OCE is chiefly responsible for the monthly World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates reports.



OVERRIDE A VETO

Requires at least a 2/3 majority in both houses to become a law without the approval of the president. This is one way that the legislative branch checks the executive branch.



OVERSIGHT HEARING

Congressional hearing to provide oversight of the executive branch—specifically the review, monitoring, and supervision of the implementation of legislation.



OXYTOCIN

A hormone used to cause uterine contractions in sows and/or stimulate milk production.



Animal Science



Economic




Legislative/Regulatory



Trade


P

+ PAACO
Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization: Animal welfare auditing program providing high-quality training and certification credentials for auditors and audits.

 **PAC**
Political action committee: Regulated entity that pools voluntary financial contributions to donate to political candidates, parties, or to fund campaigns designed to elect or defeat them. NPPC's PAC PorkPAC supports candidates at the federal level whose views coincide with the interests of pork producers, processors, marketers, consumers, and the pork business.

+ PARASITE
An organism that lives in or on another organism and steals food from the host.


+ PARITY
Refers to the number of births by an individual sow.


 **PARTY CAUCUS**
A meeting of the party leaders and/or members to conduct party business.


+ PATHOGEN
A disease-causing agent most commonly known as infectious organisms.


+ PCR
Polymerase Chain Reaction: An assay that tests the DNA of an organism to find its identity.

+ PEDv
Porcine epidemic diarrhea virus.

 **PFEU**
Pork for the European Union Program: Program designed between the European Union and the United States to control measures to facilitate the trade of pork.

 **PLI**
Pork Leadership Institute: Comprehensive training program conducted jointly by NPPC and NPB. Each year, producer candidates are nominated by state pork association executives and NPPC field representatives.

 **POLITICAL UNION**
Type of state that is composed of or created out of smaller states. The individual states share a common government, and the union is recognized internationally as a single political entity.


 **PORK CARCASS CUTOUT**
An estimated value of a hog carcass based upon current wholesale prices being paid for subprimal pork cuts. The cutout provides an indication of the overall supply and demand situation of the wholesale pork cuts market. A composite value is calculated each day for the various pork primal cuts and these values are combined to reflect a single composite value of a pork carcass.


 **PORKPAC**
The political action committee of the National Pork Producers Council that supports our grassroots efforts and funds the creation of communication materials and programs that defend your freedom to operate.


 **PPIC**
Packer Processor Industry Council (NPPC).

+ PQA PLUS
Pork Quality Assurance Plus®: Program focused on food safety and animal welfare to ensure U.S. pork products continue to be recognized domestically and internationally as the highest quality and safest available.

+ PREMIX
A mineral pack feed producers use to create a balanced diet in swine feed.

 **PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE**
Vice president of the United States. Only role in Senate is to break a tie.

 **PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE**
Longest-serving member of the majority party. Presiding officer of the Senate.

 **PRIMAL CUTS**
Basic major cuts into which carcasses and sides are separated, comprised of subprimal cuts. The side of pork is broken down into subprimals from the four primals: pork shoulder, pork leg, pork loin, and pork belly.

+ PROBIOTICS
Beneficial organisms used to aid sick or recovering animals. Probiotics are also used to help stimulate nutrient absorption.



PROPOSITION 12

State law passed by a 2018 California ballot initiative. Prop. 12 prohibits the sale of eggs, veal, and pork that has been confined (as defined by the law). To comply, pigs must be raised with at least 24 square feet of space per sow.



PRRS

Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome.



PTA

Preferential Trade Agreement: Trade pact between countries that reduces tariffs for certain products to the countries that sign the agreement. While the tariffs are not necessarily eliminated, they are lower than countries not part of the agreement and a form of economic integration.

Q



QUARTERLY HOGS AND PIGS REPORT

The National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA) issues this report, presenting data on the U.S. pig crop for 16 major states and the United States. The data provides one of the most comprehensive, publicly available estimates of current and future hog supplies.



QUESTION 3

A 2016 Massachusetts ballot initiative – similar to California Proposition 12 – banning the sale of pork from hogs born to sows raised in housing that doesn't comply with the state's prescriptive standards.



QUORUM

Minimum number of members present to conduct business in the House and Senate.



QUOTA

A government-imposed limit on the quantity, or the value, of the goods or services that may be exported or imported over a specified period of time.

R



RANKING MEMBER

Leads the minority party's policy agenda for each House and Senate committee. Directs the minority members of the committee and is tasked with representing the minority party's perspective on relevant issues.



RECONCILIATION

A fast-track process for congressional consideration of bills to implement the annual congressional budget resolution, which includes total spending, revenues, the surplus or deficit, and public debt.



RED MEAT

As reported in the USDA Marketing Service Estimated Weekly Production Under Federal Inspection report, the term includes beef, calf/veal, pork, and lamb/mutton.



REDISTRICTING

The redrawing of congressional and other legislative district lines following the census to accommodate population shifts and keep districts as equal as possible in population.



RMA

Risk Management Agency (USDA): Federal agency that manages the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to provide innovative crop insurance products to America's farmers and ranchers.

S



SCOURS

Also known as diarrhea, mainly affects the pre-weaning stages of piglets. Key clinical signs include watery feces, dehydration, wasting, and shivering.



SELECT COMMITTEE

Congressional committee created for a specific purpose. A select committee is temporary and is disbanded when its work is done.



SENATE

The upper chamber of the U.S. Congress consisting of 100 elected representatives from each state. Must be 30 years old, U.S. citizen, live in state that elects him/her. Two senators are elected per state and serve six-year terms with no term limit.



SENIORITY RULE

A rule in Congress by which members have their choice of committee assignments in order of rank based on length of service.



SEROLOGY

The examination of blood.



SESSION

The period of time during which a legislative body conducts business.



SHIC

Swine Health Information Center.



SHIP

Swine Health Improvement Plan: Platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions.



Animal Science



Economic



Legislative/Regulatory



Trade

\$ SIP
Strategic Investment Program: Pork producers voluntarily invest a percentage of the sales of each hog sold as a primary source of NPPC funds.

+ SOW
An adult female pig that has farrowed.

🏛️ SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
Presiding officer in the House of Representatives — assigns members to committees, schedules debates, breaks ties.

🔄 + SPS
Sanitary and phytosanitary: Measures taken to protect against risks linked to food safety, animal health, and plant protection or to prevent or limit damage within the territory. Sanitary refers to animal-related risks, and phytosanitary refers to plants. Countries claim unscientific SPS reasons for disrupting and stopping trade, e.g., imposing bans on pork and pork products due to unfounded concerns of H1N1 transmission in food.

🏛️ STANDING COMMITTEE
Permanent committee of Congress. Also conducts oversight of the other branches and investigates issues of concern.

🏛️ SUBCOMMITTEE
Subunit of a congressional committee established for the purpose of dividing the committee's workload.

\$ SUBPRIMAL CUTS
By-products created from primal cuts of meat. The value depends on how much work is done to the cut (boneless cuts require more fabrication) and demand.

+ SWINE TRACEABILITY
The mechanism of tracking live pigs or pork products from one location to another, frequently referenced in discussions about disease management and food safety.

T

🔄 \$ TARIFF
A tax on trade, usually an import tariff but sometimes used to denote an export tax.

\$ + 🔄 THE MEAT INSTITUTE
Trade association that supports meat processing businesses and their supplier partners. Helps with regulatory compliance, positive business environments, growing markets, and operational improvement. Formerly the North American Meat Institute (NAMI).

🏛️ TN VISA
Program that allows citizens of Canada and Mexico to work in the United States in prearranged business activities for U.S. or foreign employers. Program established under USMCA.

+ TOLL MILLING
Rations prepared to customer specifications at a commercial feed mill.

🔄 🏛️ TPA
Trade Promotion Authority: Also known as Fast Track, allows the president to negotiate trade agreements with other countries. It simplifies the process of congressional consideration of such agreements by requiring a straight yes or no vote with no amendments permitted. It gives trading partners confidence that the agreements negotiated with the United States will not be changed by federal lawmakers.

+ TQA
Transport Quality Assurance: Program® that trains pig transporters, producers, and handlers how to handle, move, and transport pigs as well as the potential impacts transporting can have on pig well-being and pork quality.

🔄 TRILATERAL
Biannual meeting of the U.S., Canadian, and Mexican pork producer organizations.



🔄 TRQs
Tariff rate quotas: Import quota that allows a limited quantity of specified merchandise into a country for consumption at a reduced duty rate during a specified period.

U

🔄 UN
United Nations: An international organization founded in 1945. Currently made up of 193 member states, the UN is committed to maintaining international peace and security, developing friendly relations among nations, and promoting social progress, better living standards, and human rights.


🏛️ UNANIMOUS CONSENT
A method of speeding up the legislative process in the Senate. If no senator objects, the Senate permits the action.

 **USAHA**
U.S. Animal Health Association.

  **USDA**
U.S. Department of Agriculture.




 **USDEC**
U.S. Dairy Export Council.



 **USMCA**
United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement: Free trade agreement between these three countries signed in 2020. Replaced NAFTA.


 **USMEF**
U.S. Meat Export Federation: Collects and analyzes market intelligence, implements promotional programs, and collaborates with industry stakeholders and governmental agencies.

  **USTR**
U.S. Trade Representative: Federal agency responsible for developing and recommending U.S. trade policy to the president, conducting trade negotiations at bilateral and multilateral levels, and coordinating trade policy within the government through the interagency Trade Policy Staff Committee and Trade Policy Review Group.



V


 **VACCINE**
Contains antigens from viruses, bacteria, bacterial toxins, or parasites. Given to pigs, usually by injection, to stimulate an immune response that will protect the pigs against later natural infection with the organism from which the vaccine was derived.

  **VEA**
Veterinary Equivalency Agreement: Treaty between nations that recognizes their respective, though not identical, animal health and food safety standards as providing an equivalent level of protection.


 **VIRUS**
A microscopic, infection-causing agent that multiplies through the alteration of a host cell.



W

  **WASDE**
World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates: Monthly USDA report of a full balance sheet for each commodity including prices, beginning stocks, ending stocks, production, per capita consumption, exports, imports, etc.

 **WHIP**
Assistants to congressional floor leaders, responsible for monitoring and marshaling votes.

 **WHO**
World Health Organization.

 **WOTUS**
Waters of the United States: The Clean Water Act regulates our nation's "navigable waters" — also called WOTUS — and imposes fines or even criminal liability for putting almost anything into those waters without a federal permit. The Clean Water Act recognizes that some surface waters should be regulated by the federal government, while some should be protected under state law.

  **WPX**
World Pork Expo: A global conference hosted by the National Pork Producers Council in Des Moines, Iowa, every June.

 **WTO**
World Trade Organization.



Advocacy 101

Advocating for issues you believe in and against those that threaten your livelihood **is vital** to safeguarding the pork industry's future. **One important way is to connect with your legislators.**

Find Your Legislator

Visit pluralpolicy.com/open and type your address into the “Find Your Legislators” field to see your state and federal legislators. Remember: Policies impacting your livelihood happen beyond Washington, D.C. Often, significant legislative movements begin at the state level.



Contact Your Legislator

On the page above, click on any of your legislators and view their contact information. Alternatively, you can visit your legislator’s website: congress.gov/members/find-your-member.

Craft Your Message

The most effective way to impact policy is through an in-person meeting. However, phone calls or letters are still highly effective.

Here are some helpful tactics:

- ✓ **Make it personal and factual:** Approach the meeting from an educational standpoint, and tie the issue back to your operation and/or community. Keep your message factual and avoid emotional opinions.
- ✓ **Be respectful:** Use your legislator’s official title (Representative, Senator). Use proper terminology by mentioning specific legislation, and craft your message with a polite tone.
- ✓ **Keep it brief:** If you are meeting in person or via phone, plan for a brief meeting. Written communication should not exceed one page. Focus on one issue, and make your message clear, concise, and compelling.
- ✓ **Wrap it up:** As you conclude your message, make the ask clear. Advocacy relies on action. It is imperative to thank the legislator for their time and leave your contact information in case they have questions.

Real change relies on educating from a position of trust. Our goal in communicating with legislators is to form a relationship and build trust so they are educated about the issues that impact our industry. You are the expert, and legislators need to hear your stories and receive the facts straight from producers.

From Birth to Bacon



Gestation Farrowing Nursery Grow-Finish Harvest & Processing

How U.S. pork producers
bring sustainable, nutritious
pork to your plate.



Gestation

- A sow delivers a litter of 12-15 piglets.
- After giving birth, sows are housed in specialized stalls where piglets are kept warm and protected while they nurse.
- After 21 days, piglets are weaned and moved to a nursery or finishing barn.



Nursery

Farrowing



- Pregnant sows receive individual care until they give birth (farrow).
- Sows are pregnant for 114 days.
- Sows are housed individually or in group housing during gestation.
- Sows are moved to farrowing rooms just prior to giving birth.

- Weaned piglets arrive at the nursery weighing about 13-15 pounds.
- They grow to about 50-60 pounds in the next 6-8 weeks.
- They are housed in groups with pigs from other litters.
- Piglets on most farms receive a specialized diet in the nursery.



Grow-Finish

- Pigs from multiple nurseries are housed together.
- Here they will be raised to market weight — around 280 pounds at about 6 months old.
- Diets are evaluated, reformulated, and changed several times to meet the pigs' nutritional requirements.



Harvest & Processing

- Pigs are transported from farms to processing facilities and humanely handled according to industry and federal standards.
- USDA inspectors are present at all U.S. pork processing facilities that ship pork across state lines, to ensure proper handling and food safety throughout the process.
- States also have standards systems equivalent to the federal government.
- Carcasses are broken down into hams, shoulders, loins, and sides.
- In addition to meat products, co-products from pigs support a range of needs, including human medicine and the pet food industry.
- After processing, fresh pork may be held in cold storage, sent to food manufacturers for further processing, or shipped to retailers, foodservice, or export markets.



**The last stop...
Your plate.**

Americans eat just over 50 pounds of pork per year, from pork tenderloins and chops to processed products like bacon, ham, and sausage. U.S. pork is sold through multiple channels:



Retail

Pork goes to grocery, club, and convenience stores where consumers purchase products and prepare them at home.



Foodservice

Pork items are sold in restaurants, hospitality outlets, and other foodservice channels (e.g., colleges, hospitals, stadiums, etc.).



Manufacturers

Some fresh pork is sold to manufacturers that use pork as an ingredient in further processed and value-added products.



Exports

Approximately 25% of U.S. pork is exported to more than 100 countries worldwide, with Mexico and Canada being our top trading partners.

Protecting animals, consumers, and the environment

At every point in the process, U.S. pork producers take measures to protect their animals' health, to keep our food supply safe, and to protect their farms and their communities.



Animal Care

Producers work with veterinarians to develop animal health plans to promote overall animal growth and development and to treat sick or injured animals. This includes balanced nutrition strategies, vaccines to prevent illness, biosecurity protocols, and judicious use of antibiotics and other well-being interventions.



Farm Biosecurity

Pork producers reduce the risk of illnesses on their farm by limiting exposure to hazards that can spread pathogens. Plans can include protocols for moving animals, personnel, and vehicles; use of protective coveralls and boots for farm staff and visitors; and requirements to “shower in,” wear farm-provided clothing inside barns, and “shower out.” Pest control (rodents, birds, and insects) and vegetation management are also important elements of farm biosecurity.



Housing

Pig farm facilities are scientifically designed to provide optimum environments specific for each phase of production. Most pigs are raised indoors in climate-controlled buildings to limit exposure to temperature or weather extremes, reduce the risk of pathogen exposure, and manage the environmental impact of pork production. While market animals are housed in groups, gestating sows can be housed individually or in groups, depending on the farming system.



Trained Workforce

Pig farming requires a skilled and dedicated workforce with responsibilities from animal care and handling to barn operations and environmental management. Industry training programs such as Pork Quality Assurance Plus®, Transport Quality Assurance®, and the Common Swine Industry Audit provide best practices training that complement individual farm training programs.



Environment

Pork producers care about the environmental impact of their farms and have long worked to do more using fewer resources. Effective practices include proper waste management by using manure as fertilizer, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through improved feed efficiency, and compliance with federal and state regulations. Through these efforts, the pork industry's environmental footprint has been reduced 8% over the past 50-plus years, using 75% less land, 25% less water, and 7% less energy.

The Global Voice for the U.S. Pork Industry

