

Fact Sheet: Pork



- Alabama ranks 29th in hog production.
- There are approximately 100,000 hogs in Alabama produced each year.
- Over 55,000 pig farms in the U.S. support 800,000 jobs nationwide.
- In 1959, eight pigs produced 1,000 pounds of pork. Today, five pigs produce the same amount.



- The Pork Checkoff administers the Pork Quality Assurance Plus Certification and the Transport Quality Assurance Certification to set industry pork standards and ensure pig well-being.
- In collaboration with the National Pork Board and the National Pork Producers Council, the Pork Checkoff supports the We Care initiative to "help demonstrate that producers are accountable to established ethical principles and animal well-being practices."

- The Pork Checkoff sponsors and provides funding for youth education programs including the 4-H Pig Squeal Programs, Fair Livestock Shows, FFA Proficiency Awards, Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program and college scholarships.
- Female pigs are called gilts before delivering their first litter of pigs and sows afterward.
- Intact male pigs are called boars and castrated males are called barrows.
- Gestation lasts about 112-114 days, or three months, three weeks and three days.
- Farrowing is the life cycle stage from birth until weaning. A sow in a modern facility has 12 to 13 pigs per litter, weighing 2-3 pounds each.
- Pigs are moved to a nursery at 3-4 weeks and grow 50 to 60 pounds during this phase.
- Pigs are moved to a finishing barn at 8 to 10 weeks old and stay until about 5-6 months of age or 280 pounds, which is typical market weight.
- In addition to sausage, bacon, ham and ribs, hogs are a source of nearly 20 drugs and pharmaceuticals.

Sources:

Pork.org

Photo courtesy of National Pork Board