

QUESTIONS ABOUT YOU

1. **Do you get to take days off?** The pigs need to be fed and taken care of every day without fail; they cannot feed and take care of themselves. Because of that, if I take a day off, I must have someone else feed and take care of the pigs for me.
2. **My class is wondering how long you have been a farmer? What made you want to be a farmer?** I have raised pigs for the past 12 years. I was introduced to pigs by a neighbor who raised them. I decided to work with pigs because I love animals and bacon!
3. **What is your favorite food from pigs?** Bacon!
 1. **We did a tally mark survey in our class:**
 1. **5 students liked ham best** Did you know, in the United Kingdom if you ask for “bacon” you will get a slice of ham?
 2. **11 students liked bacon best** Yay Bacon!
 3. **2 students liked pork chops** I love pork chops too!
 4. **1 student did not like any** That is okay! More bacon for the rest of us ;)
4. **What is your position on the farm? Why did you choose this job?** I feed and take care of the pigs when needed (if someone takes a day off), but I specialize in environmental sustainability—I work on projects such as utilizing the manure for beneficial use (such as using it for crop fertilizer and converting it into electricity), reduce our carbon footprint (growing more pounds of animals with less inputs, such as water and electricity), and recycling the water that we use on the farm (we recycle the water to wash the barns!).
5. **Do you have a favorite pig?** My favorite pig is Sow M162 (that is her identification number which is how we identify each animal; similar to a name); she likes to be scratched behind her ears and makes funny grunt noises when you scratch her ears.
6. **Why do you like working with pigs?** Pigs are very cool animals—generally speaking (there are always exceptions to the rule), they are smart, clean, have a social order (a leader and followers), great escape artists, and they interact with their environment (they act differently depending on the air temperature and humidity, exposure to sunshine, how much air is moving in their area (such as a breeze))
7. **Do you like working on the farm?** Working on the farm is lots of fun!
8. **When did you get your first pig?** I owned my first pig when I was 12 years old—her name was Millie—she was my 4-H project.
9. **Do you get to help with the baby pigs? Do you see the pigs give birth?** Occasionally, I have the opportunity to help with farrowing (when the mother pigs give birth). We have a person in the farrowing barns 24 hours per day, seven days per week to help the sows with farrowing. They are like a nurse in a hospital—they help the sows give birth, make sure the sows are comfortable as possible during farrowing, and take care of the new piglets (make sure they are warm and dry, nursing okay, and are healthy)

10. **What do you do in your free time when you are not on the farm?** When I am not working with the pigs, I am taking care of my mules, horses, and house rabbits. Did I mention I love animals?!
11. **How do you feel when the pigs are going to be slaughtered?** I do not mind—that is why the pigs are raised. We take care of the pigs that best we can while they are here. The pigs then provide us nutritious food, important medicines, and products that are necessary for us to survive.
12. **Are you a generational farmer?** I am a first-generation pig farmer—I was raised on a small family farm (grain, horses and cattle), but no one in my family ever raised pigs!
13. **Have you always farmed?** I grew up with livestock; just not pigs!
14. **How old are most of your pigs?** Our pigs range in age from newborns to about six years old.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PIGS

1. **Why are all your pigs pink? Why are other pigs different colors? Why do some have brown on their skin?** The pigs that we raise are selected based off of their carcass characteristics for their intended uses: meat quality, pharmaceutical use, and by-product use (like leather). My pigs are a multi-way cross of several different breeds which include large white, landrace, Chester white, and Yorkshire. Most of these breeds are primarily white in color. Occasionally there are pigs with grey/black spots. The pink skin is advantageous to by-product use because the leather made from pink pig skin can be dyed to any color; whereas leather made from dark pigskin can only be dyed colors darker than the original skin.
2. **What do your pigs eat? Piglets? What is a solid food diet? Why do they eat solid food? How much does it cost for all the food you use in a year on the farm?** Pigs are omnivores. Our pigs have a full-time dietician who formulates their feed to meet the nutritional needs of the animals for each stage of life. Their feed is primarily made from corn, soy beans, dried distillers grains, fats, vitamins, and minerals. The feed is milled (ground) to a uniform particle size of 700 microns (about the consistency of cornmeal). When they are piglets, they drink milk from their mother. Feed costs vary depending on commodity market prices—typically, it costs between \$20-\$30 per hundred weight to feed a pig (for every hundred pounds that the pig gains, it costs \$20-\$30 of feed). A pig will eat about 900 pounds of feed in the first six months of its life!
3. **How much do your pigs eat and drink each day? How often do they eat each day?** Pigs who are pregnant are typically fed two to three times per day; sows with litters, nursery piglets, and finishing animals are fed free choice (they have feed available to them whenever they are hungry). Each pig will eat six to eight pounds of feed per day.
4. **How do you feed and water all the pigs?** Pigs are provided water through waterers that are specifically designed for pigs that look like gigantic rabbit waterers (called a nipple

waterer). The feed is transferred from feed bins (which are located outside of the barns), augured into the barns through enclosed lines (to minimize dust) which are connected into the feeders in each pen.



5. **How do you keep your pigs clean?** Pigs are naturally very clean animals—if you keep their pens clean, they keep themselves clean. If they get itchy, they will roll in manure, let it dry, then roll the dry manure off. They are housed on slatted flooring over a shallow pit. Their manure is very watery (like orange juice with extra pulp); the manure falls through the floor and is captured in the shallow pit under the floor. The pens are regularly washed and if manure dries on top of the slats, a shovel is used to scrape it off.
6. **Where do the piglets go when they leave their mom?** The piglets are moved into pens with other piglets that are of the same age and size.
7. **Do pigs have hair?** Yes! Before nylon fibers were developed, pig hair was used for hair brushes and tooth brushes.
8. **Do pigs have teeth?** Yes! Pigs have 44 teeth.
9. **How many toes do pigs have?** Pigs have four toes—they use the two middle toes to walk on. The two unused toes are a product of evolution.

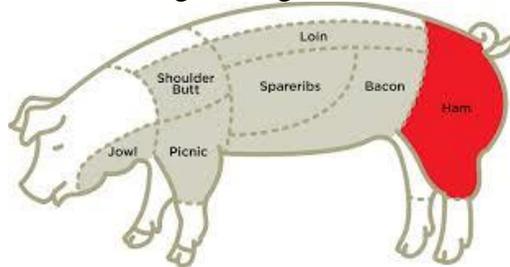


10. **Can pigs sweat?** No, pigs cannot sweat, and therefore cannot cool themselves without the aid of water or mud. Pigs in the wild roll in mud to cool themselves down.
11. **Who takes care of the pigs?** We have a large care team, including veterinarians, dieticians, farrowing assistants, and herdsman (who feed, check, and work with the pigs). On average, we have one person taking care of 10 pigs. Can you imagine only having 10 students per teacher? Our pigs are pretty lucky!

12. **What do you do if a pig is sick? Did you ever have a sick pig? Is it hard to take care of pigs when they are sick or when they are babies? How healthy is the average pig? What are the most worrisome diseases?** We have a full-time veterinarian on our care team. If a pig is sick, our vet will look at the animal and determine why it is sick and what course of treatment is needed. Pigs are typically healthy, however, just like a cold or flu moves through a lot of students in a classroom, if a pig becomes sick, so will the other pigs in the same room/area. The most worrisome sicknesses are colds and flu (the same strains that humans carry)—pigs can catch a cold or flu from the humans who work inside of the barns with them, and pigs get the same symptoms as humans—congestion, fever, and vomiting. This is one of the reasons that our workers cannot come to work if they have a cold or flu. We want to keep that animals healthy!
13. **We also want to know if pigs ever get exercise?** The pigs are housed in pens that they can move around in. Generally, pigs are very lazy and would rather lay around and relax.
14. **Do pigs ever go in the snow?** No, the pigs are housed indoors because they have no fur (such as a bear has) to protect them from the cold—the pigs would be cold in the snow. Imagine having to go into the snow with no clothes on!
15. **Why don't you keep the family together? (The sows and boars with their litters).** There are several reasons we do not keep the boars, sows and piglets together. 1) Boars are very aggressive and will kill the piglets, 2) Once a piglet is weaned from their mother, they will compete with each other, including their mother, for food. The biggest pig will run the smaller pigs off the food (even if they are not wanting to eat it). Because mom is much bigger than the others, she will prevent her piglets from accessing the food. 3) Each animal has different nutritional needs during each stage of their life; the pigs are separated into groups and fed based on their nutritional needs.
16. **How much bacon is in one 6-month-old pig? How much bacon does the farm make in one year?** A pig is harvested at about 285 pounds of weight (approximately six months of age)—each pig will produce about 20 pounds of bacon.
17. **Do you kill (harvest) all 250,000 pigs?** Not all at the same time. The pigs are bred on a schedule to meet consumer demand (such as an increase in ham consumption during Christmas and Easter)—pigs have a gestation period of 114 days; it takes an additional 183 days from birth to the time they are ready to market. It will be 297 days from when a sow is bred to when her litter is ready to be marketed. To meet the Christmas demand, we will be asked to send twice as many animals to harvest—we will breed twice as many pigs 297 days prior to the harvest date to meet that demand.
18. **Do pigs have to be a certain weigh before you can eat them?** Yes, the pigs average 285 pounds for harvest.
19. **Why can't the pigs have real names? Do other farms use real names?** At any given time, we can have up to 150,000 pigs on the farm. That would be a lot of names! We use number/letter combinations to help us “name” each pig, but it also allows us to quickly

determine when that pig was born, who the parents of the pig were, and who the litter mates are of that pig! Even small farms with just a few animals tend to track them by number/letter combinations for better pig tracking. For instance, the first letter represents the year the pig was born, the second represents the month, the third and fourth the date of the month, then the litter number born on that date, and the number of piglet in that litter (litters are typically between 8-14 piglets).

20. **Are pigs helpful?** They are helpful in all of the wrong ways! If you are trying to repair a feeder in the pen, the pigs in the pen will try to “taste” your tools, your sleeves, your pant legs, your hands, push their nose into what is trying to be repaired, etc.
21. **Are any of the pigs cousins? If so, how would you know?** Yes, many of the pigs are cousins. We can tell which pigs are cousins through their ear-tag tracking.
22. **Why do the pigs weigh so much? How much does the largest pig on the farm weigh?** Pigs are genetically bred to gain weight so that we can grow the most amount of meat with the smallest environmental footprint and at the lowest cost so that consumers can afford to purchase products that come from pigs. Boars (the male pigs) are the largest pigs on the farms--they can weight 1,200 pound and are as large as a couch!
23. **How do we get food from pigs? How do you get bacon from pigs? How do you get sausage from pigs? How do we get hams from pigs?** We eat the meat and skin that the pigs grow for food. The bacon comes from the belly of the pig. Sausage comes from grinding meat, fat, and seasoning and placing it into a casing—traditionally, the pig gut was used for sausage casing. The hams come from the rear quarters of the pig.



24. **Why do pigs live on farms?** Pigs live on farms because they can be destructive (they are very strong and if they want something, they will destroy or root (dig) away whatever is in their way) and aggressive if they are able to run loose.
25. **Why can't the pigs live outside on the farm? Are the pigs always inside? The pigs always live inside.** This is for multiple reasons: 1) Living in barns protects pigs from predators that would want to eat them, like coyotes. 2) Living in barns allows the pigs to live in a temperature controlled barn—the barns are maintained at about 75 degrees year-round; because pigs do not have a thick fur coat and cannot sweat, they are very susceptible to getting too cold or too hot (think about your life if you had to live outdoors (in both cold and hot) with no clothing and no ability to go inside into the air conditioning or heat—not a very fun experience). Keeping the pigs in barns keeps them comfortable year-round. 3) Pigs sunburn, just like humans. Keeping them in barns prevents them from sun burning. 4) It protects the environment. Pig manure is high in

valuable nutrients, but too much of a good thing can pollute the environment—the pig manure is fully contained in concrete or earthen structures which protect the soil and water in the local area; the manure is then moved and applied in moderation to locations that need the nutrients. Just like Tylenol, the correct dose helps, but too much is a bad thing. 5) It helps control diseases. A lot of wild animals (such as birds) carry diseases that can spread to pigs. Keeping the pigs inside of barns protects them from contact with wild animals that carry disease.

26. **Do the pigs get to play?** The pigs are housed in pens that they can move around in. Generally, pigs are very lazy and would rather lay around and relax.
27. **Why do the piglets need to be separated from their moms?** After a piglet is weaned from their mother, they will compete with each other, including their mother, for food. The biggest pig (the mother) will run the smaller pigs off the food (even if she is not wanting to eat). Because mom is much bigger than the others, she will prevent her piglets from accessing the food.
28. **How do you know when they are pregnant?** Sows are ultra-sounded (just like a human) to confirm pregnancy.
29. **How do you handle/care for pregnant pigs?** The pregnant sows (called gestating sows) are fed a special diet to make sure she is getting the nutrition that she needs to grow baby piglets inside of her, as well as extra calories so that she has enough body fat (energy) to produce milk for her piglets when they are born. Sows in gestation are kept as calm as possible, as excitement can cause them to abort or lose their babies.
30. **How do they make other things from pigs, besides food?** In an effort to not be wasteful, 99% of every animal that is harvested is used. This is possible thanks to byproducts. Byproducts are anything we get from the animal that is not meat or milk. Things such as leather (skin), chalk, crayons, paint, etc. Here is a great resource to visit for more information on byproducts. <http://animalsmart.org/feeding-the-world/products-from-animals>
31. **Why don't they like either the cold or hot?** Pigs do not have thick fur coats and cannot sweat. They can't add clothing to warm up and cannot use their sweat to cool off through evaporation like humans do. If they are not housed indoors in climate-controlled barns, to keep warm, they huddle together and share body heat, and to keep cool, they wallow in mud, which acts like sweat, evaporating off the water to cool them off.
32. **How many baby piglets do they have?** An average litter is between 8-14 piglets.
33. **How many kinds of pigs do you have?** We only have one kind of pig that is a cross-bred of multiple breeds.

34. **Why are their ears floppy? Why do some pigs have big ears?** A pig's ears depend on their genetics—some breeds are very big and floppy; other breeds have small erect ears.
35. **How do pigs change colors from piglet to grown up pigs?** Pigs will stay the same color from birth through adulthood.
36. **Do pigs have DNA?** Yes! Pigs have 38 chromosomes.
37. **How do piglets get milk from their moms?** Piglets get milk from their mama pig's teats. A typical sow has 12 teats.
38. **How old are baby piglets at your farm right now?** The baby piglets are weaned from their moms at 21 days of age. We have some piglets that were born yesterday, and some will be born tomorrow.
39. **How do pigs grow?** To grow, pigs need to be fed a nutritious diet. Piglets can gain between two to four pounds per day.
40. **How do you know if the pig is a boy or a girl?** Boy and girl pigs have different anatomy and reproductive organs that can be seen when they are little.
41. **Do all the piglets drink from their moms (like cows)?** Yes, all piglets are born drinking their mother's milk.
42. **How heavy is the mom pig when she has all 10 piglets inside of her?** A gestating sow weighs around 500 pounds.
43. **Do the 250,000 pigs get along with each other and how do they play inside together?** The pigs are divided into pens of about 10-30 pigs per pen (just like a classroom within a school). The pens are sorted to make sure all of the pigs in that pen are about the same size and age, so all of the pigs have access to the food (pigs can be bully's—the biggest pig will hog all the food and not allow the smaller pigs to eat if there is size variation within a pen).
44. **What is it like when pigs are born?** When they are born, piglets are not very attractive—they are small, wet, slimy, and bloody from the placenta.
45. **Are pigs trained to go to the bathroom in one area of the barn or do they go wherever they want?** They can go wherever they want in the pen, but they typically establish a "bathroom corner" in their pen away from the feeder. All of the pigs in the pen will use the same area.
46. **Do the pigs ever fight?** Yes, they do fight, and can badly injure each other while fighting.

47. **Are your pigs organic?** No, our pigs are fed feed ingredients made from GMO crops, and are provided medicines when they are sick. These two practices do not allow our pigs to be sold as organic.
48. **Are the pigs killed at the farm or do they go somewhere else?** The pigs are harvested at a separate location that is specially designed to minimize stress on the pigs.
49. **How do you kill the pigs?** The pigs are stunned with Carbon dioxide gas. They walk themselves into a chamber that is filled with carbon dioxide. The carbon dioxide makes them quietly go to sleep. After they go to sleep, they are removed from the chamber and processed.
50. **Is a pig good for a pet?** A pig could be a good pet, but they are very large, can be aggressive and destructive, and are not very soft to pet. I prefer a nice soft dog, cat, or rabbit as a pet!
51. **Why do you have so many pigs?** It costs a lot of money to comply with all of the required regulations on a farm. The cost to comply with the regulations is the same if you have 100 pigs or 10,000 pigs. If I raise more pigs, it allows me to spread the cost of regulatory compliance over more animals.
52. **Do the pigs oink a lot?** The pigs get very noisy if they want something, such as feeding time in a gestation barn.
53. **Do the pigs actually stink?** They smell like a wet dog. It's not a bad smell, but doesn't smell like roses!
54. **Do you put tags on their ear?** Yes, that is one method of identification. Another is to tattoo them, just like a person getting a tattoo.
55. **How do the pigs behave?** Pigs like to lay around and be lazy.
56. **How many kinds of pigs are there?** There are hundreds of breeds of pigs. We only have the one breed on our farm.
57. **What about pigs makes them so sensitive that you must take a shower before seeing them?** Pigs can catch colds, flus, and other diseases from us that we can carry in on our clothing, skin, and shoes. Taking a shower makes sure that we do not carry any diseases in on our person; similarly, if an employee or any member of their household is sick, they are not allowed to have contact with the pigs because we do not want the pigs to get sick.
58. **We hear a lot about free range animals that are allowed to roam outside free. Do those pigs get diseases easily?** Yes, free range animals get sick from exposure to diseases that are carried in the environment, such as birds.

59. **Are market pigs chosen to be market pigs because they are genetically smaller?** Market pigs are specifically bred to be market animals due to their desirable traits for market (such as meat quality).
60. **How do the males get so heavy?** Male pigs have testosterone, which allows them to grow lots of bone mass and muscle, making them very heavy.
61. **How old to the female pigs have to be to have babies?** A young female pig (gilt) reaches sexual maturity at six months of age—that is when she can first be bred.
62. **Why do pigs have curly tails?** We do not know for sure. It is thought that a curly tail is an evolutionary characteristic which deters other pigs from chewing on them. Our pigs have long straight tails that we trim to a length of about 4 inches; a tail that is left long will frequently be chewed off by another pig in the pen.
63. **How long does it take a pig to have a baby?** The gestation time for a pig is 114 days. Once she begins giving birth it can take 24 hours to deliver all the piglets.
64. **How do the pigs give birth?** Pigs typically give birth while lying down, but sometimes give birth standing up. It can take up to 24 hours for a sow to deliver all of her piglets.
65. **How tall do the pigs get?** Pigs get to be about 30 inches tall—some get taller—some are shorter.
66. **How much does it cost to buy a pig?** Pigs are bought and sold based on a market value set by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, which is dictated by supply and demand and the global economy. They are sold by the pound.
67. **When it rains do the pigs get cold?** Inside of the barns, the pigs do not get cold—they are protected from the rain and the barns are maintained (heated or cooled as needed) in the mid-70's to keep them comfortable.
68. **How fast can pigs run?** A pig can run up to 11 miles per hour for very short bursts.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FARM

1. **What is the biggest pig you've ever had?** It was a boar that weighed about 1,000 pounds and the size of my living room couch.
2. **Is it fun to be on a pig farm?** I enjoy working with my hands and taking care of the pigs.
3. **How many baby pigs are there in a litter? On the farm?** How many pigs are born each day if you have 250,000 each year? There are between 8 to 14 pigs born per litter. A litter is born to a mother sow twice per year. We have about 12,500 sows.

4. **What is the hardest part of working on a farm and raising pigs?** Preventing the pigs from getting sick. If an employee has the flu and coughs on a pig, that pig can get the flu.
5. **How many people work on your farm?** Herdspersons care for about 10 pigs each within the sow farms—about 125 employees in the sow farms alone!
6. **Where did you get your pigs originally to raise them?** I received my pigs from a special genetic company which bred the pigs specifically for what I need.
7. **Where do you get your pig pen gates?** Most of our barn equipment comes from a company called Hot Slat.
8. **Is it a family run farm?** We have families which work at the farm, but it is what you would call a corporate farm.
9. **How long did it take you to build your farm? What is the oldest pig you have?** The oldest pig I have is 6 years old. The farm was originally built in the 1970's. Since then building have been added and demolished.
10. **How many pigs do you have on your farm?** Up to 125,000 pigs can be housed.
11. **Where is Snowflake?** Snowflake is located in east-central Arizona at the base of the White Mountains.
12. **Do the workers there have to get a shower and change clothes every day at work?** Yes, the employees are provided showers and clothing to change in to. Most utilize the showers at the farm instead of showering at home prior to or after their work day.
13. **How many acres if the farm?** The farm is located on 12 sections of land. A section is a 1 mile by 1 mile square and contain 640 acres.
14. **How long has the industry been around? How long has the farm been around?** Pigs were domesticated about 12,000 years ago. Pigs started to be raised in houses in the 1950's when a really smart farmer figured out they could produce healthier pigs.
15. **What time of year do you sell or ship the pigs?** We ship pigs to market four days per week year-round.
16. **Do you send all of your pigs to market when they get old enough, or only some? Do you ever keep any as pets? We are also wondering how many you sell to market vs how many you keep for breeding.** All of the pigs which were bred to be sent to market are sent to market when they reach the correct weight. I do not keep any as pets—I enjoy them while I have them, knowing they serve a greater purpose in life. I have a sow herd of about 12,500 (these are permanent residents and do not get sent to market)—all of their offspring are sent to market.

17. **How do you keep pigs from being injured or killed on the farm?** It can be hard to keep the pigs from injuring each other because they can be aggressive towards each other. To minimize injuries and fighting, we sort the pens so that all of the animals in that pen are about the same size—so there are no big bully's in the pen.
18. **What are the biosecurity guidelines?** Biosecurity are the steps that we have put into place to protect our pigs from disease. We do not allow anyone onto the farm if they have been on another farm or have touched another pig within 3 days. Employees who are sick or who have family members at home who are sick are not allowed to handle the pigs. Employees are required to shower into the facility and change clothing and footwear. Vehicles that have been to other farms have to be washed and cannot be driven onto my farm for a minimum of 3 days after it was at the last farm.
19. **Where do you take a shower if you want to visit the pigs?** We have shower facilities at the farm in the office as you enter the barn.
20. **Do the numbers and letters you name the pigs stand for anything specific like the "Q" means something and the numbers?** Yes! We use number/letter combinations to help us “name” each pig, but it also allows us to quickly determine when that pig was born, who the parents of the pig were, and who the litter mates are of that pig! Even small farms with just a few animals tend to track them by number/letter combinations for better pig tracking. For instance, the first letter represents the year the pig was born, the second represents the month, the third and fourth the date of the month, then the litter number born on that date, and the number of piglet in that litter (litters are typically between 8-14 piglets).
21. **Why is the name Farmer John? Is that someone who used to own it?** Farmer John was the original farm owner a long, long time ago.
22. **How many cages do you have?** Pigs are not kept in cages—they live in pens and stalls.
23. **Do you have anything besides pigs at your farm?** We have some cattle that graze free-range in the land that is not otherwise utilized between the barns.
24. **How many hogs do you sell in one year?** In one year, we send about 250,000 pigs to market.