



PORK

The pork industry is an important component of the Kansas economy, providing pork products locally, nationally and internationally. As swine production has become more specialized, and environmental impacts have played an increasingly larger role in operational decisions, the pork industry in Kansas has seen adjustments in size and location of hog operations. Growth in the pork industry can result from an increasingly concentrated supply chain, and the readily available supply of feed in Kansas assists that effort. Leaders in the pork industry in Kansas are dedicated to support of swine farmers and to advancement of the industry. Swine producers strive to minimize production costs while optimizing productivity and product quality all while reducing environmental impact and avoiding social impacts on their communities. Modern swine production has become very specialized and farm sizes have grown as economies of scale are sought.

Several challenges face the pork industry, which pose potential barriers to success in Kansas in the future. A variety of policies at the local, state and federal level can slow the growth of individual operations, and public support for hog operations is lacking in

some communities. Attracting a skilled workforce is a continual concern, as well as managing the challenges of an immigrant workforce. The lack of a large-scale processing facility raises transportation costs, and acquiring sufficient water supply is difficult in some areas of the state. The threat of foreign animal disease entering the U.S. swine herd is real and would cause billions in losses to the industry.

Growth in the pork industry will require the collaborative effort of public and private stakeholders across the state. Investigation into expansion of the processing options would open up new opportunities for growth of existing and new operations. Additional efforts to maximize efficient water use will benefit hog operations in the short term and protect the industry's long-term future as well. Continued communication with policymakers and the public to improve understanding of the pork industry is critical. Being progressive in advancing foreign animal disease preparedness and enhancing biosecurity statewide will be crucial in keeping this industry safe. A great deal of potential exists for growth in this sector, as key leaders work together to identify strategies for future development.

Status

Kansas ranks 11th nationwide in hog inventory, producing about 3% of the nation's total. There are about 1,000 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 150 produce over 99% of the state's pork. In 2022, Kansas producers sold 3,418,944 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$663.1 million. These hogs produced more than 600 million pounds of pork which helps feed millions of people in the United States and abroad through exports (KPA Kansas Pork Stats, 2023).

According to a Kansas Department of Agriculture IMPLAN economic model, the estimated direct impact of the pork industry is \$891.4 million in output and 4,293 jobs. Including indirect and induced effects, the total impact of the industry on the Kansas economy reaches \$1.39 billion in output and 6,631 jobs.

The pork industry is important to the Kansas economy. Kansas pork farms consume more than 36 million bushels of grain. Primarily, these operations utilize Kansas-grown grain sorghum and corn. At January 2023 prices, the pork industry spends over \$262 million on grain sorghum and corn annually. Kansas pork farms also consume the equivalent of more than eight million bushels of soybeans through soybean products. At January 2023 prices, the pork industry spends over \$122 million on soybean products annually (KPA Kansas Pork Stats, 2023).

Modern swine production has become very specialized and farm sizes have grown as economies of scale are sought. Environmental regulations and litigations have put pressure on some producers to relocate. The trend toward fewer, larger and more productive hog operations will likely continue into the foreseeable future.

Successes

- Kansas is a national leader in the development of Secure Food Supply Plans for swine, cattle feeding and dairy operations. As of January 2023, over 1.9 million head of pigs across 422 sites are covered under Secure Pork Supply Plans.
- In 2022, the Kansas Pork Association continued to connect with consumers through a wide variety of social platforms. Nearly 4.4 million impressions were made by KPA's efforts on Facebook, Pinterest, Instagram, YouTube and eatpork.org.
- K-State hosts the longest running Swine Industry Day in the United States. In 2022, over 400 registrants from 15 states attended to learn about applied nutrition, management, feed processing and animal health research that involved 47 experiments that used over 80,000 pigs. Graduate and undergraduate students were exposed to the swine industry to learn about future career opportunities.
- KPA, in cooperation with other agricultural groups, provided tours for influencers including bloggers and dietitians. These tours work to make positive impacts about food and farming on the participants. The topics include pig farming, antibiotic and hormone use in food animals, GMOs, and meat processing.
- The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has worked to strengthen the livestock waste management section. They have improved efficiency of the permitting process by implementing new internal policies that involve the engineering workflow.
- Over 8,000 students from across Kansas and other states participated in KPA's live virtual field trips since the program's inception in 2016. Pre- and post-trip surveys continue to show positive shifts in regard to animal welfare, environmental effects of raising animals, and knowledge about pig farming. Several new lesson plans have also been developed for classrooms. The virtual field trip program and resource development are supported by several other ag groups.
- The Kansas Department of Agriculture received funds to conduct training courses to increase the number of livestock compost subject matter experts that could be utilized in the event of a livestock disease outbreak. In 2021, two composting courses as well as a depopulation exercise and demonstration were carried out and nine additional SMEs were trained.