

**NIAA:  
Antibiotic Use – Working  
Together for Better  
Solutions**

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# Pig Farming 101

## Sow Farm

- Breed to Wean
  - Sow Gestation Cycle: 115 days
  - 3 Month + 3 Weeks + 3 Days
- Birth to 21 days old



## Nursery

- 21 – 70 days of age
- Gain ~1lb per day

- ❖ US Sow Herd Inventory = ~6.02 million
- ❖ Total Market Pigs = ~64.8 million current inv.
- ❖ Pork Exports = 2.2 million metric tons annually
- ❖ Pork Industry supports ~550,000 jobs

- ❖ Pigs eat feed made primarily from corn and soybeans grown on U.S. Farms
- ❖ Pig Manure is a highly valued fertilizer that is agronomically applied to farm fields where corn and soybeans are grown

## Finisher

- 70 days old until 24 weeks of age
- Harvested at approximately 285 lbs.

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# Antibiotic Use in Pig Farming

## Categories of Use:

- Treatment of Disease
- Control and Prevention of Disease
- ~~Improved Feed Efficiency~~



## Antibiotic Delivery Methods:

- Individual injection
- Orally through drinking water
- Orally through feed



# Responsible Antibiotic Use

## Examples:

### PQA Plus

- Producer education program
  - Focused on Responsible Medication Use, Food Safety, and Animal Well Being
  - Since 1989
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- Veterinary Oversight through valid VCPR
  - Veterinary Visits and Health Assessments
  - Routine Laboratory Submissions for accurate diagnosis
  - Farm Treatment Records
  - Careful adherence to pre-harvest treatment withdrawal times



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# Industry Track Record: Continual Efforts to Improve Pig Health

## Health Improvements =

- Less Medication Use
- Improved Animal Well-Being
- More profitable farms



## Examples:

- Multi-site production, “All-in/All-out” flow
- High health breeding stock farms
- High biosecurity: facility design, showers, filters, truck washes
- Disease elimination programs: PRRS, Mycoplasma, Influenza, APP, etc
- Immunization plans: vaccinate instead of medicate

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RECORD



REVIEW



RESPOND



- Interactive, web-based tool to help farmers monitor and track total antibiotic use
- Helps farmers demonstrate their responsible use of antibiotics
- Works to track resistance over time
- Gives Pipestone Veterinarians better information to:
  - Select the best treatment options for sick animals
  - Focus on producers with higher health challenges
  - Do our PART to safeguard against antimicrobial resistance

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