

PORK PRODUCTION TERMINOLOGY

Animal unit (AU)	Unit of measurement used to compare differences in the production of animal manure for an animal feedlot or manure storage area. A pig weighing between 50 to 300 pounds equals 0.3 AU. A pig weighing less than 50 pounds is 0.05 AU.
Barrow	A male hog that has been neutered and will be raised for market purposes.
Boar	A male hog used for breeding purposes.
Farrow	To give birth to piglets.
Finish	To feed a pig until it reaches market weight of 260 to 270 pounds.
Gilt	A female pig that has not farrowed its first litter.
Litter	The offspring from the female hog. Generally a sow has a litter of nine to twelve piglets.
Manure	Swine manure contains naturally occurring nutrients used in fertilizing cropland. Hog manure serves as a replacement for imported, synthetic fertilizers.
Nursery Pig	A weaned pig up to 50 pounds.
PQA Plus®	Pork Quality Assurance Plus is a producer education program funded with Pork Checkoff dollars. It emphasizes food safety, animal well-being and prudent use of antibiotics and health maintenance products. Most U.S. packers require pork producers to be certified PQA Plus before they will accept producers' hogs into their plant for processing.
PQA Site Status	A pork production facility receives PQA Plus Site Status following an on-farm site assessment by a trained PQA Plus Advisor. During the on-site assessment, the advisor evaluates animal care and the proper application of PQA plus management and animal care practices. Major U.S. pork processors are requiring that PQA Plus Site Status be achieved to fulfill purchasing terms for a pork producer's market hogs.
Sow	A sow is a mother pig. Sows usually have 2.3 litters of piglets a year.
TQA™	The Transport Quality Assurance program is for individuals who deliver hogs to packing plants. TQA educates participants on animal well-being and handling practices, worker and livestock safety during transport and biosecurity procedures to prevent the transfer of livestock disease between farms and processing plants.
Wean	To separate the young pigs from the sow.