

## RAISING PIGS WITH THE

# PRINCIPLES OF REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

Farmers put the 3 Rs into practice to lower their carbon footprint.

Wise use of natural resources means pigs are raised more sustainably today.

Illinois is uniquely suited to raising crops and livestock.

Manure acts as a natural fertilizer, reduces waste and improves the soil.

## LESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT, MORE SUSTAINABLE PORK

In the last 50+ years, for every pound of pork, pig farmers use 25% less water, 7% less energy, almost 8% less carbon and 75% less land. They're raising more pigs, more pork – and reducing their carbon footprint at the same time.

- **REDUCE:** Modern barns allow farmers to raise more pigs on fewer acres than in the past, while providing better care to their animals.
- **REUSE:** Corn and soybeans grow well in Illinois' fertile soil and provide high-quality local feed for pigs. Local feed creates local pork. This complementary cycle repeats each year with a new growing season.

- **RECYCLE:** Pig waste – manure – is a valuable resource that is saved and then applied as a natural fertilizer to fields. Manure contains key nutrients crops need to grow, plus micronutrients, microorganisms and organic matter that improve soil health.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, raising pigs today contributes just .3% of all GHG emissions and remains steady even as more pork is raised to feed more people. This is something farmers are proud of and are continuously working to improve further.



**CHAD BELL**

As a younger farmer who recently made a big investment in his farm, Chad is optimistic about raising pigs, and the positive impact it has for his family and neighbors. His hope is that his children will be the seventh generation to farm, and that Illinois remains one of the preeminent places to raise crops and livestock.

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