

What's Growing In Kansas?



Pig Business Is Big Business

Part five of a seven-part series on Kansas Agriculture

Pork is the most widely eaten meat in the world. China is both the top-producing country of pork and ranks first in pork consumption. The United States, which produces 10% of the world's supply of pork, ranks third in pork production and was the second-largest pork exporter in 2004.

Iowa is the largest U.S. pork-producing state and Kansas ranks ninth. In 2005, Kansas produced 450 million pounds of pork which fed over 10 million people in the U.S. and abroad.

The swine industry plays a significant role in the Kansas economy. Producers marketed more than 3 million pigs with a gross market value of over \$402,000,000. There are 1,500 hog farms in Kansas but 310 of these farms produce over 95 percent of the state's pork.

What's in a name?

There are more than 180 species of pigs, found on every continent except Antarctica.

In the U.S., the major breeds are: Berkshire, Chester White, Duroc,



Hampshire, Landrace, Poland China, Spots, and Yorkshire.

Female swine are called gilts. After a gilt has given birth, she is called a sow. Male swine are either boars or barrows. Boars are male swine that are capable of producing offspring and barrows are



male swine that are not capable of reproducing. The offspring of a boar and a sow is a piglet or pig. When a sow gives birth, it is called farrowing. A sow gives birth to a group of 8-12 piglets, called a litter. Most sows give birth to two litters each year. When a pig is about 6 months old and at market weight (around 250 pounds), it is called a hog.

Everything but the Oink!

No other animal provides society with a wider range of products than the hog. The meat from hogs is called pork and is a great source of important nutrients, such as B-vitamins and

protein. The pork produced today is 20 percent more lean than it was 20 years ago.

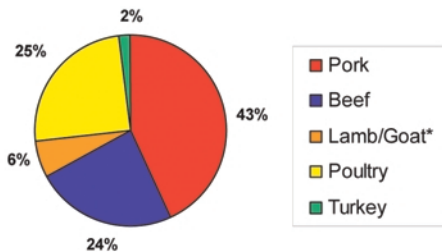
Pharmaceuticals rank second only to meat itself in the important contributions hogs make to society. There are nearly 20 drugs and pharmaceuticals that come from hogs. Also, pig skin is used to treat massive burns in humans due to its similarity to human skin, heart valves from hogs are used to replace damaged or diseased human heart valves, insulin from hogs is used in the treatment of diabetes and swine research led to the development of the CAT Scan, a technology for examining internal organs without surgery.



Hogs also make a very significant contribution to the world of industrial and consumer products. Hog co-products include: high-quality leather, adhesives, buttons, glass, water filters, pet food, lubricants, rubber, cosmetics, plastics, floor waxes, cement, matches, crayons and many more products.

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World- Wide Meat Consumption



2003 USDA- Foreign Agriculture Service
Livestock and Poultry: World Markets and Trade, March 2006
*Lamb/Goat statistics taken from FOA STAT last accessed April, 2006

ACTIVITIES

1. Pigs are not able to sweat. What are some ways that farmers can help keep the pigs cool when it is hot?
2. Morton County is the top pork-producing county in Kansas. Locate Morton County on a map and name two towns located in Morton County.
3. List at least four meat products that come from hogs.
4. In 2003, world-wide meat consumption was 207,853 metric tons. Based on the percentages in the adjacent pie chart, how many metric tons of pork did the world consume?

Answers: 1. Answers will vary but may include: have mud available for the pigs to roll in, water to drink and also to spray on the pigs, fans, shade, etc. 2. Elkhart, Rolla, Richfield or Wilburton. 3. Answers will vary but may include: bacon, pork chop, sausage, ham, pork loin, peppercorn, ground pork, pork ribs, etc. 4. 89,376 metric tons

Sources: National Pork Board (www.pork.org), Kansas Pork Association (www.ks.pork.org), Kansas State University - Animal Science & Industry (www.asi.ksu.edu), Pork 4 Kids (www.pork4kids.com), Kansas Foundation for Agriculture in the Classroom (www.ksagclassroom.org), Wikipedia (www.wikipedia.org) and Kansas' Cyberspace Farm (www.cyberspaceag.com) Photos courtesy of: National Pork Board.

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