

# INDIANA HOG FARM ECONOMICS LESSON PLAN

**NAME OF ACTIVITY:** *Food For Thought*

## **INDIANA ACADEMIC STANDARDS**

This video and lesson plan works with these standards:

STANDARD 4.4. Students will study and compare the characteristics of Indiana's changing economy in the past and present.

4.4.1 Give examples of the kinds of goods and services produced in Indiana in different historical periods. (Core Standard)

4.4.2 Define productivity and provide examples of how productivity has changed in Indiana during the past 100 years. (Core Standard)

4.4.4 Explain that prices change as a result of changes in supply and demand for specific products. (Core Standard)

4.4.8 Define profit and describe how profit is an incentive for entrepreneurs. (Core Standard)

**GRADE:** Fourth

## **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Be able to explain how a hog farm is a complete business.
2. Be able to explain how a hog farmer is an entrepreneur who makes a profit by selling hogs.
3. Be able to explain how, as a business, a hog farm is part of its local and state economy by spending money in those areas to raise hogs.
4. Know Indiana hog farmers are part of a national and an international marketplace because they sell pork to other states and other countries.
5. Know how hog farms have become more productive over the past 50 years by becoming larger and by adding high-tech buildings, equipment and machines, mainly because there is less land but more people to feed.
6. Be able to explain how hog farmers take good care of their hogs and the environment because it helps their business.
7. Understand the idea of supply and demand: The more pork people eat, the higher the prices the hog farmers can charge for their hogs.

## **MATERIALS NEEDED:**

1. Video: *Food For Thought*
2. *Before-Video Discussion Guide Sheet* for sample questions for a discussion before watching the video.
3. *After-Video Discussion Guide Sheet* for sample questions for a discussion after watching the video.
4. The needed information to contact a pork producer near your school if you are interested to having such a person come and speak to your class.
5. Take-Home Handout: *Pig Points*.

## PREPARATION:

1. Obtain the video (by DVD or internet).
2. Watch the video first to become familiar with it.
3. Review *Before-Video Discussion Guide Sheet*, and *After-Video Discussion Guide Sheet*. See them by putting the DVD in your computer, or see them on line at [www.indianapork.com](http://www.indianapork.com) These are PDF files online and on the DVD. Print out if desired.
4. Read through both sheets, and become familiar with which questions to use for discussion before the video, and then after the video. (Note: video plus all discussion questions will cover about one hour of class time).
5. If you would like to bring a pork producer to your class, contact:

Indiana Pork  
5722 W. 74<sup>th</sup> Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46278-1754  
(317) 872-7500  
[questions@inpork.org](mailto:questions@inpork.org)

You can schedule this presenter on the same day as the video, or at a different time.

6. Print out (or make copies) for each student of *Pork Points*. Putting the DVD into your computer will show this handout as a PDF file. Or, you can obtain this handout online at [www.indianapork.com](http://www.indianapork.com)

## **PROCEDURE:**

1. Ask students your chosen Before-Video questions. Lead a discussion on the ideas of what a modern hog farm is like today, and the basic economic lessons it might teach.
2. Play the video, *Food For Thought*.
3. After watching the video, ask the students your chosen After-Video questions. Lead a discussion about what a modern hog farm is *really* like, how it runs as a business, and how a hog farmer is an entrepreneur working to make a profit.
4. If you have a pork producer at your class, he or she can now answer any additional questions your students might have. If the producer attends a different day, he or she can pick up where the video ended.
5. Pass out the take-home handout, *Pig Points*.

## **ASSESSMENT:**

I know my objectives are achieved when...  
Students can answer the After-Video Discussion questions.

## **VOCABULARY:**

Business	National Market
Entrepreneur	Nutrient Cycle
Expenses	Piglet
Hogs	Pork
International market	Profit
Local economy	State economy
Local market	Supply and demand
Supply and demand	



# DISCUSSION GUIDE SHEET

## Before-video questions

### FARM COMPONENT

1. Where do you think hot dogs, pepperoni, pork chops, ham, bacon and tenderloin come from before it gets to the grocery store?  
(Do you know it's pork from pigs?)
2. Have you ever been on a hog farm, or driven by one, or seen one on TV? What do they seem like from what you've seen?
3. How do you think pigs live on those hog farms?
4. Do you know who raises pigs? What do you think a hog farmer does all day as he or she works?
5. Do you think it would be fun to visit a hog farm? To work on a hog farm? To be the owner of a hog farm?
6. How many hogs do you think are on a single farm?

### ECONOMICS COMPONENT

7. Do you think a hog farm is a business? Why or why not?
8. As a business, what does the hog farmer sell?
9. How does a hog farmer make money with his pigs?
10. Who does he sell his hogs to?
11. Do you think it's easy or hard to make money on a hog farm? Why?



# DISCUSSION GUIDE SHEET

## After-video questions

### FARM COMPONENT

1. How are hogs different now than 50 years ago? How is hog farming different than 50 years ago? What do you think the differences were 100 years ago?
2. How do hog farmers keep hogs warm in the winter and cool in the summer?
3. How do farmers protect hogs from sickness? What do they do if one of their hogs becomes sick? Why would a farmer take such good care of his hogs?
4. What does a hog farmer feed the hogs? Where does the feed come from?
5. How does a hog farmer get rid of the hog manure?
6. What is the basic Nutrient Cycle?
7. How and why does a hog farmer protect the environment?
8. When hogs grow up, where does the farmer send them? Why?
9. What kind of medical uses do hogs have?

### ECONOMICS COMPONENT

10. What is an “entrepreneur?” Why is a hog farmer an entrepreneur?
11. What is “profit?”
12. How does a hog farmer make a profit? Why does he want to make a profit?
13. What are some of the expenses a hog farmer has to pay to raise his hogs?
14. Why does a modern hog farmer raise so many hogs at one time?
15. What is “supply and demand?”
16. What causes the price of hogs to go up and down?
17. Do you think hog farms are important to their local economies? Why?
18. Are they important to the Indiana economy? Why?
19. If we did not have hog farms, how would our lives be different?