



Illinois Pork Producers.  
Generations of Commitment.

## Inside A Pig Barn - Video Series

This video series was made possible by the Illinois Pork Producers Association. Before pigs arrived at Sandy Creek Lane sow farm, we took the opportunity to make a video showing viewers inside the barns. This is a unique chance to see inside a modern pig barn full of innovative technology!

Find the video series on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lxoAm1YTB3E&list=PLTYK96TaWeLooAaUU5jJarZbtbxLajbu5&index=15>

Downloadable MP4 files here: <https://ilpork.com/youth/education-resources>

### ***Consider this a virtual field trip to a pig farm.***

The objectives of this video series are:

- Learn basic terms used in the pork industry
- Understand the purpose of each barn used in swine production
- Identify different stages of swine development
- Recognize advancements in technology implemented in the swine industry

\*Use "Inside a Pig Barn- True or False" worksheet to guide student learning\*

### **Sow Farm Tour, full video**

- This is a 20-min video that takes viewers through an entire sow farm, start to finish. Dr. Nicolas Rippel, the narrator, explains each location inside the barn and its purpose. Each of the 14 short segments listed below are taken out of this full-length video.

#### **01 – Bio Security**

- Pig farmers take special precautions to keep their barns clean and their pigs healthy

#### **02 – UV Room**

- Much like hospitals and water treatment plants, modern pig barns have a UV light room to disinfect incoming supplies. This keeps the barn free from outside germs and disease.

#### **03 – Farrowing Room**

- This is the location in the barn where mother pigs give birth to their piglets

#### **04 – Feeding System**

- Pigs have access to food and water 24/7 thanks to these automatic feeding systems

#### **05 – Vaccination**

- Just like humans need vaccinations to stay healthy and prevent disease outbreaks, so do pigs. We take care of them as if they were our own children.

## **06 – Breeding room**

- This part of the barn is where sows go to get bred for another litter of piglets.

## **07 – Ventilation**

- Pigs are kept indoors to give them the most comfortable environment possible. The ventilation system in a barn controls the air coming in and out to make it clean and cool.

## **08 – Controller Room**

- This special room has computers and control panels that regulate all the fans, feeding systems, and more within the barn.

## **09 – Individual Gestation**

- Pigs who have just been bred live here for the beginning of their pregnancy. During this fragile time, they are kept at ease away from other aggressive sows.

## **10 – Sow Feeding**

- New feeding systems, called Electronic Sow Feeders (ESF), are used to efficiently feed all sows on an individual basis. They have an ear tag that contains their needs for each day.

## **11 – Manure Cycle**

- An area below the barn called a pit catches the waste from the animals. It is high in nutrient content and is applied to fields of crops as an organic fertilizer.

## **12 – Gilt Barn**

- Young gilts begin in the nursery here and grow until they are old enough to be bred.

## **13 – Pre-Training Room**

- In this section, the gilts begin to learn how to use the ESF systems

## **14 – Training Room**

- Training is in full swing for the ESF. Once they can easily use them, they move on to breeding.



## Inside a Pig Barn - True or False

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Watch the video “IPPA Sow Farm Tour Video” which takes you through different aspects and barns involved in pork production. Analyze each of the statements below and decide if they are true or false. If the statement is false, correct the statement to make it true.

### Biosecurity

\_\_\_\_\_ 1. Only some visitors and employees must shower in/out.

\_\_\_\_\_ 2. You will wear your “street clothes” on one side of the shower and “farm clothes” on the other side of the shower.

### UV Room

\_\_\_\_\_ 3. Supplies are received on the “dirty” side and run through the UV light room and are removed from the “clean side”.

\_\_\_\_\_ 4. UV light is on for 5 hours to disinfect materials.

### Farrowing Room

\_\_\_\_\_ 5. Sows are moved into the individual birthing pens 2-3 days before birth.

\_\_\_\_\_ 6. Time the sow was observed, how many pigs that are born alive, and if the sow was assisted in the birthing process are recorded for each sow.

\_\_\_\_\_ 7. Animal caretakers make sure that all the piglets get some of the mom’s first milk which is called colostrum.

\_\_\_\_\_ 8. Underneath the heat lamp is where the mother pigs are, which is 95 degrees. The piglets are kept in a cooler environment of 70 degrees.

### Feeding System

\_\_\_\_\_ 9. T or F: The primary sources of swine feed are corn and soybeans.

\_\_\_\_\_ 10. The feed will be stored in feed bins outside and then will be augured in just once per day to feed the sows.

### Vaccination

\_\_\_\_\_ 11. Just as vaccines are given to human babies, vaccines are also given to baby piglets to provide immunity.

\_\_\_\_\_12. Use of Pulse NeedleFree Systems' injection systems has been shown to deliver significant benefits to livestock producers.

### **Breeding Room**

\_\_\_\_\_13. Once piglets are weaned at 6 weeks, sows will be moved to breeding stalls

\_\_\_\_\_14. Sows in the breeding room have full access to feed and water.

\_\_\_\_\_15. Within 4-6 days, they should be "in heat", also known as estrus.

\_\_\_\_\_16. Sows will be bred using the A.I. (Artificial Insemination) process.

### **Ventilation:**

\_\_\_\_\_17. In the summer the air is cooled by cool cell pads, which is evaporative cooling.

### **Controller Room:**

\_\_\_\_\_18. A computer controls the fans, heaters, and cooling systems to keep the pigs as comfortable as possible.

\_\_\_\_\_19. The master control unit is connected to the internet and can be accessed from a smart phone.

\_\_\_\_\_20. Managers oversee the settings on the controllers and check with the animal caretakers to make sure the to ensure that the settings are correct to ensure that the animals are comfortable.

### **Individual Gestation**

\_\_\_\_\_21. Each sow is fed the same amount of feed once a day.

\_\_\_\_\_22. An ultrasound machine is used to confirm pregnancy before they are moved to pen gestation.

### **Sow Feeding:**

\_\_\_\_\_23. ESF stands for estimate sow feed which drops a random amount of feed every 4 minutes.

\_\_\_\_\_24. Each sow has an ear tag that is read by the system when the sow enters in the stall to get feed, which allows individualized care.

\_\_\_\_\_25. The stall protects the sow from feed aggression of other sows.

\_\_\_\_\_26. Pigs are not hierarchical.

### **Manure Cycle:**

\_\_\_\_\_27. Pits are used to collect the feed that gets spilled.

\_\_\_\_\_28. Many factors are kept in mind before spreading manure on the field including testing the manure, knowing the crop history, and the rate of application, according to regulations.

**Gilt Development Barn:**

\_\_\_\_\_29. A gilt is a girl pig that hasn't delivered her first litter yet.

\_\_\_\_\_30. Gas brooders provide heat for the young gilts and provides a microenvironment of 85 degrees.

\_\_\_\_\_31. Primary ingredients in feed are corn and soybeans which are always imported from other countries.

**Pre-Training Room:**

\_\_\_\_\_32. Feed and water are separated by a center fence line, which you must access by walking through the one-way gate system.

\_\_\_\_\_33. Gilts are prepared for the electronic feeding system by a specially designed system and are given lots of practice before shifting to the training sow barn.

**Training:**

\_\_\_\_\_34. Gilts come in at 24 weeks to practice and train on the electronic feeders.

\_\_\_\_\_35. Like the gestation pens, smaller versions of the ESF are in the gilt developer unit.



Illinois Pork Producers.  
Generations of Commitment.

## Inside a Pig Barn- True or False Key

**Directions:** Watch the video “IPPA Sow Farm Tour Video” which takes you through different aspects and barns involved in pork production. Analyze each of the statements below and decide if they are true or false. If the statement is false, correct the statement to make it true.

### Biosecurity

  F   1. Only some visitors and employees must shower in/out.

**False, all visitors and employees must shower-in and shower out.**

  T   2. You will wear your “street clothes” on one side of the shower and “farm clothes” on the other side of the shower.

### UV Room

  T   3. Supplies are received on the “dirty” side and run through the UV light room and are removed from the “clean side”.

  F   4. UV light is on for 5 hours to disinfect materials.

**False, UV light is on for 5 minutes to disinfect materials**

### Farrowing Room

  T   5. Sows are moved into the individual birthing pens 2-3 days before birth.

  T   6. Time the sow was observed, how many pigs that are born alive, and if the sow was assisted in the birthing process are recorded for each sow.

  T   7. Animal caretakers make sure that all the piglets get some of the mom’s first milk which is called colostrum.

  F   8. Underneath the heat lamp is where the mother pigs are, which is 95 degrees. The piglets are kept in a cooler environment of 70 degrees.

**False, underneath the heat lamp is where piglets are, which is 95 degrees. The sow’s environment is kept cooler at 70 degrees.**

### Feeding System

  T   9. T or F: The primary sources of swine feed are corn and soybeans.

  F   10. The feed will be stored in feed bins outside and then will be augured in just once per day to feed the sows.

**False, feed will be stored in feed bins outside and then will be augured in twice per day to feed the sows.**

## Vaccination

  T   11. Just as vaccines are given to human babies, vaccines are also given to baby piglets to provide immunity.

  T   12. Use of Pulse NeedleFree Systems' injection systems has been shown to deliver significant benefits to livestock producers.

## Breeding Room

  F   13. Once piglets are weaned at 6 weeks, sows will be moved to breeding stalls **False, once piglets are weaned at 3 weeks, sows will be moved to breeding stalls.**

  T   14. Sows in the breeding room have full access to feed and water.

  T   15. Within 4-6 days, they should be "in heat", also known as estrus.

  T   16. Sows will be bred using the A.I. (Artificial Insemination) process.

## Ventilation:

  T   17. In the summer the air is cooled by cool cell pads, which is evaporative cooling.

## Controller Room:

  T   18. A computer controls the fans, heaters, and cooling systems to keep the pigs as comfortable as possible.

  T   19. The master control unit is connected to the internet and can be accessed from a smart phone.

  T   20. Managers oversee the settings on the controllers and check with the animal caretakers to make sure the to ensure that the settings are correct to ensure that the animals are comfortable.

## Individual Gestation

  F   21. Each sow is fed the same amount of feed once a day.

**False, each sow is fed a unique amount according to her needs twice per day.**

  T   22. An ultrasound machine is used to confirm pregnancy before they are moved to pen gestation.

## Sow Feeding:

  F   23. ESF stands for estimate sow feed which drops a random amount of feed every 4 minutes.

**False, ESF stands for Electronic Sow Feeder which drops ¼ lb. feed and water every 15 seconds.**

T   24. Each sow has an ear tag that is read by the system when the sow enters in the stall to get feed, which allows individualized care.

  T   25. The stall protects the sow from feed aggression of other sows.

  F   26. Pigs are not hierarchical.

**False, pigs are hierarchical.**

#### **Manure Cycle:**

  F   27. Pits are used to collect the feed that gets spilled.

**False, pits are used to collect manure.**

  T   28. Many factors are kept in mind before spreading manure on the field including testing the manure, knowing the crop history, and the rate of application, according to regulations.

#### **Gilt Development Barn:**

  T   29. A gilt is a girl pig that hasn't delivered her first litter yet.

  T   30. Gas brooders provide heat for the young gilts and provides a microenvironment of 85 degrees.

  F   31. Primary ingredients in feed are corn and soybeans which are always imported from other countries.

**False, primary ingredients in feed are corn and soybeans which are sourced locally. Pre-**

#### **Training Room:**

  T   32. Feed and water are separated by a center fence line, which you must access by walking through the one-way gate system.

  T   33. Gilts are prepared for the electronic feeding system by a specially designed system and are given lots of practice before shifting to the training sow barn.

#### **Training:**

  F   34. Gilts come in at 24 weeks to practice and train on the electronic feeders.

**False, no electronic, just a single hole feeder.**

  T   35. Like the gestation pens, smaller versions of the ESF are in the gilt developer unit.