

**For Immediate Release
March 17, 2009**



***Indiana Pork Statement in Response to HBO Documentary:
Death on a Factory Farm***

Indianapolis, IN (March 17, 2009): Like most viewers unfamiliar with farming, Indiana's pork producers were also appalled by the incidents of animal mistreatment highlighted in the recent HBO special report, and categorically condemn the behavior of the few individuals highlighted in the documentary.

One of the core principles of our industry is the proper treatment of the animals in our care, and the incidents that occurred on the farm in question are in no way indicative of the high standards pork producers around the country - and here in Indiana - strive to live by every day.

The HBO documentary about abuse on a hog farm is a great reminder for all pork producers on the critical importance of living the ethical principles that the industry has embraced. We appreciate this documentary as a refresher of the lessons learned three years ago when workers on this hog farm were accused of mistreatment of animals in their care. In the three years since the incident, the industry has taken the proactive initiative to develop and promote the ethical principles, develop the Pork Quality Assurance Plus program, establish the We Care program, and heighten the awareness of intolerance of abuse on hog farms across the United States.

Indiana Pork is committed to facilitating and upholding the ethical and moral obligations our pork producers have to the animals in their care. Education and best practices, as defined in the industry's Pork Quality Assurance and Transport Quality Assurance programs, are paramount to this process. Indiana Pork encourages all pork producers to participate in these industry programs, set standards for employee care of animals, and maintain a zero tolerance policy for the willful abuse of any animal.

Indiana ranks 5th in the country in pork production, and the state produces over one billion pounds of pork each year on about 3,400 family farms. Caring for our animals while producing a safe, high-quality pork product is of the utmost importance to Indiana's hog producers.

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