

COVID-19

Resources for Livestock Producers



We won't bombard your inbox during this time, but we have several updates for you that we decided to package together into a newsletter. Please read through our materials but keep in mind that this is new territory for your Indiana Pork staff too. If there are resources you want, an issue you want researched or something we haven't addressed here please let us know and we will get to work on it. Be safe.

Indiana's "Stay at Home" Order

First and foremost, we wanted to touch on a couple of things about Governor Holcomb's **"Stay at Home" order** for the state of Indiana. The order will be effective from Wednesday, March 25, to April 7, 2020. To read the Executive Order, please click [here](#). We are receiving a lot of questions about who is still allowed to travel for work and rightfully so—this is certainly uncharted territory. Last week, the National Pork Producers Council submitted comments to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security explaining how broad the classification of essential infrastructure workers would have to be to keep the pork industry functioning. You can read NPPC's comments [here](#). At the state level, Indiana Pork circulated a similar letter that can be viewed [here](#).

Luckily, Section 14(c) of Executive Order 20-08 deems agriculture an essential business and section 11 classified food production as essential infrastructure. Wisely, to clarify gray areas the executive order references the Department of Homeland security guidance. We have placed an excerpt of the Food and Agriculture list below to give you an idea of scope:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) *Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response* Food and Agriculture List. Please click [here](#) to read the entire document.

- Workers supporting groceries, pharmacies and other retail that sells food and beverage products
- Restaurant carry-out and quick serve food operations - Carry-out and delivery food employees
- Food manufacturer employees and their supplier employees—to include those employed in food processing (packers, meat processing, cheese plants, milk plants, produce, etc.) facilities; livestock, poultry, seafood slaughter facilities; pet and animal feed processing facilities; human food facilities producing by-products for animal food; beverage production facilities; and the production of food packaging
- Farm workers to include those employed in animal food, feed, and ingredient production, packaging, and distribution; manufacturing, packaging, and distribution of veterinary drugs; truck delivery and transport; farm and fishery labor needed to produce our food supply domestically
- Farm workers and support service workers to include those who field crops; commodity inspection; fuel ethanol facilities; storage facilities; and other agricultural inputs
- Employees and firms supporting food, feed, and beverage distribution, including warehouse workers, vendor-managed inventory controllers and blockchain managers

- Workers supporting the sanitation of all food manufacturing processes and operations from wholesale to retail
- Company cafeterias - in-plant cafeterias used to feed employees
- Workers in food testing labs in private industries and in institutions of higher education
- Workers essential for assistance programs and government payments
- Employees of companies engaged in the production of chemicals, medicines, vaccines, and other substances used by the food and agriculture industry, including pesticides, herbicides, fertilizers, minerals, enrichments, and other agricultural production aids
- Animal agriculture workers to include those employed in veterinary health; manufacturing and distribution of animal medical materials, animal vaccines, animal drugs, feed ingredients, feed, and bedding, etc.; transportation of live animals, animal medical materials; transportation of deceased animals for disposal; raising of animals for food; animal production operations; slaughter and packing plants and associated regulatory and government workforce
- Workers who support the manufacture and distribution of forest products, including, but not limited to timber, paper, and other wood products
- Employees engaged in the manufacture and maintenance of equipment and other infrastructure necessary to agricultural production and distribution

Travel for Employees of Essential Businesses During "Stay at Home" Order:

Employers should consider providing employees with documentation that their travel is essential. The North American Meat Institute has this [SAMPLE LETTER](#) as an example, but if you wanted to make it more state specific, consider also referencing the relevant sections of Indiana's Executive Order:

- Section 11 of Executive Order 20-08, Section 11 designates food production Essential Infrastructure.
- Section 14 (c) of Executive Order 20-08 deems agriculture an essential business.

Trucking during the COVID-19 Emergency Period

Please note: Updates to this information are happening regularly. Please visit the Indiana Motor Truck Association (www.intrucking.org/indiana-news.html) for current information and access to additional information.

- Livestock haulers are included in the emergency declaration made by the Federal Motor Carriers Safety Administration last week. The emergency declaration allows these activities to continue during the emergency period since they are a direct precursor to food.
- While documentation is not required to be carried and it has no legal bearing, organizations that would like to provide drivers with documentation that they are associated with an agriculture livestock operation and included in the emergency declaration can find a template [here](#).
- Indiana CDL drivers whose license expired March 19, 2020 or after will automatically be renewed until the end of the emergency period or the Governor's declaration is rescinded. Drivers are encouraged to seek online renewal options during the emergency period when possible to prevent future backlogs.
- If a medical certification attached to an Indiana CDL needs renewed during the COVID-19 social distancing period, you are asked to make a good faith attempt at renewal. It is understood that there may be limitations such as access to medical providers. The Indiana BMV has guidance related to medical certification renewals on the Indiana Motor Truck Association website.
- Guidance on drug testing policies for those falling under USDOT regulations have been updated on March 23, 2020.
- Companies and drivers are reminded to practice thorough documentation of all efforts during the emergency period and maintain them in your onsite business records for future reference.

IDEM Information

While many of you will use a consultant to help with IDEM paperwork, we want you to be aware of IDEM business operations during this time.

- Due to IDEM staff working remotely, please submit all documents electronically.
- When submitting electronically, please include the IDEM project manager for the county **MAP** and copy Joe Williams (jwilliams@idem.IN.gov) & Mitchell Halcomb (mhalcomb@idem.IN.gov). This will be considered the delivered document and a hard copy does not need mailed.
- Please make sure all submissions and correspondence have the correct email addresses (permitted individual/ entity AND consultant as IDEM will have limited access to hard mail during the "stay at home" period.
- When submitted electronically, please request a response indicating IDEM received all documents and were able to access them and save them.
- Compliance inspections will continue business as usual at this time. If a compliance inspection request is made and you feel it will cause an undue burden because of labor shortages, concerns over exposure to those outside the farm, etc. please contact Indiana Pork.
- If problems that arise as a direct result of the COVID-19 outbreak (labor shortages, etc) might take you out of regulatory compliance, please contact Indiana Pork. We have discussed this possibility with the agency and would be happy to help you navigate those issues.

Pig Farmers are familiar with "Social Distancing"

Over the past few weeks, you've likely heard the term "social distancing." Hopefully, you've also been practicing social distancing – avoiding crowds and only traveling when necessary – as a way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Society's newfound focus on what is essentially biosecurity gives pork farmers some unique insights they can share during this time.

For many of us, social distancing is new and uncomfortable. We are having a hard time adjusting to spending time at home and not being able to come and go as we please. For farmers, this concept is not new. Now more than ever, our friends and neighbors outside the livestock industry might be interested to learn that Indiana's hog farmers have implemented strict biosecurity protocols for years- one component of which is essentially "social distancing" from pig sites.

Sickness can spread quickly among livestock. Much like social distancing for humans, the complete elimination of all disease is not the goal – the goal is to keep out pathogens to which the herd has not been exposed. Biosecurity measures protect the health of the pigs, and in turn, protect the food supply and the health of consumers. Biosecurity is an important part of a farmer's job. The list below is very familiar to all of you, but now might be of greater interest to the general public.

- The herd should be located as far as possible from any other swine or livestock.
- Visitors should be kept to a minimum and should have no pig contact for at least twenty-four hours before arriving on the farm.
- A sign-in book should be maintained for all visitors.
- All visitors are required to wear clean clothing and boots – in many cases, this means a disposable coverall and plastic shoe covers.
- Employees are required to shower-in before coming into contact with the herd.
- Between herds, all rooms are cleaned thoroughly with a high-pressure washer and disinfected with a broad-spectrum cleaner.

In summary, Indiana's hog farmers are happy to see the level of attention that's being paid to the transfer of virus right now - it is something our industry has been very cognizant of for a while, and that's why we have such stringent biosecurity protocols. Often, people believe that we want to be closed off from the public or that we're trying to be secretive about our production practices. But that is not the case - we are simply trying to protect our pigs and our workers the same way that, right this very

moment our friends and neighbors are trying to care for their families.

Remember Our Food Banks

With school out and people out of work this will be a busy time for our state's food banks. Luckily, one of the pork buys through Feeding Indiana's Hungry/IN Pork's Million Meals program happened during this time frame, so periodic shipments from that \$93,000 ground pork purchase are being distributed right now.

That's good news, but with all the increased demand what Indiana's food banks need the most right now is money. While the food banks appreciate food drives and Hoosiers willingness to donate from their own pantries, the need is great right now and resources are tight. Employees do not have the time to sort food from food drives or donations. If you would like to make a monetary donation, please visit <https://feedingindianashungry.org/>. Feel free to spread the word.

Dust Mask Pattern

If you are experiencing shortage of dust masks for your barn employees, there are resources available to make your own. We wanted to share a link to a video that was shared with us by a pork producer.

YouTube Video >> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VNvRI5AXt8I&t=147s>

WHAT YOU NEED:

1/4" elastic

Shape Flex

Fabric Scraps from home

Cooking at Home

Indiana Pork's consumer facing programming will focus more on cooking at home. Not just for typical consumers but also promoting recipes that could be utilized by folks receiving that ground pork at the food banks. IN Pork will also be doing various Facebook Live videos over the next two weeks that will include a variety of ways to cook pork while folks are stuck at home. For more information and recipes for ground pork, please visit forkmorepork.com/recipes.

Other Consumer Facing Messaging

Indiana Pork will also be doing virtual tours of pig farms on Facebook Live over the next few weeks. We will also be developing messaging comparing this new focus on "flattening the curve" to how we implement biosecurity measures on our own farms to protect our pigs and workers. Please follow our Facebook page at Indiana Pork Farmers.

IN Pork will also be participating in NPPC's "Your Food. Our Priority" campaign during this time. This campaign highlights the importance of workers on farms and processing plants, access to grain and other inputs and transportation systems that will carry all of these products. Take a look at NPPC's Your Food. Our Priority page [here](#).

Additional Resource Links

National Pork Board resources and archived webinars:

<https://www.pork.org/public-health/what-you-need-to-know-about-covid-19/>

More coronavirus resources can be found on the ISDH website at

<https://www.in.gov/coronavirus> and the CDC website at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>.

All executive orders that have been issued over the past few weeks can be viewed here: <https://www.in.gov/gov/2384.htm>

<https://www.cisa.gov/publication/guidance-essential-critical-infrastructure-workforce>

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THE CRITICAL INDUSTRIES HOTLINE: 877-820-0890 or covidresponse@iedc.in.gov
A new Indiana hotline for business and industry questions related to the stay-at-home order (EO-20-08) is now available. This is for business and industry questions only.

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