

wisconsin grass-fed beef cooperative



WGBC / Wisconsin Meadows™ Pork Production Protocol

www.wisconsingrassfed.coop 800-745-9093 v. 12a 2018

Our cooperative focuses production, processing, and marketing of pastured pork that:

- ❖ Offers a high-quality eating experience
- ❖ Is humanely treated (access to outdoors 24/7 and no notching ears or tails)
- ❖ Focused on food safety: Inspected processing facilities and farm to table traceability
- ❖ Offers product purity: No growth hormones, GMOs or antibiotics used

Required Producer Documentation and Production Protocol:

- ❖ 1.) Bill of lading, signed producer affidavit form: At the time of shipment of live animals to the processor the producer will complete an approved bill of lading form outlining producer name, date of shipment, age, estimated live weight, and breed.
 - Member farms may be subject to WGBC, third party certification or farm inspection at any time given a 24-hour verbal notice.
- ❖ Diet: Market animals will be raised and finished on pasture, forages and non-GMO grain or soy.
 - Piglets will not be weaned prior to reaching approximately 40 lbs. Producers are encouraged to farrow in open crates that maximize mother to piglet contact.
 - Pasture forages can include perennial grasses (cool or warm season grasses), legumes (alfalfa, clovers, etc.), and broadleaf forages (chicory, naturally occurring 'weeds' in pastures).
 - Approved feed sources
 - Non-GMO or organic corn or soy
 - The prior in any silage format
 - Annual forages must be grown without synthetic herbicides or pesticides.
 - Health Supplements. Animals may be given the following products as supplements:
 - Non-grain based mineral and vitamin blocks or granular products.
 - Kelp
 - Garlic pellets
 - Salt
 - Molasses not containing urea or wheat binders
 - Flax seed or flax seed meal, grown without synthetic pesticides or herbicides.
 - Prohibited from the diet:
 - Antibiotics for growth promotion.
 - Implants, hormones for growth promotion.
 - GMO feeds or residue
- ❖ Pasture management and intake goals.
 - No feedlot confinement production is allowed.
 - No synthetic herbicides or pesticides are allowed on pasture or harvested forages.

- ❖ Animal Health
 - No antibiotic or growth hormone use is allowed.
 - Organic and natural veterinary treatments are allowed including live or partial viruses.
 - Appropriate veterinary treatments, which may include antibiotics, is required to ensure humane treatment of all animals. However, those animals cannot be sold through the WGBC.
 - All veterinary treatments must be documented for each animal and records must be available for inspection by the WGBC.

- ❖ Genetics:
 - Small to moderate framed animals, durable and heritage hog breeds are highly recommended (Finishing at 210–250 pounds).
 - Possible breeds include Red Wattle, Duroc, Berkshires, Hampshires.
 - Overly large and fatty conventional breeds are not desired, and payment deductions for animals over the desired weight may occur.

- ❖ Animal Handling
 - Humane handling procedures will be used throughout the life of the animal.
 - Both the producer and the processor will use humane handling procedures that foster calmness during loading, trucking, and slaughter.
 - Producers are encouraged to educate themselves and practice good stockmanship through the teaching of Bud Williams, Steve Coty, Temple Grandin or others.
 - Animals will not have ears clipped or tails cut.
 - Open crate farrowing is required

- ❖ Animal performance:
 - Slaughter animals may be subject to visual inspection for finish by a WGBC member or employee. WGBC reserves the right to refuse entry of an animal into the Wisconsin Meadows marketing program if it is not appropriately finished.

- ❖ Member quality statement
 - Members will certify with a WGBC shipping affidavit that they have followed this protocols.
 - The WGBC may engage in a peer inspection program through which members will monitor each other for compliance with our standards.
 - The WGBC may institute a third party inspection process.
 - Should an animal be condemned please see the WGBC transfer of ownership/condemnation procedure.