

Illinois Hog Farm Economics Lesson Plan

Activity: Food for Thought



ILLINOIS ACADEMIC STANDARDS

This video and lesson plan works with these Illinois State Goals:

- 12: Understand the fundamental concepts, principles and interconnections of the life, physical and earth/space sciences.
- 13: Understand the relationships among science, technology and society in historical and contemporary contexts.
- 15: Understand economic systems, with an emphasis on the United States.
- 16: Understand events, trends, individuals and movements shaping the history of Illinois.

GRADE: Fourth

OBJECTIVES:

1. Understand a hog farm is a complete business in every way.
2. Understand how a hog farmer is an entrepreneur who makes a profit by selling hogs.
3. 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 Illinois 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 adding high-tech buildings, equipment and machines. This is because there is less land but more people to feed.
6. Understand 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 receive for their hogs.

MATERIALS NEEDED:

1. Video: *Food For Thought*
2. Before-Video Discussion Guide Sheet for questions for a discussion before watching the video.
3. After-Video Discussion Guide Sheet for questions for a discussion after watching the video.
4. Paper and writing materials, and stamps for letters from each student.
5. A list of pork producers near your school students can write to.
6. Take-Home Handout: *Did you know? Fact Sheet*



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PREPARATION:

1. Obtain the video.
2. Watch the video first to become familiar with it.
3. Review Before-Video Discussion Guide Sheet, and After-Video Discussion Guide Sheet. See by putting DVD in your computer. These are PDF files. 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. Prepare names and addresses of pork producers in Illinois the students can write to. Contact the Illinois Pork Producers Association at 217-529-3100 or via email at tricia@ilpork.com for a list of producers.
6. Print out (or make copies) for each student of *Did you know fact sheet*. Putting the DVD into your computer will show this handout as a PDF file.

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 today's family farm is really like, how it runs as a business, and how a hog farmer is an entrepreneur working to make a profit.
4. Give each student the name and address of a pork producer they can write to. Have them write letters asking additional questions about raising hogs.
5. Pass out the take-home handout, *Did you know fact sheet*.

ASSESSMENT;

I know my objectives are achieved when...

Students can answer the After-Video Discussion questions.

VOCABULARY

Business
Entrepreneur
Expenses
Supply and demand
Profit
Pork
Hogs

Piglets
Nutrient Cycle
Local market
National market
International market



Discussion Guide Sheet

Before-Video Questions

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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 is 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 experienced?
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 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 farm 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 his hogs? Where does the feed come from?
5. What does a hog farmer use the hog manure for?
6. What is the basic Nutrient Cycle?
7. How does a hog farmer protect the environment? Why would he want to protect the environment?
8. When hogs are ready for market, where does the farmer send them? Why?
9. What kind of medical uses do hogs have?

ECONOMICS COMPONENT

10. What is an 'entrepreneur?' Is a hog farmer such a person?
12. What is 'profit?'
13. How does a hog farmer make a profit? Why do hog farmers want to make a profit?
14. What are some of the expenses a hog farmer has to pay to raise his hogs?
15. Why does today's hog farmer raise so many hogs at one time?
16. What is 'supply and demand?'
17. What causes the price of hogs to go up and down?
18. Do you think hog farms are important to the local economies they are in? Why?
19. Are they important to the Illinois economy? Why?
20. If we did not have hog farms, how would our lives be different?

