

{ Meet the Gathmans }

"After college, I worked off the farm for a while, but was looking for ways to get home. Diversifying with livestock has allowed me to be home and farm full time with my dad. It has been a great experience.

We grow field corn, popcorn, green beans, and soybeans, and recently added cattle. Adding livestock to our family farm has given me countless opportunities. I am excited to see where pork production takes us as well." **Andy Gathman**



Family History

- The Gathmans have farmed in Mason County for generations.
- Andy, 7th generation, and his father, Gary, are partnering to add pigs to their family farm.
- Gary and Laveta Gathman have three children
- Andy will take care of the day to day operations in the barn.
- The Gathmans are contracting with The Maschhoffs, who will own the pigs.
- The Gathmans own the barn and equipment, and are responsible for upkeep and management of the barn.
- Andy also raises cattle along with growing grain and vegetable crops.

Construction and Operation Oversight

- The barn will be home to 2,400 head of pigs.
- It is oriented East/West and measures 81' x 225'.
- The barn has been constructed per stringent standards set forth by the Livestock Management Facilities Act (LMFA) governed by the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA).
- IDOA representatives inspected the farm before, during and after construction.
- Once in operation, the farm must continue to comply with the IL Environmental Protection Act, enforced by the IL EPA.

Manure Management

- The manure will be stored in a ten foot deep concrete pit built according to engineering standards in the LMFA, which ensure the protection of the environment.
- Manure will be used to fertilize corn and soybean fields that the Gathmans own/farm.
- Manure will be applied under the soil per a nutrient management plan, which ensures an accurate ratio of manure to soil, providing a very sustainable system.



The Pigs

- Pigs will enter the barns weighing around 12 pounds, where they will be housed for six months until they reach market weight of approximately 280 pounds.
- They will have full access to feed and water.
- Computer controlled ventilation will properly control the temperature and humidity levels in the barns to give the pigs a comfortable environment.

Odor Mitigation

- The barn is set back from the road to minimize interference.
- Research and changes to feed additives are constantly reducing/mitigating odor.
- State of the art ventilation systems are in place to manage the air inside and outside of the barns.
- The barns will be completely cleaned and disinfected after each group of pigs.

Local Economic Benefits

- In one year, the pigs will consume approximately 40,000 bushels of corn and 6,000 bushels of soybeans.
- The hog farm will support jobs in the community pertaining to the construction of the barn, milling and delivery of feed, and transporting the pigs.
- Concrete for construction was sourced locally from Canton Ready-Mix (Canton and Havana locations).
- Local tax revenues to Mason County are estimated at more than \$9,000 per year in new money with a large percentage going to the Illini Central CUSD 189.
- This hog farm will produce over 320,000 (5-7 oz.) pork chops and over 5 million slices of bacon per year, feeding the local community and beyond!

"I am the 7th generation farmer to take care of this land. I grew up in the same house that my grandfather did, years ago. I am lucky to have farming families on both sides of the family."

- Andy Gathman



Contact The Gathmans

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