

Food Safety, Public Health, and the Planet, Oh My: Advances in Sustainability in the Swine Industry

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Background

The concepts of [One Health](#) and [Sustainability](#) have quickly been gaining popularity among scientific experts, the general public, and other key stakeholders in the areas of human, animal, and environmental health. Farmers in the swine industry are no strangers to these concepts and have been implementing them for years [via the We Care® Ethical Principles](#). To further display their commitment to these issues the National Pork Board and the producers they represent have [launched an initiative](#) to collect and share meaningful, representative data spanning the three sectors of the One Health framework to share their story of sustainable pork production.

Materials and Method

The We Care application was launched in 2022 as a mechanism to collect and summarize data across the six We Care Ethical Principles thereby sharing the ever-improving story of US producers. In addition, Farm Impact reports are created from farm data and showcase the overall environmental sustainability efforts of producers. In combination these efforts provide a holistic view of the sustainability efforts in the swine industry. In the areas of Food Safety and Public Health key performance indicators focus on actions that protect the food supply and promote good health among consumers. All 60,000+ producers are eligible to upload data into this system and/or participate in these efforts.

Results

As of the application's launch in 2022 over 500,000 pigs are represented in the system (~1% of annual animal inventory, USDA) and it is rapidly growing. Nearly two hundred Farm Impact reports containing data from the 2021 crop year have been created and shared with producers nationwide. Data on food safety and public health related KPIs cover traceability, VCPR and responsible medication use are still being collected and will be shared in aggregate in upcoming months.

Conclusions

America's pig farms are committed to doing what is right for people, pigs and planet and will demonstrate this commitment through continuous improvement, transparency, and data collection. Future reports will continue to summarize key findings from this work overall as well as goals for the future.