

# The Texas Pork Industry

Since the early days of settlers in Texas, farmers and ranchers have been producing pork to provide excellent protein nutrition for their families and to sell at market. While we are not sure exactly when domestic European pigs were first introduced to our state, we do know that the early Spanish explorers transported swine with them to the New World and we believe that Catholic priest most likely brought them as they moved into Texas. Certainly many of the settlers arriving in Texas from the United States brought their pigs with them. Pork production has been a part of our Texas heritage for over 200 years and continues to be an important part of livestock production in our state today.

Pork production in Texas is widely dispersed across the entire state and is diverse in type and size of farms. Farms producing a small number of pigs exist through out most of the state with most pigs being produced by a small number of farms in the upper Panhandle region, each providing animals for specific markets. In 2008, Texas marketed over 1.3 million pigs for a gross market value of over \$172 million dollars. Texas is ranked 15<sup>th</sup> in pork production in the U.S. and ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in the number of 4-H & FFA youth producers. The economic impact of pork production to the state in 2008 was over \$860 million dollars.

## The Texas Pork Producers Association

Established in 1889 as the Texas Swine Breeders Association, the organization has a long history of providing leadership and support for pork producers in our state. It is the second oldest livestock organization in Texas. With a change in name in 1967, the Texas Pork Producers Association (TPPA) expanded it's representation of all types of producers and has continued to be the voice of the Texas pork industry. In 2008, our membership of over 450 individuals and companies account for nearly 95% of all pork production in the state.

TPPA focuses our resources on consumer and producer education, production technology and swine health, environmental quality and leadership development for the Texas pork industry. We help provide retail and food service partners with facts and information about pork for our customers, the consumer. We provide training and educational programs for producers in safe and ethical production practices. TPPA supports youth education with leadership training and scholarships, as well as, providing incentives for raising Texas bred pigs in 4-H & FFA programs. In addition, TPPA represents the pork industry in the development of public policy both at the state and federal level of government.

We support responsible and ethical pork production in order to provide consumers with the highest quality and safest pork and pork products possible.



## TPPA & Pork Industry Information

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TPPA is a state organization member of the National Pork Producers Council and participates in the National Pork Checkoff program of the National Pork Board.

TPPA is a 501c5 non-profit membership association and is chartered in the state of Texas.

We welcome your questions and will be working for the pork producers in Texas.