

Alabama Pork Production Strategic Plan

I. Identify measurable goals for pork production that will contribute to Alabama's economy and employment.

1. Recruit and incentivize pork processors and markets into Alabama.
2. Review Alabama Department of Environmental Management's (ADEM) Animal Feeding Operation/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation {AFO/CAFO) rules to determine if they exceed federal requirements for livestock operations.
3. Locate qualified farm labor that will work extended hours at a reasonable wage. This is a major concern.
4. Give farmers options on implementing environmental stewardship programs on their farms.
5. Produce more grain in the state to supply to livestock operations.
6. Address concern of livestock operations about the availability of antibiotics to prevent and treat livestock diseases on the farm due to new FDA rules.

II. Develop and implement a strategy to remove barriers to your success and to foster success.

1. Conduct a study of the pork industry, develop a plan to the grow industry, and implement the plan. Bring in pork manufacturing plants, custom plants, and pork producers to develop a plan for harvesting pigs in Alabama.
2. Perform economic analysis to determine the impact of current regulations on the competitiveness of Alabama hog farms with other states.
3. Work with other agricultural enterprises to develop a recruitment process for qualified farm labor.
4. Bring the Alabama Department of Environmental Management, the National Resources Conservation Service, Alabama Cooperative Extension System, the Soil and Water Conservation Service, and all agricultural organizations together to reevaluate how comprehensive nutrient management plans, inspections, and

- permits are being administered
5. Continue working with agricultural stakeholders from each commodity:
 - a. Develop more grain production in the state, therefore, reducing the cost of feed.
 6. Develop a plan by the state veterinarians, livestock veterinarians, and producers to have antibiotics and other medical supplies readily available for farmers.

III. Identify public policy or regulatory changes needed to achieve your goals.

1. Use the Alabama Department of Agriculture and Industries Public Livestock Market Board and allied industry to develop a plan to expand pork processing and marketing in the state
2. Reduce ADEM/NRCS buffer distances for AFO/CAFO farmers with liquid waste storage facilities. Allow applications of nutrients according at farmer's discretion and not a weather map. At least raise the percentage to 75% to 100% chance of substantial precipitation.
3. Change regulations that discourage legal documented workers from attaining agricultural employment here.
4. Budget permanent state and federal funding for all permit fees, inspections, and nutrient management plans for livestock producers. Work through interagency waste management team to give farmers options, not roadblocks on nutrient management.
5. Adopt rules to encourage more economical irrigation for crop and forage production. We have such great water resources.
6. Develop a state plan to help implement United States Food and Drug Administration program and allow farmers to prevent and treat disease.

IV. Identify the research and Extension issues you need addressed to achieve your goals.

1. Research how other states retain viable pork markets.
2. Complete detailed study comparing Alabama's AFO/CAFO regulations with federal

guidelines.

3. Reach out to other states and independent companies that have had success in recruiting farm labor and management.
4. Work with state and federal agencies to provide a positive regulatory environment for existing farms and for farms considering locating here.
5. Continue research and education programs on nutrient management.
6. Once antibiotic plan is developed, educate farmers and distribution points on rules that apply.

1. Identify the communications needed to achieve your goals.

1. Communicate a clear message that Alabama is open for agricultural expansion by providing services and incentives and by streamlining regulations that make economic sense.
2. Support programs that will keep current pig farms/small processors viable and attract new ones.