

What is the Pork Checkoff?

How was the Pork Checkoff established?

The U.S. pork industry has had a **100% legislative Checkoff program since 1986**. Congress created the Pork Checkoff as part of the Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985.

When is the Pork Checkoff assessed?

Feeder pigs, market hogs and seedstock are the means by which producers are assessed. For example, a feeder-pig producer is assessed when the pig is sold for the first time. If the animal is sold as a feeder pig a second time, there is no assessment. However, an assessment is collected on the sale of the pig when the animal is sold as a market hog. The same producer is never assessed twice for the same animal.

How are my interests as a producer represented?

Annually, the nation's pork producers elect fellow producers to represent their state in the Pork Act Delegate Body. **States are represented in proportion to their number of pigs marketed per year**. Each state is eligible to have at least two representatives.

The delegates meet during the annual Pork Industry Forum, typically in early March, to determine the recommended rate of assessment and the amount of funds returned to states.

The law requires that each state pork producer association receive a **minimum of 16.5 percent of assessments generated in that state**. The current rate of return to each state varies from 16.5 to 39 percent, according to the three-year average number of hogs marketed in the state.

Who is responsible for collecting the funds?

Pig marketers, including packers and dealers, are responsible for collecting assessments, except in the cases of seedstock and farm-to-farm sales, which are also covered under the law. In the case of seedstock, the seller or breeder is required to remit funds in farm-to-farm sales. It is common for feeder-pig producers who have numerous producer customers to remit the Checkoff as a convenience to their customers.



What is the Pork Checkoff rate?

U.S. pork producers and importers pay **\$0.35 per \$100 of value** when pigs are sold and when pigs or pork products are brought into the United States.

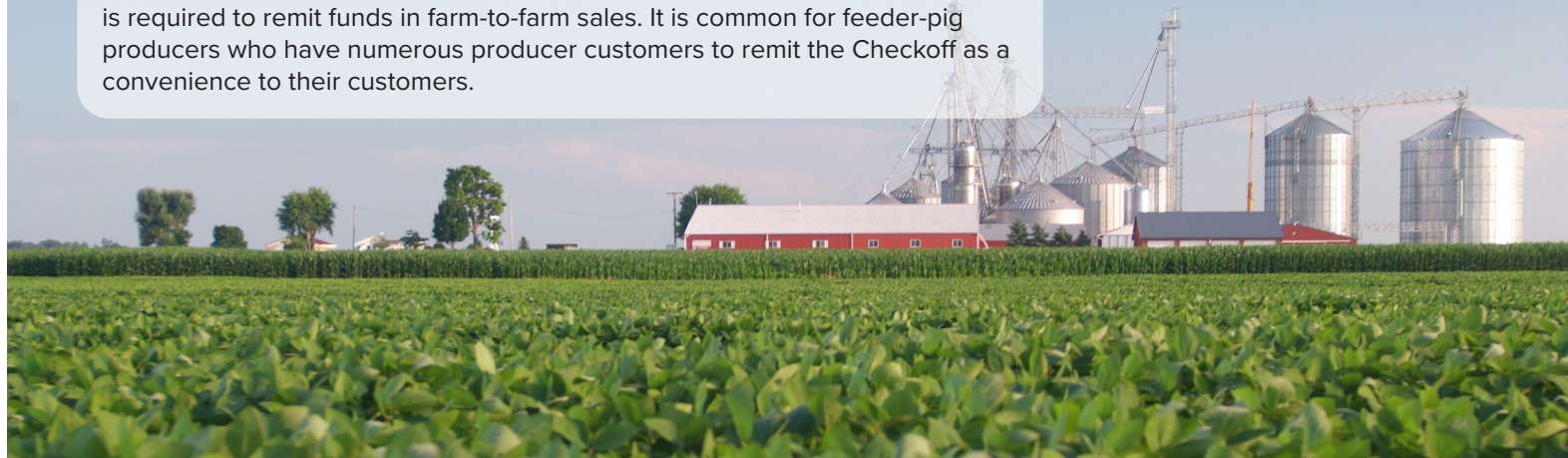
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Who administers and decides how the money is spent?

The 15 elected members of the National Pork Board and the Pork Checkoff staff are responsible for the collection, distribution and program accountability of the Pork Checkoff. Those nominated to serve on the National Pork Board are appointed for three-year terms by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

How do I submit my remittance to the Checkoff?

You can now report Checkoff electronically. The online Checkoff remittance system offers convenience while keeping your financial information safe.

Visit porkcheckoff.org and click the "Pay Pork Checkoff" tab in the upper corner. First time users will need to request a code to register and set up an account.

Three different forms of payment:

ACH Payment:

File your report and pay online with an ACH withdrawal from your checking account.

Paystub:

File your report online and print a paystub to mail in with a check. This gives you the option of forgoing an ACH withdrawal and works well for companies that have a separate department that cuts A/P checks.

Zero Reporting:

This option is to be used when a sale has not occurred for the period and you do not owe anything.

How is the Pork Checkoff used?

The National Pork Board executes specific programs in the areas of promotion, research and education. No funds may be used for lobbying or to influence government policy.

Research

Checkoff-funded research is administered in all areas of pork production, processing and human nutrition to develop a higher quality and more profitable product in the competitive meat protein market.

Research funds are invested in animal welfare, environmental and production studies helping producers overcome current challenges. Checkoff funds are also used to add value to pork for an ever-changing consumer base.

Education

Producer Education: Access to the latest technologies and information is often the key to a producer's ability to be competitive. Checkoff-funded seminars, workshops, videos, digital tools and other instructional materials are available to all producers.

Consumer Education: Food editors, chefs, journalists and other food trend influencers in the U.S. receive pork industry information on a regular basis. Checkoff also provides information about how pork fits into a healthy diet to health care professionals, Registered Dietitians and teachers.

Promotion

Checkoff-funded promotions are designed to increase domestic pork sales through consumer, retail and food service outreach. Foreign promotions for U.S. Pork funded by the Pork Checkoff have helped to move the U.S. from a net importer to a net exporter of pork.

Questions?

Detailed information about Checkoff programs and expenditures is available by contacting the National Pork Board and requesting its publications and/or stakeholder report. Information about the Pork Checkoff is available online at porkcheckoff.org or by calling the Producer Service Center at 1-800-456-7675.

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