



## Texas Pork “Workshop in a Box” — Welcome and Overview

Welcome to the **Texas Pork “Workshop in a Box”** — a classroom-ready resource designed to help you bring the story of Texas pork production to life for your students. Whether you’re introducing swine production for the first time or enhancing your livestock curriculum, this kit was created with one goal in mind: to make teaching about the pork industry simple, engaging, and impactful.

For decades, the **Texas Pork Producers Association (TPPA)** has been committed to advocating for the state’s pork industry by supporting producers and investing in youth education. We recognize that agricultural educators like you are key partners in shaping the next generation of leaders who will sustain and strengthen this vital industry.

This electronic “Workshop in a Box” includes a variety of materials to support flexible learning — from fact sheets and presentation slides to hands-on classroom activities and discussion guides. Each section highlights real-world applications in swine care, biosecurity, traceability, and marketing, while connecting students to leadership and career opportunities within the Texas pork industry.

Through these lessons, students will:

- Explore the journey of Texas pork from farm to fork.
- Develop a deeper understanding of animal care, food safety, and sustainability.
- Strengthen their communication and advocacy skills as representatives of agriculture.
- Discover career pathways and leadership opportunities through programs like the TPPA Junior Ambassador Program and the Chop Talk Advocacy Academy.

At TPPA, we believe that education is the foundation for building a stronger, more sustainable pork industry. By equipping students with accurate knowledge, hands-on experience, and a sense of purpose, we’re ensuring the future of agriculture in Texas remains bright.

Thank you for your dedication to agricultural education and your role in inspiring tomorrow’s advocates, producers, and leaders. We’re grateful to have you as part of the Texas Pork community — and we can’t wait to see how you bring this workshop to life in your classroom.

## **From Farm to Fork: All About the Pork Industry**

### *Overview*

The pork industry isn't just about raising pigs — it's about producing safe, high-quality protein that feeds families, supports local economies, and drives innovation in animal care and sustainability. From breeding and feeding to processing and marketing — there's a team of people working to ensure that consumers can enjoy pork products they trust and love.

In this workshop, we'll explore the journey of pork from farm to table, discuss Texas's unique role, and learn about the Pork Checkoff.

### *Materials*

- PowerPoint presentation with a Kahoot quiz
- Understanding Checkoff poster
- Checkoff math activity

## **Pork on Our Plates**

### *Overview*

When you think about your favorite meal, there's a good chance pork plays a part — from crispy bacon at breakfast to pulled pork sandwiches at dinner. Pork is an excellent source of protein, along with other beneficial nutrients for our bodies.

In this workshop, we'll explore the benefits of including pork in our everyday lives, as well as proper cooking methods and the different pork cuts.

### *Materials*

- PowerPoint presentation with a Kahoot quiz
- Pork Cuts poster
- Grocery store activity

## **On the Farm Practices**

### *Overview*

Our industry is dedicated in ensuring our farms are clean and safe to provide the best environment for our pigs. In doing so, our farmers take certain steps to provide the best quality care possible.

In this workshop, we'll explore the different practices farmers use daily, as well as learn about breeding pigs and the eight major breeds within the industry.

#### *Materials*

- PowerPoint presentation with a Kahoot quiz
- Ear notching activity
- Breed identification activity

### **Pork Careers**

#### *Overview*

The pork industry supports nearly 550,000 jobs across the country. The world's growing taste for pork creates new jobs every day throughout the industry. There's a relevant pork-related job to match students' greatest skills and strengths.

In this workshop, we'll explore the different career opportunities within the pork industry.

#### *Materials*

- PowerPoint presentation
- Videos of representatives from each career field
- Career envision activity

### **Swine Health and Biosecurity**

#### *Overview*

Healthy pigs are the foundation of a healthy pork industry. Behind every successful farm and every safe pork product is one key priority — animal health and biosecurity. Swine health isn't just about treating sick animals — it's about preventing disease before it starts.

In this presentation, we'll take a closer look at how diseases spread, the steps producers take to prevent them, and the role each of us plays in keeping pigs healthy.

#### *Materials*

- PowerPoint presentation with Kahoot quiz
- Biosecurity poster
- Biosecurity activity