



CELEBRATE PORK

Overview

The purpose of this lesson is to provide background on the pork industry in Kansas and a creative way to use agriculture facts in a writing exercise.

Objectives

1. Students will know the uses of pork.
2. Students will construct a writing sample using a fact about the Kansas Pork industry.

Background Information

What is pork?

Pork is the meat from hogs, or domestic swine. The domestication of “pigs” (immature hogs) for food dates back to about 7000 B.C. in the Middle East. However, evidence shows that Stone Age man ate wild boar, the hog’s ancestor. The earliest surviving pork recipe is Chinese, at least 2000 years old.

Hogs were brought to Florida by Hernando de Soto in 1525, and soon became America’s most popular meat. In the 19th century — as America urbanized and people began living away from the farm, “salt pork” — pork that is prepared with a high level of salt to preserve it — became the staple food. Pork has continued to be an important part of our diet since that time.

Pork is generally produced from young animals (6 to 7 months old) that weigh from 175 to 240 pounds. Much of a hog is cured and made into ham, bacon and sausage. Uncured meat is called “fresh pork.”

Food Uses:

Pork is the most widely consumed meat in the world. People eat many different pork products, such as bacon, sausage, pork chops and ham. A 250-pound market hog yields about 150 pounds of pork.

NonFood Uses:

Several valuable products or by-products, in addition to meat, come from swine. These include insulin for the regulation of diabetes; valves for human heart surgery; suede for shoes and clothing; and gelatin for many food and non-food uses. Swine by-products are also important parts of such products as water filters, insulation, rubber, antifreeze, certain plastics, floor waxes, crayons, chalk, adhesives and fertilizer.

**Suggested
Grade Level:**
2nd-5th

Time:
30 minutes

Subjects:
Language Arts

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Background Information Continued

Kansas Pork Facts

There are about 1,000 hog farms in Kansas. Of these operations, 150 produce over 99% of the state's pigs.

In 2016, Kansas producers sold 3,345,553 market hogs, feeder pigs and seedstock with a gross market value of \$427,516,408. These hogs produced over 600,000,000 pounds of pork which helps feed millions of people in the U.S. and abroad through exports.

Materials

- Writing samples
- Rhyming dictionary

Preparation

Collect samples of pork poetry or clever pork sayings to show as examples.

Procedures

Information Presentation

1. Begin discussion by finding out with the students already know about pork and the industry.
2. Define terms.
3. Using the background information, discuss with the students importance of hogs to Kansas agriculture industry.
4. Discuss the background information further about uses for hogs.

Writing Exercise

1. Teachers will show examples of story or writing, of their choice, that students are to create.
2. Allow students to work on their composition using facts and information from the background information.

Topic Examples:

“A day in the life of a hog”

Uses 1-3 uses listed to tell the process of how the by-product is processed to be able to be effective in use.

“My life using pork products” Explaining a student’s daily life and identifying the pork products they use on a daily basis.

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Uses for a Hog

Insulin for the regulation of diabetes

Valves for human heart surgery

Suede for shoes and clothing

Certain plastics

Water filters

Insulation

Chalk

Fertilizer

Rubber

Crayons

Adhesives

Antifreeze

Floor waxes

Gelatin for many food and non-food uses

Meat: bacon, sausage, pork chops and ham

