

Hogs Your Way • YOUR SITUATION

TAKING STOCK AND CLARIFYING VALUES

9. What is your vision for your farm 5, 10, or 20 years in the future?

Questions to ask yourself while reading *Hogs Your Way* :

Now that you have completed these questions, you should have a good understanding of the values, interests and resources your family brings to a hog system. Keep your answers handy and use them to think through the following questions as you read about the various hog systems in the next section. In the third section, *Selecting the Best Option for You*, you will be encouraged to return to these answers.

Which systems best fit:

	Swedish	Pasture	Hoops	Confinement
1. What you value and enjoy most?	_____	_____	_____	_____
2. Your idea of success?	_____	_____	_____	_____
3. The way you want your community to perceive you and your farm?	_____	_____	_____	_____
4. The issues of concern to your community?	_____	_____	_____	_____
5. Your comfort level with:				
—debt?	_____	_____	_____	_____
—risk associated with equipment purchase?	_____	_____	_____	_____
— risk associated with weather?	_____	_____	_____	_____
6. The types of farm work you enjoy most?	_____	_____	_____	_____
7. Your reasons for adding or continuing hog production?	_____	_____	_____	_____
8. Your family's strengths and resources?	_____	_____	_____	_____
9. Your vision for how your farm will look in the future?	_____	_____	_____	_____

Add other questions here:

Notes

Taking Stock and Clarifying Values

As you review hog production systems, be sure to give your family's values, interests and resources serious consideration. The system you decide to use may significantly affect the amount of time you spend together, family members' roles on the farm, your family income and your children's interest in and ability to take over the farm and hog operation when you retire.

You should also review any impact your decision may have on your relationship with your community and neighbors. In several communities, concerns about odor and water quality have generated considerable conflict between livestock producers and their neighbors. Increasingly restrictive local ordinances and growing numbers of non-farm rural residents may also limit your options. Taking potential community concerns into consideration helps you maintain good relations with your neighbors and avoid local efforts to restrict the implementation of your plans.

The questions here are designed to stimulate your family's thinking about your potential hog enterprise. They can help you assess your family and farm's resources and strengths, identify your interests and values and set priorities. Use your answers in considering the hog production system options addressed in this book.

1. What do you value and enjoy most? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working in a pleasant environment | <input type="checkbox"/> Working together as a family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working outside | <input type="checkbox"/> Farming on a full-time basis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Serving as a steward of the land | <input type="checkbox"/> Finding a place for the next generation on the farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Working with animals | <input type="checkbox"/> Working independently |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Learning about and using new farming methods | <input type="checkbox"/> Using farming methods I know well |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Having time to rest and take vacations | <input type="checkbox"/> Working on a seasonal basis |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Satisfying family income goals | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

2. To me, being "successful" in farming means: (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Paying down our expenses without falling behind | <input type="checkbox"/> Being able to save for down times |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Putting money away for the future | <input type="checkbox"/> Having a surplus to share with others in need |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Farming full time | <input type="checkbox"/> Working together as a family |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finding a place for the next generation on the farm | <input type="checkbox"/> Helping neighbors who are farming |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Taking time to rest, vacation | <input type="checkbox"/> Generating _____% of my income from the farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other | |

3. How would you like to be seen by your neighbors and community? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Don't care | <input type="checkbox"/> Close working relationship with my community |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a leader | <input type="checkbox"/> As a model, aggressive modern producer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> As a steward of the land | <input type="checkbox"/> As a good community member |

4. What issues are of concern to your community that might affect your choice of a hog production system? (check all that apply)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Odor issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Water quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Livestock concentration issues | <input type="checkbox"/> Flies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dust | <input type="checkbox"/> Hiring labor/purchasing equipment from outside the local area |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Unsightly farm buildings/outside lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

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5. How comfortable are you with different types of risk? (circle the appropriate level)

	Uncomfortable	Neutral	Comfortable
Carrying a lot of debt	1	2	3 4 5
Being highly leveraged	1	2	3 4 5
Having expensive equipment that can be used for only limited purposes	1	2	3 4 5
Having your operation be potentially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions	1	2	3 4 5
Having limited market access for your operation	1	2	3 4 5

6. What types of farm work do you like?

	Dislike	Neutral	Like
Working closely with livestock	1	2	3 4 5
Growing crops	1	2	3 4 5
Working with machinery	1	2	3 4 5
Managing employees	1	2	3 4 5
Managing farm finances	1	2	3 4 5
Inside work	1	2	3 4 5
Outside work	1	2	3 4 5
Seasonal work	1	2	3 4 5
Steady, year-round work	1	2	3 4 5

7. Why are you considering adding or continuing production of hogs on your farm?

(check all that apply)

- Add value to crops produced
- Increase net farm income / profit
- Diversify farm's sources of income
- Utilize existing buildings
- Make room for another family member to farm

8. What are your family's strengths and resources that you can use to farm effectively?

A. The skills of family members who are interested in working on the farm.

Sample: name Roger (self) has these skills: working with hogs, growing crops

Sample: name Regina (wife) has these skills: working with computer, managing finances

name _____ has these skills: _____

name _____ has these skills: _____

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name _____ has these skills: _____

name _____ has these skills: _____

B. Land resources you have available.

Total acres owned _____

Tillable _____ Pasture _____ Other _____

Total acres leased _____

Tillable _____ Pasture _____ Other _____

C. Buildings you have available; dimensions, special features and condition.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

D. Equipment you have available (Tractors, combines, planters, cultivators, computers and other equipment).

1. _____ 5. _____

2. _____ 6. _____

3. _____ 7. _____

4. _____ 8. _____

E. Community resources available (check all that apply)

Feed mill

Veterinarian

Neighbors with swine experience

Breeding stock supplies

Equipment