

Life on the Farm

PART 1: Fact check! How much do you know about life on a pig farm? Show off your farm smarts and find out!

Put a **T** for true or an **F** for false below. Then discuss the answers with your class.

1. _____ The temperature in a pig barn varies with the weather — cold in the winter, hot in the summer.
2. _____ Pigs are encouraged to wallow in the mud to regulate their body temperatures.
3. _____ Farmers follow biosecurity protocols, such as showering before they enter a pig barn.
4. _____ Pig farmers work closely with veterinarians to ensure their animals are healthy.
5. _____ Pigs are fed leftover food and garbage to reduce waste.
6. _____ Pigs are given food and water only at certain times of the day.
7. _____ Piglets are separated from their mothers as soon as they are born for safety reasons.
8. _____ Sows, or female pigs, have four or more litters per year.



PART 2: Pig farmers feel a strong responsibility for taking the best possible care of their pigs. They work hard every day on the farm to make sure that their pigs are healthy, safe, and comfortable. What are some additional ways pig farmers might care for their animals? Check out porkcares.org for more details about pig farming. Then brainstorm strategies farmers might implement and resources they might need to succeed. Write your ideas below, and then share them with the class.

Did you know?
There are more than
60,000 pig farms in
America and 98% of them
are family-owned!
Find out more by visiting
porkcares.org/americas-pig-farmers/our-farms.

Answers: 1. False. Pigs are kept warm by heaters in the winter and cooled by misters in the summer.
2. False. Pigs are kept clean in comfortable pens.
3. True. Pig farmers are very careful to protect pigs from diseases.
4. True. Veterinarians help pig farmers with vaccinations and other health measures to ensure pigs are healthy.
5. False. Pigs are given nutritious meals designed by a swine nutritionist specifically to foster their optimum health.
6. False. Pigs always have access to food and water.
7. False. Pigs are moved into the nursery barn at three weeks of age.
8. False. Sows usually only have two litters per year.

