



# SWINE FACT SHEET

College of Agriculture  
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## Steps in Developing a Pork Production Unit in Alabama

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Pork production is a major commitment of money, time and effort. All aspects of production must be carefully studied before making the commitment. The financial and business components are between you and your financial advisor. The waste handling and management involves you along with qualified professional (engineers, crop consultants), Alabama Cooperative Extension System professionals, regulatory agencies and your neighbors. The following steps should clarify this part of the decision making process:

1. Make sure you have a good working relationship with your neighbors, especially those on adjoining land. Most nuisance suits result from poor communications between neighbors.
2. Identify the land you have available for the operation, keeping in mind that all land may not be suitable for swine production. Get copies of soil and topographical maps, as well as aerial photographs, plat maps and weather information (rainfall patterns, seasonal wind velocity and direction.)
3. Contact your local County Extension office for professional assistance on site suitability, and for a copy of Extension Circular ANR-918, "Animal Waste Management Planning", ANR-973, "Planning and Managing Lagoons for Swine Waste Management", ANR-1175, "AFO/CAFO Registration Requirements: Your Questions Answered", and ANR-1188, "Best Management Practices for Animal Feeding Operations". These publications will help you plan your new facility and understand any ADEM registration and operation requirements.

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4. If you have cost-share money from NRCS, contact the local District Conservationist (DC) and request a site inspection and modification of your farm conservation plan. With the DC, make an initial site investigation using soil and topography maps. Make sure the site is large enough for locating buildings and lagoons, and for land-applying swine manure and waste water to growing crops.
5. If you do not have cost-share money from NRCS, contact a credentialed consultant for site analysis and evaluation.
6. All waste collection, storage and transport structures (including building slabs and pits) on the site must be designed, and the construction monitored by a licensed professional engineer. A comprehensive nutrient management plan should be prepared by a certified crop advisor. Your county Extension office can assist in determining appropriate crops for your farm.
7. If the farm qualifies as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation, take the proposed plans (construction and nutrient management) to the nearest Soil and Water Conservation district office and fill out a Notice of Registration.
8. If the farm will be an Animal Feeding Operation, apply for an ADEM NPDES construction site permit if 5 acres or more will be disturbed.

While this is a simple list, it should get you started on the right foot. If you have additional questions, please contact your local Alabama Cooperative Extension Office.

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