

## Swine Industry Update

As the world turns so does the times of COVID-19. Economic impacts are being felt by all. If you utilize social media, you have likely seen some grim pictures of the swine industry. While everyone in agriculture is experiencing economic impact, I want to provide some information on the current swine industry situation.

Due to COVID-19, packing companies are either closed or have major restrictions on the number of market loads being sold. What does this mean? Producers are still raising and feeding swine, but options are reduced and many have no outlet to move their finished swine. There is a shortage of processing spaced caused by plant slowdowns or even closures. This is felt by producers not only in Kansas but across the US. Swine are being euthanized across the US and the situation does not look to improve in the very near future. If you wonder where the plants are and their status you can visit: <https://story.mapme.com/us-pork-packers/>.

There are a number of agencies working together to try to provide assistance and help producers understand their option. Helpful websites include: [www.kspork.org/covid-19](http://www.kspork.org/covid-19), [www.ipic.iastate.edu/covid19.html](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/covid19.html).

If you know swine producers needing information, encourage them to reach out to their local Extension or the Kansas Pork Association.

I also encourage you to reach out to friends and family in agriculture industry. The economic impact is hard not only financially but emotionally as well. Resources are available to help those with Farm Stress.

Our counterpart in Douglas County, Kansas created a video called "Farmer Stress: You're Not Alone." If you struggle to find resources, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (1-800-273-8255) is available 24 hrs./day, 7 days per week for ANY mental health help, not just suicide.

When a Kansas registered phone calls that number, they will be transferred to the Headquarters Counseling Center located in Lawrence, KS. As shown in the video, that center is directed by a farmer and is working on making sure lifeline volunteers are trained in making those personnel connections with farmers.

The video created by K-State Research and Extension/Douglas County titled Farm Stress: You're Not Alone can be found on YouTube by searching the name, going directly to the link at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2SDszgQciiA>, or we have posted it to our website at: [https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/ag\\_info.html](https://www.butler.k-state.edu/agriculture/ag_info.html).

Please know, you are not alone and do not hesitate to pick up the phone and call.