

## Farm Glossary

Term	Definition
<b>Accredited herd</b>	A herd of dairy cattle that are certified to be free of tuberculosis after test conducted by the USDA
<b>Acre</b>	A parcel of land that is 4,840 square yards (42,560 square feet)
<b>Anaerobic digestion</b>	A biological process that utilizes microorganisms to break down organic matter, such as manure, in an oxygen-free environment
<b>Animal unit</b>	A unit of livestock measurement equal to one mature cow weighing 1,000 lbs that is used primarily to compare feed consumption
<b>Annual crops</b>	Crops that complete their life span in one growing season
<b>Antibiotic</b>	A medicine that destroys or inhibits the growth of other organisms, especially bacteria
<b>Apiary</b>	A colony of bees and hives for the production of honey
<b>Arable farm land</b>	Acreage that is suitable for growing crops
<b>Artificial insemination</b>	An advanced breeding process that involves collecting semen from a male, inspecting it for quality, and freezing it until it is ready to be artificially inserted into a female
<b>Avian</b>	Pertaining to poultry and fowl
<b>Barrow</b>	A castrated male swine
<b>Biennial crops</b>	Crops that complete their life span in two growing seasons
<b>Biodiesel</b>	A fuel or additive that is produced from a vegetable oil or animal fat with ethanol
<b>Biogas</b>	The gaseous fuel produced by fermentation of organic matter
<b>Biosecurity</b>	Procedures that protect animals from disease or harmful biological agents
<b>Boar</b>	A mature male swine that is not castrated
<b>Bovine</b>	An animal of the cattle group, which includes cows, bulls, buffalo, and bison
<b>Bovine spongiform encephalopathy</b>	A degenerative disease that affects the central nervous system of cattle
<b>Brand</b>	A marking on the hide to permanently identify cattle, usually made on the hide with hot-iron or freeze branding

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<b>Breed</b>	A group of related animals with a given number of traits
<b>Breeder farm (poultry)</b>	A farm that produces fertile eggs that will be hatched in a hatchery
<b>Breeder ration (poultry)</b>	Specialized diet for chickens that are producing breeder eggs
<b>Breeder shed (poultry)</b>	A building that is designed to optimize conditions for breeder laying hens
<b>Broilers</b>	Chickens that are raised specifically for meat
<b>Brooding</b>	The caring of chicks during the growing period. A hen provides warmth and watches over the chicks in nature. In commercial production, the warmth and oversight is provided by people and equipment.
<b>Buffer strip</b>	A narrow area of permanent vegetation planted at the edge of a field to slow the flow of water, reduce the impact of wind, or filter sediment and chemicals from runoff
<b>Buffer zone</b>	An area that provides a protective barrier between crops typically to ensure that prohibited substances do not contaminate organic crops
<b>Bulk tank</b>	An insulated container that houses and stores cool milk
<b>Bull</b>	A full-grown male bovine that has not been castrated
<b>Bullock</b>	A young bull, typically less than 20 months of age
<b>Bushel</b>	A dry measure of crops. A bushel equals one cubic foot.
<b>Calf</b>	A young male or female bovine under one year of age
<b>Calf crop</b>	Percentage of calves produced within a herd in a given year relative to the number of cows and heifers in the breeding herd
<b>Casein</b>	The dominant protein in cow's milk. Casein is needed for making cheese and has a variety of uses in manufacturing as well.
<b>Cash tenant</b>	An enterprise that pays the farm owner a cash rent per tillable acre per year
<b>Chisel plow</b>	A farming tool with a cutting blade used to break up soil under the surface without turning it
<b>Closed herd</b>	A herd in which no outside breeding stock are introduced
<b>Cockerel</b>	A young male domestic chicken

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<b>Colostrum</b>	The dominant protein in cow's milk. Casein is needed for making cheese and has a variety of uses in manufacturing as well.
<b>Confinement</b>	An agricultural enterprise where livestock are raised in confined lots, pens, ponds, or buildings where feed is provided to the animal rather than grazing
<b>Contract farming</b>	Agricultural production provided under an agreement between the buyer and the farmer
<b>Contract growers</b>	Farmers who raise swine for someone else
<b>Corporation (farm)</b>	A farm owner and the investors are only liable for the amount of their investment. The corporation shields the personal assets of the farmer.
<b>Cow</b>	A full-grown female bovine
<b>Cow-calf operation</b>	A livestock operation that maintains a breeding herd and produces weaned calves
<b>Creep</b>	An enclosure where calves can enter to obtain feed but cows cannot enter
<b>Creep grazing</b>	Allowing calves to graze areas that cows cannot access to allow calves higher nutritional access
<b>Crib</b>	A large bin for storing ear corn or other grain
<b>Crop insurance</b>	Insurance that protects farm operators from damage to crops caused by natural hazards
<b>Crop residue</b>	The portion of the plant that is left in the field after harvest
<b>Cull</b>	Process of eliminating one or more animals from the breeding herd
<b>Culled swine</b>	A hog that has been removed or segregated from other hogs to either strengthen a wanted trait or to eliminate an unwanted trait
<b>Cultivator</b>	A farming tool with steel teeth which is dragged through the soil for planting and weeding
<b>Curds</b>	A white substance that forms when milk sours; it is used to make cheese
<b>Custom farming</b>	Farming operators who perform custom operations only, such as harvesting of cotton
<b>Custom feeding</b>	Sending livestock to a custom feeding facility that specializes in feeding and managing livestock until they are ready for slaughter

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<b>Custom feeding operators</b>	Cattle feeding operators who provide facilities, labor, feed, and care as a service but they do not own the cattle
<b>Dairy cows</b>	Cows that are used to produce milk
<b>Dairy plant</b>	Where milk products are sent to be tested and processed
<b>Deboning cone</b>	A blunt, cone-shape instrument composed of plastic or stainless steel
<b>Defoliant</b>	A chemical used to cause leaves to wither on a plant; used primarily to harvest cotton
<b>Digestate</b>	The solid organic material remaining after anaerobic digestion
<b>Disk harrow</b>	A farming tool with steel discs used to chop up and smooth the soil for planting
<b>Dormancy</b>	A phase where living seed germination is temporarily delayed
<b>Dry cow</b>	A cow that is not producing milk
<b>Effluent</b>	The liquid that flows out of the methane digestion system
<b>Elevator</b>	A tall commercial warehouse that uses vertical conveyors to raise or elevate grain for storage
<b>Estrus</b>	The time when a female animal is fertile and receptive
<b>Fallow</b>	Idle crop land
<b>Family farm</b>	A farm in which the ownership is held by a group of family members who are related by blood, marriage, or adoption
<b>Farm</b>	Any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold during the year (USDA)
<b>Farm diversification</b>	Branching out from traditional farm by adding new activities to support farm income
<b>Farm operator</b>	The person who manages the farm operation. The farm operator may be the owner, a hired manager, a share tenant, a cash tenant, and/or a partner.
<b>Farm specialization</b>	Producing a specific product or offering a specific service as a way of staying competitive
<b>Farmers</b>	The people who grow the crops and/or animals

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<b>Farrowing</b>	When a gilt or sow gives birth to a piglet
<b>Feed mills</b>	A plant or factory that processes grains and other ingredients into feed for livestock
<b>Feeder cattle</b>	A steer, heifer, or cow mature enough to be placed in a feedlot where it will be fattened prior to slaughter
<b>Feedlot</b>	Enterprise in which cattle are fed grain and other concentrates for approximately 90-120 days
<b>Finish</b>	Completion of the last feeding phase of slaughter cattle
<b>Fodder</b>	Crops that are used to feed livestock
<b>Forage</b>	Plants, other than grain, that are grown for animal feed
<b>Forced-air incubator</b>	An incubator that has a fan to distribute internal air
<b>Freestall barn</b>	A facility used to house dairy cows in which cows are not restrained and are free to enter, lie down, rise, and leave the barn
<b>Fresh cow</b>	A cow that has recently given birth to a calf
<b>General partnership (farm)</b>	Consists of two or more farmers that own and operate a farm
<b>Genetic engineering</b>	Alteration of genetic code by man by using a variety of biotechnical techniques
<b>Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)</b>	Plants or animals that contain scientifically altered genes
<b>Germination</b>	When the plant emerges from the seed
<b>Gilt</b>	Young female swine that have not yet given birth
<b>Grain bin</b>	A vented cylindrical structure, typically made of corrugated steel that is used to store dry grain, corn, and soybeans
<b>Grower</b>	A person who operates a confined poultry feeding operation
<b>Grow-finish</b>	The time a pig is between the nursery and market, usually around 14-16 weeks
<b>Harvest</b>	The process of gathering crops
<b>Hatcheries</b>	Commercial operations that hatch eggs in controlled conditions

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<b>Haylage</b>	Livestock feed that produced through the fermentation of grass or alfalfa
<b>Heavy breeds</b>	Chickens that are larger than layer breeds and raised primarily for meat
<b>Hectare</b>	A measure of acres that equals 10,000 square meters (2.471 acres)
<b>Heifer</b>	A young cow that has not yet given birth to a calf or produced milk
<b>Herbivore</b>	An animal that eats grasses and plants materials
<b>Herd</b>	A group of cows
<b>Hog</b>	Older bigger swine
<b>Homogenization</b>	A process that takes fat droplets from milk and emulsifies them so cream does not separate
<b>Hops</b>	A vine of the hemp family that is grown primarily for use in the brewing industry to add bitterness and aroma to brewed beverages and aid in preservation
<b>Horizontal farm integration</b>	When a farm owner acquires or merges with another business which is providing the same agricultural product at the same stage of production (example: a dairy farm acquires another dairy farm)
<b>Horticulture</b>	The practices of cultivating fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants
<b>Hutch</b>	An individual housing unit for calves
<b>Hybrid</b>	Offspring produced by combining two genetically different parents. Hybridization does not include genetic engineering or biotechnology.
<b>Independent growers</b>	Farmers who raise their own agricultural products
<b>Industrial milk</b>	Milk that is sold to make other dairy products such as cheese, ice cream, etc.
<b>Influent</b>	The liquid manure that flows in the methane digestion system
<b>Insecticides</b>	Organic or chemical substances used to control insects
<b>Integrator</b>	A company that combines various stages of production for economic benefit
<b>Intermodal</b>	The use of more than one form of transportation to move product from shipper to receiver

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<b>Julian date</b>	A three-digit number relative to the date in the year that the eggs were processed. This date is calculated with January 1 as 001 and December 31 as 365 in the corresponding year.
<b>Lactation</b>	The secretion of milk from a cow's udder
<b>Lactose</b>	A sugar found only in milk
<b>Layers</b>	Chickens that are raised for the purpose of laying eggs
<b>Leaching</b>	A process where soluble materials are removed from soil by passage of water
<b>Limited Liability Company (LLC) (farm)</b>	Consists of one or more members and is allowed by state statute
<b>Limited partnership (farm)</b>	At least one farm operator and one or more investors who do not actively participate in the farm
<b>Litter</b>	Bedding material that is spread on poultry house floors
<b>Mastitis</b>	Inflammation of a mammal's milk duct typically caused by bacteria during lactation
<b>Metric ton</b>	2,204.6 pounds
<b>Milk claw</b>	A machine that is used on a cow's udder to help release the milk
<b>Milk house</b>	A sterile area in the barn that stores milking equipment and the bulk tank
<b>Milk solids</b>	What remains of milk after the water is removed (proteins, lactose, minerals, and vitamins)
<b>Milking machine</b>	Machinery used in dairy farming to extract milk from cows. An electronic milking machine uses a pulsating vacuum to simulate the suckling calf.
<b>Milking parlor</b>	A specialized area on the dairy farm where the milking process is performed
<b>Moldboard plow</b>	A farming tool with blades used to cut furrows in the soil and flip it over
<b>Monoculture</b>	When a single crop is grown in same area for many years
<b>Noxious weeds</b>	Plants which are designated to be harmful to other plants or people by agricultural authorities
<b>Organic-Accredited Certifying Agent</b>	A person trained by the National Organic Program in USDA organic requirements

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<b>Pasteurization</b>	Heating raw milk to a high temperature and then cooling it quickly to kill bacteria
<b>Pasture</b>	A fenced area where animals are kept while outside
<b>Perennial crops</b>	Crops that grow for more than two seasons
<b>Pesticides and herbicides</b>	Chemicals that are used to prevent, destroy, or repel pests
<b>Pig or piglet</b>	Younger smaller swine
<b>Pipeline</b>	The pipes that carry milk from the barn into the bulk tank
<b>Point source pollution</b>	The release of a pollutant from any single identifiable source such as a pipe or ditch
<b>Polyculture</b>	When a variety of crops are grown in same area
<b>Pomology</b>	The science of growing fruit
<b>Pork Quality Assurance Program</b>	A pork industry program that stresses the importance of annually reviewing herd health
<b>Precision agriculture</b>	An integrated farming production system that uses data and technology to increase efficiency, productivity, and profitability while minimizing impacts to the environment
<b>Processors</b>	Operations that prepare meat from livestock for consumption by humans
<b>Producer</b>	A farmer, rancher, or orchard operator
<b>Pullets</b>	Young hens that are less than one year old
<b>Ranch</b>	An agricultural operation that raises livestock on range
<b>Rancher</b>	A person who operates a ranch
<b>Ration</b>	A fixed allowance of feed for an animal for one day
<b>Raw milk</b>	Milk that has not been pasteurized
<b>Restricted-use pesticides</b>	Pesticides that require special handling and may be applied only by trained, certified applicators or those under their direct supervision
<b>Rill</b>	A small stream of water that is directed to the surface of a field
<b>Row crops</b>	Crops planted in rows that are spaced to be mechanically cultivated



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<b>Rumen</b>	The largest of the cow's four stomach compartments
<b>Ruminant</b>	Any hooved animal that has a stomach that is divided into 3-4 chambers. They are able to acquire nutrition from plant-based food by partially fermenting the food in each of the stomach chambers. The partially-digested food, called "cud" is chewed and swallowed again as it is processed in each of the chambers.
<b>Seed drill</b>	Planting implement that injects seed into the soil
<b>Seedstock producer</b>	Enterprise that produces breeding animals for the commercial segment of the cattle industry
<b>Share tenant</b>	Someone who farms the land for the owner and receives a portion of the value of the crop yield
<b>Shellers</b>	Mechanical devices that separate kernels from a dried cob of corn
<b>Silo</b>	A tall, skinny structure that is used to store silage (grass or other fodder) that is sealed and holds moisture to allow fermentation
<b>Sole proprietorship (farm)</b>	A single farmer owns the farm
<b>Sow</b>	A mature female pig that has given birth at least once
<b>Steer</b>	A male bovine that has been castrated
<b>Swine</b>	Generic term for all pigs and hogs
<b>Teat</b>	Appendage on the cow's udder through which milk flows
<b>Threshing</b>	The process of separating grain or seeds from the plant with a mechanical Process
<b>Tillage</b>	The mechanical breaking up of soil through agitation such as plowing, digging, overturning, or raking
<b>Udder</b>	The mammary gland of a cow, which hangs near the hind legs, that produces the milk
<b>Vertical integration</b>	When two or more stages of production, marketing, and/or processing are linked together through common ownership
<b>Viticulture</b>	The science of growing grapes
<b>Windrows</b>	Long lines of harvested crop heaped up by machinery

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<b>Winter wheat</b>	Wheat that is planted in the fall and harvested the following summer
<b>Yardage</b>	A daily per-head fee charged by the feedlot to the cattle owner
<b>Yearling</b>	Cattle of either gender that are one to two years of age