

# The Cost of Producing Pork in a Hoop Bedded Production System

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The evolution of the Swine Industry has forced industry members to reevaluate their operations and utilize an increasing level of risk management. This has caused producers to examine how they are using their capital. A survey conducted in May of 2001 showed that hoop buildings are becoming an increasingly important part of the swine production industry. This is especially true for the grow-finish production phase. Hoops are now being evaluated for use in the gestation and farrowing phases of production.

This paper and discussion will focus on the cost of pork production in a hoop farrow-to-finish system. Much research has been completed and analyzed on hoop grow/finish pig production at the Iowa State University Rhodes Research and Demonstration farm. Research on pig productivity and costs for use of hoops in the gestation/farrowing phase of production is limited. This paper will develop cost of pig production using hoop facilities for the breeding, gestation and farrowing phases of production. This information will be merged with production costs for grow/finish pig production to develop production costs and production efficiency for a hoop farrow-to-finish pig production system. Where possible, cost comparisons will be made to confinement pig production.