**Truth or Hogwash Questions**

1. Pigs overeat and really “pig out.”
   1. Hogwash: Pigs stop eating when they have reached their energy requirements. When compared to humans, pigs eat more frequently throughout the day and in smaller amounts.
2. On modern hog farms, hogs are fed table scraps and nuts.
   1. Hogwash: Pigs are fed carefully balanced rations matched to their age and weight that consists of feeds such as corn, barley, and soybeans.
      1. Ration- amount of feed consumed by one animal for one day.
3. A hog is ready to go to market when it weighs between 260-280 pounds.
   1. Truth: Most market pigs weigh 260-280 pounds and produce about 140 pounds of consumable meat.
4. Hogs lay in the mud because they are lazy and dirty.
   1. Hogwash: Pigs roll in mud or water to cool off. Pigs do not have sweat glands and cannot cool down by sweating. As mud dries on their skin, water evaporates and cools the pig as well as providing a protective barrier from the sun.
5. Most hogs are raised in temperature-controlled buildings.
   1. Truth: Pigs live in clean, modern buildings that protect them from weather and predators and provide optimum temperatures. Fans and sprinkling systems cool pigs in the summer. Heat lamps and heaters warm them in the winter.
6. Female hogs, called sows, are pregnant for 3 months, 3 weeks, and 3 days before giving birth.
   1. Truth: Sows are pregnant for about 114 days before they give birth to a litter of piglets. Each sow has an average litter of 10-14 piglets.
7. Pigs are primarily raised to produce meat such as bacon, ham, sausage, and pork chops.
   1. Truth: Pigs produce meat that provides protein and vitamins to our diet.
8. Pig heart valves are used to replace damaged human hear valves.
   1. Truth: Heart valves from pigs are used to replace diseased/damaged heart valves because they function the same way as a human heart valve.
9. Pork products produced on farmed in the United States are only used in our country.
   1. Hogwash: Pork products from the United States are shipped all over the world. Japan and Mexico are the leading buyers.
10. In order to gain one pound of body weight, a pig must eat 2.5 – 3 pounds of feed.
    1. Truth: Pigs gain one pound of weight after eating 2.5 – 3 pounds of feed. This is called feed conversion.
11. A newborn piglet is approximately the same size as a human baby.
    1. Hogwash: Newborn pigs weight about 3 pounds and are 11 inches long. Newborn human babies in the U.S. average around 7.5 pounds and 20 inches long. Newborn pigs are half the size of a newborn baby.
12. Chewing gum, crayons, bristle brushes and drum heads are all by-products of hogs.
    1. Truth: The parts that cannot be used for food (blood, bones, hooves, hair, hide, and fat) are used to make these by-products
       1. By-product- a secondary product made from what would otherwise be wasted.
13. Pigs have small eyes and poor eyesight.
    1. Truth: They have poor eyesight. However, they have a strong sense of smell.