



We took the holiday week off last week so this issue will cover the two weeks ending May 31, 2026:

- 1) **US Hog Supply Outlook Tightening Modestly:** Market commentary across the industry increasingly points towards slower sow herd expansion and tighter second-half hog availability than many analysts projected earlier this year. Supply growth assumptions are being revised lower.
- 2) **China Remains a Primary Global Pricing Variable:** Chinese pork markets continue to struggle with weak margins and excess production capacity. Government pressure to limit output will have a major impact on global pork trade and feed demand.

Link: <https://swineweb.com/chinas-pork-production-is-rising-but-the-real-story-is-pressure/>

- 3) **ASF Preparedness is Regaining Attention in North America:** Increased discussion about ASF in Europe and the Pseudorabies scare in the US along with new research modeling the potential

spread of ASF in the US has revived the discussion about ASF risk in North America.

Link: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.14191>

- 4) **Philippines Works to Reduce Pork Import Reliance:** The Philippines is expanding gilt placement and ASF vaccination efforts with the goal of restoring domestic production and reducing pork import dependence. GMA News reported increased production targets announced by the government.

Link:

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/988565/marcos-pork-meat-mav-supply-shortfall/story/>

- 5) **Poll Question Asks if Corn/Soybean Acres will Increase or Decrease by 2040:** Swine Insights CEO, Todd Thurman, posted a poll on LinkedIn asking if there would be more, less or the same acres of corn/soybeans planted in the US in 2040 compared to today. Almost 60% of respondents said "Significantly Less" and only 5% said "Significantly More".

Link: https://www.linkedin.com/posts/toddthurman_corn-soybeans-agriculture-activity-7462592817425588224-CbZq/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios&rcm=ACoAAAQAgnlBZgQSaxnP1CA-aYwbdn_rJQckRhA

- 6) **Feed Costs Remain Supportive Relative to Recent Years:** US corn and soybean meal economics continue providing margin support despite broader uncertainty in global protein and grain markets stemming from the conflict in Iran.

7) **Labor Efficiency and Automation Remain Strategic Themes:**

The global pork industry continues to focus on labor productivity and how new AI and robotics technologies may help address the labor challenges facing the industry amid rising wages, demographic shifts and reduced immigration rates.

8) **US Pork Demand Showing Resilience Despite Higher Retail**

Prices: National Hog Farmer reported continued consumer pork purchases despite rising prices suggesting retail demand remains firmer than expected.

Link: <https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/market-news/americans-are-buying-more-meat-despite-rising-prices>

9) **Capital Discipline Replacing Expansion-First Thinking:** While a few months old now, the article linked below discusses an increasingly common sentiment among pork producers...looking to focus on financial resilience and profitability optimization instead of directing capital towards growth.

Link: <https://www.nationalhogfarmer.com/farming-business-management/financial-discipline-in-a-profitable-cycle>

10) **Measurement Technologies are the Biggest Focus Area in Precision Production Investment:** A Pig333 survey question yielded interesting results. When asked about the most important focus areas for precision production investments, 69.2% of respondents chose measurement technologies over

reduction in labor (23.1%) and expansion of farm size (7.7%). The results were current at publication, but the survey is ongoing.

Link: <https://www.pig333.com/question-of-the-week/27-May-2026-773/>

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