

# Experiences of a Pig Farmer



March 17, 2010

Food Waste Webinar Series

John Caffrey, former pig farmer now with Wilenta Feed

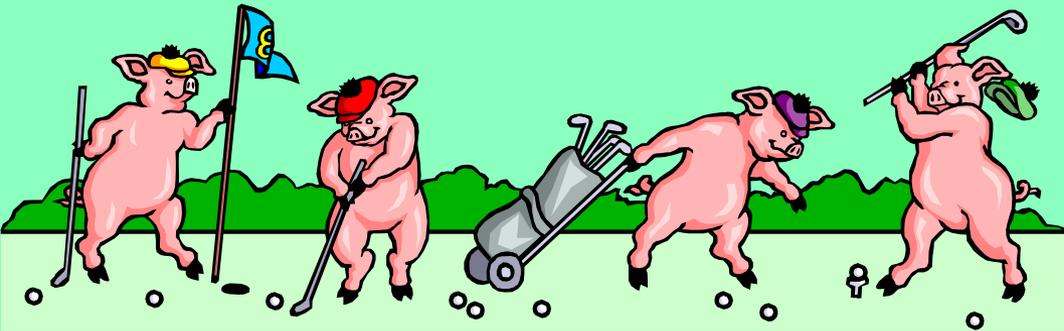
[jackcaffrey@gmail.com](mailto:jackcaffrey@gmail.com)

# History of Feeding Food Waste to Animals

- Prehistoric
- Slopping hogs



- Manhattan – 1720's complaints about hogs running around the island



- Modern -where allowed, requires sanitary consideration

# Collection

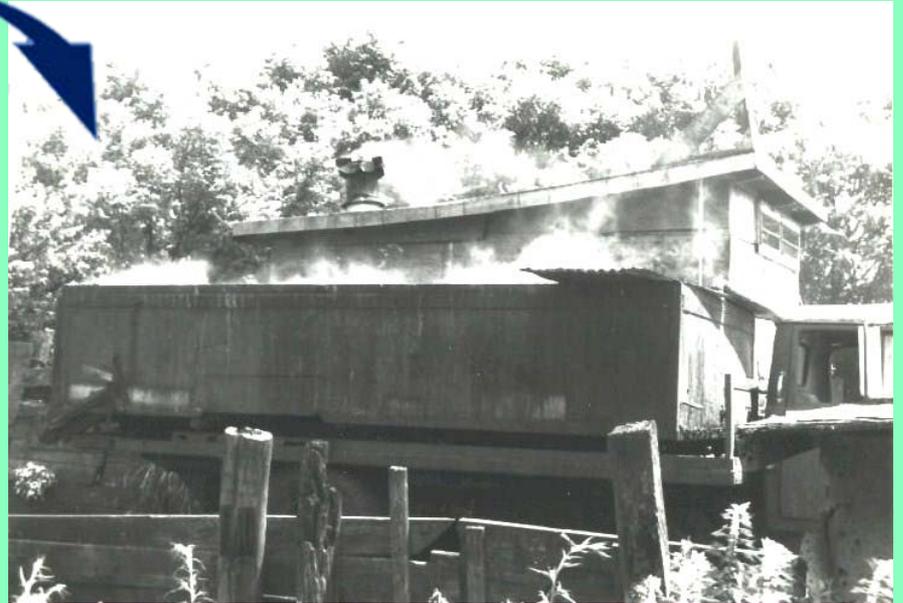
- Used top loading sanitation packers
- Gaskets to seal in liquid
- Drum of soap and water on top of cab used to rinse on-site container



# Collection

- Millaras uses drums and heat wand
- Philadelphia collected material in buckets placed on street corners

# Preparation of Food Waste

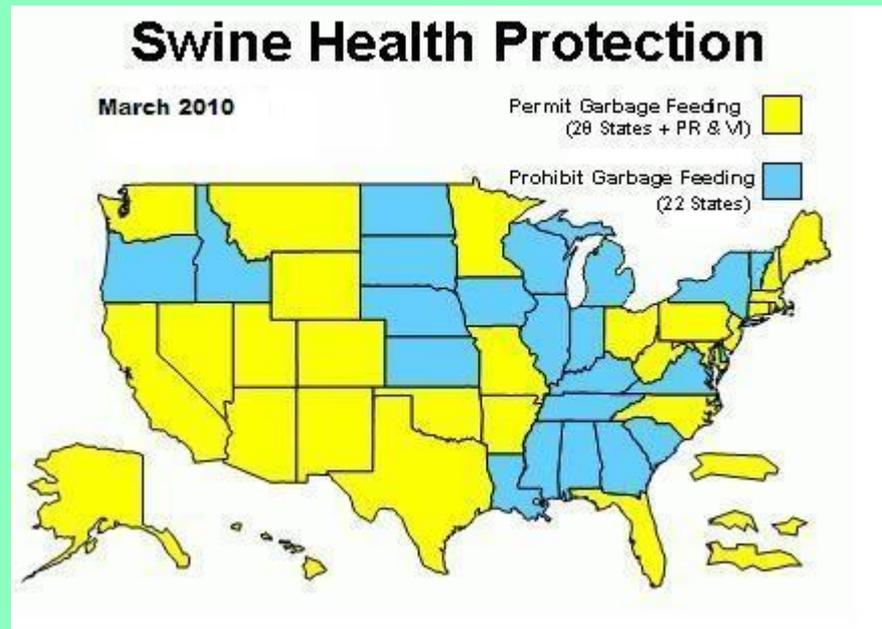


- Heated to 220 degrees for 2 hours
- Then cooled and fed to pigs

# Regulations

- The Swine Health Protection Act (SHPA) regulates food waste containing any meat products fed to swine.
- Food waste containing meat must be heated throughout at 212 °F. for 30 minutes (or equivalent) Code of Fed. Regs. Part 166
- ‘Garbage feeding’ **cattle** legal in some states

# Regulations – only some states allow feeding ‘garbage’ to pigs



# Regulations

## Exemptions to garbage definition

- Even in states that prohibit 'garbage' feeding, some foods may be exempt from regulation and don't have to be heat treated.
- In NYS, dairy and cheese waste, outdated eggs, stale baked goods; discarded vegetables and fruit may be collected and fed to swine. (Ag and Markets Law Article 5, Section 72a).

# Economics

- It's simple - feeding pigs is cheaper than landfilling
- Feeder pig costs \$30-\$60 at auction
- Finished pig sells for \$50-\$75 at auction



# Economics

- Pigs until 6 months, then hogs (slower growth)
- Due competition with factory farms, cheap feed needed

# Economics

- Entry cost is about \$1 million including land
- \$125,000 x2 Trucks to transport food waste
- \$10,000 Boiler/cooker
- \$300 x 50 Collection containers for 50 customers to start
- \$50,000/yr Sales & marketing, office staff
- **\$325,000 Total start up not including land**

# Overcoming Obstacles

- Public perception, odor
- Need sufficient space
- Manure (can compost)
- Must comply with manure management regulations
- High entry cost unless have land already
- Should be located near population center



# Contact

John Caffrey - [jackcaffrey@gmail.com](mailto:jackcaffrey@gmail.com)

Currently employed at Wilenta Feed, NJ

(Wilenta recycles bulk food processing waste  
into animal feed)