



# Food to Livestock Program

Food that is not fit for human consumption may be processed into animal feed.



## Your Food Off-Site

Many communities are beginning to recognize the impact food waste is having on them and are responding by offering services to deal with the waste.

Specially permitted hog farms are often able to take pre-consumer and post-consumer food waste. They may offer special services like daily pick-up, collection containers, and support. Usually, participation in such a service is fee-based, much like garbage pick-up. However, costs may be rationalized by the realization that waste products are being well utilized.

Note: If schools decide to send food to a hog farm and they establish a student incentive program in their cafeterias, they may have to restructure the way they sort food. Most successful incentive programs separate food into edible food waste and non-edible, whereas pigs can eat food items that humans cannot/will not, such as peels and rinds. Schools may have to have a system when dealing with non-edibles to separate things like peels that can go to pigs from items that can't. (FoodWise Program. Eagle Bluff ELC)

## What schools are doing

### Transfiguration Catholic School - Oakdale

In a recent school year, Transfiguration started a Food-to-Hogs program. The Creation Care team along with staff and parents wanted to increase recycling and reduce waste. The team found that food and drink waste from the cafeteria was the largest material, by weight, in

the trash. They were also interested in reducing the cost of trash service. Since organics collection isn't available in their area, Food-to-Hogs was the best fit.

The Food-to-Hogs program is now a big part of the program at their school. Many educational events and training sessions helped to get students and staff excited about, comfortable with, and knowledgeable about the new program. Students produced waste reduction posters and wrote articles for the school newspaper. Older students trained younger students on how to properly compost. Guest speakers were brought in to do lessons with the students on the importance of waste reduction and recycling. A staff in-service was held before the school year to explain the Food-to-Hogs program. A video was shown that demonstrated how the waste food was processed and fed to the hogs. Now that the Food-to-Hogs program is fully integrated into Transfiguration's waste reduction program, training, promotion, and education are provided on a smaller scale.

### Parkview Center School - Roseville

Parkview Center School has worked with the Ramsey County Health Department to put a Food-to-Hogs program in place. Students and staff sort their food and trash before throwing it away. Students sort their leftover food and trash into three different barrels: a food-to-hogs barrel, a waste barrel (all non-food waste items that cannot be processed for pigs) and a recyclable barrel (including plastic bottles and cans). Students also stack their disposable trays to take up less space in the trash container outside. The stackable trays (425-500 per day) all fit in one trash bag if stacked properly. Food for pigs is then stored in barrels for pickup. Boxes, cans, and bottles are recycled and trash barrels are added to the trash container.

### Expo Elementary School - St. Paul

EXPO Elementary School has successfully reduced food waste at their school thanks to the "Pig Barrel Program." For seven years now food waste goes to a local pig farmer and students know this and will often ask if they can see the pigs or if the pigs will eat certain items.

