



Leader Tours Inc.

**EUROPEAN PIG PRODUCERS
2017 MIDWEST USA TOUR**

17 September – 24 September

Concept Daft Itinerary

It is our pleasure to provide the European Pork Producers Association with this custom designed Itinerary featuring Midwest USA agriculture. We understand that the objectives for this group are to learn about agricultural technology and agronomic practices in the USA. We have designed the following Program accordingly.

Day 1 • Sunday, 17 September (-/-/D)*

Arrive Chicago

Arrive Chicago, Illinois, O'Hare Airport (ORD)

***Welcome to Chicago!** With a population of 9.7 million people in the city and its suburbs, Chicago is the third largest in the United States; only New York and Los Angeles are larger. Chicago is world famous for its architecture, its lakefront, its shopping, and its cultural attractions. Elevation is 182 meters (596 feet).*



Clear USA Immigration and Customs

Meet and greet by AgTours.US Tour Director

***Fred Capelle** grew up on a diversified farm, has a college degree in agriculture, and worked in the field of agriculture for 15 years for companies including Monsanto. He has now operated technical agricultural tour programs for more than 20 years.*

Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight Chicago, Illinois (1 night)

Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Drive to Kirkland, Illinois (130 km / 80 miles / 1 hour, 30 minutes)

Visit Grain / Beef Farm

***This Farm** includes 1,146 hectares (3,000 acres) of owned and rented land. The farmer raises 423 hectares (1,100 acres) of corn, 384 hectares (1,000 acres) of soybeans, 15 hectares (38 acres) of alfalfa, 16 hectares (40 acres) of peas, and 365 hectares (900 acres) of custom crops. Conventional tillage is used except for a few acres of no-till soybeans to produce outstanding results. The farm also finishes and sells 1,800 head of beef cattle each year. Precision farming is practiced using GPS for soil testing and fertilizer application. The office computer is used for yield mapping and cattle management. The farmer and one full time employee operate the farm; there is also one part-time employee during fall harvest.*



Lunch

Drive to Cambridge, Illinois (200 km / 120 miles / 2 hours)

Visit Feeder-to-Finish Pig Farm

***This Farm** is owned by a third generation farmer and his wife who are 2016 Prairie Farmer "Master Farmers". The farmer has a Master's Degree in Animal Science and Farm Management from the University of Illinois. They market 30,000 hogs a year from their feeder-to-finish operation. They also farm 810 hectares (2,000 acres) in partnership with their son. "We use variable rate technology on fertilizer applications for better placement of dry and liquid commercial fertilizer," the farmer explains. They use a Hi Boy sprayer for later, in-season nitrogen applications, believing that applying nitrogen closer to the time of plant uptake lessens the likelihood of leaching and de-nitrification. All of their farms are no-till, with the exception of about 80 hectares (200 acres) of corn-on-corn. The farmer has been active with the County Pork Producers for 40 years, and has served on the State Pork Producers Board for eight years. He was the committee chairman for the 2016 State Pork Expo.*



Drive to Bettendorf, Iowa (60 km / 35 miles / 30 minutes)

***Welcome to the Quad Cities!** The Quad Cities include the cities of Davenport and Bettendorf in Iowa, and Moline and Rock Island in Illinois, divided by the Mississippi River. The metropolitan area has a combined population of 400,000. Moline is world famous as the Headquarters of John Deere. Elevation is 172 meters (565 feet).*

The Mississippi River, which passes through the Quad-Cities of Rock Island and Moline, in the State of Illinois, and Davenport and Bettendorf, in the State of Iowa, is called “the mightiest river” in the United States. Flowing a distance of 3,780 kilometers (2,348 miles), it reaches from northern Minnesota down to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the master drainage system for the central United States. A series of 29 locks and dams between Minneapolis, Minnesota, and St. Louis, Missouri, make navigation possible. The Mississippi River System is a crucial part of the agricultural transportation system in the United States.



Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight Bettendorf, Iowa (1 night)

Day 3 • Tuesday, 20 September (B/L/D)* **Bettendorf - Des Moines**

Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Drive to Donahue, Iowa (30 km / 30 miles / 30 minutes)

Visit Wean-to-Finish Pig / Grain / Dairy Farm

This Farm is a diversified farming operation that includes grain, dairy cows, swine, and beef cattle.

On 2,000 hectares (5,000 acres) of tillable land, the farmer grows 300 hectares (750 acres) of corn and 1,700 hectares (4,250 acres) of soybeans. With his corn he uses both minimum-tillage and conventional tillage. His yield is 12-15 metric tons per hectare (240-300 bushels per acre). His production is among the top 20 in the USA. His goal is to attain 25 metric tons per hectare (400 bushels per acre) by 2020. With his soybeans he uses no-till. His yield is 3 metric tons per hectare (50-60 bushels per acre).

The farm's dairy operation includes 260 Jersey milking cows. Their production is an average of 36 liters per cow per day (24,000 pounds per cow per year) which ranks number 7 in the USA. The dairy is fully robotic. It also has a cheese making operation.

In the swine barn, the farmer feeds out 7,000 head of pigs per year in his wean-to-finish operation. His barn has a viewing gallery with glass walls that allow guests to step into the barn without boots or overalls.

The farm's beef cattle operation includes a 60 head Angus herd in a cow-calf operation.



The farmer uses almost entirely John Deere equipment. He recognizes the benefit of maintaining state-of-the-art technology. At the same time, he is selective in retaining equipment that provides the needed function as reflected by his 25-year old baler.

A unique feature of the farm is the self-serve "Farmer's Market". This is a 12' x 36' building where the farmer displays farm products for sale on the honor system. Customers select their items and then deposit their money into a collection box.

Drive to Washington, Iowa (160 km / 100 miles / 1 hour, 45 minutes)

Lunch

Visit Fully Integrated Farrow-to-Finish Pig / Grain Farm

***This farm** is the largest, family-owned pig farm in the State of Iowa; the farmer markets approximately 600,000 pigs per year from farrow to finish. It is a fully integrated, family-run swine and grain operation with 1,300 hectares (3,200 acres) of corn and soybeans and an in-house feed mill. Their focus is to raise quality pork in an environmentally efficient, healthy and humane manner.*

The farmer has always been a proponent of pushing the boundaries of Ag technology. "Innovation is always at the forefront of our minds," he says. "It's a constant reinvention to improve the quality of the animal and the final product.

One example is the in-house feed mill we run. This allows us to change the pigs' diet every week, depending on what commodities are most available. This helps us feed more efficiently and all of the corn that goes into the feed is raised within 20 miles of the operation."

The farm processes all of its own corn on site and creates the 13 special diets needed by a pig during its time from birth to market. These special diets result in premium pork for consumer consumption.



Drive to Des Moines, Iowa (185 km / 115 miles / 2 hours)

***Welcome to Des Moines!** Des Moines is the capital and largest city in the State of Iowa. It is the industrial, retail, financial, and political center of the state. The metropolitan population is approaching 500,000 people. The elevation is 245 meters (803 feet).*

Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight Des Moines, Iowa (1st of 2 nights)

Day 4 • Wednesday, 20 September (B/L/D)*

Des Moines

Breakfast in hotel

Meet with the National Pork Council and the Iowa Pork Producers Association

***The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC)** conducts public-policy outreach on behalf of its affiliated state associations to enhance opportunities for the success of U.S. pork producers.*

The mission of NPPC is to advocate for reasonable legislation



and regulations, develop revenue and market opportunities and protect the livelihoods of America's 67,000 pork producers. NPPC focuses on public-policy issues in the areas of agriculture and industry, animal health and food safety, environment and energy and international trade.

Through its political action committee, PorkPAC, NPPC educates and supports candidates at the state and federal levels who support the U.S. pork industry.

The Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) provides a unified voice for Iowa's pork producers to promote and educate for a sustainable, socially responsible, profitable and globally competitive pork industry. IPPA is a grassroots organization that consists of approximately 70 county associations across the state, with more than 4,000 affiliated and associate members. Every producer, regardless of size, has a voice in IPPA.



**IOWA
PORK[®]**
PRODUCERS
ASSOCIATION

Drive to Fort Dodge, Iowa (105 km / 65 miles / 1 hour)

Lunch

Drive to Humboldt, Iowa (30 km / 20 miles / 30 minutes)

Visit a Midwest Region Hog Slat Retailer

Hog Slat, Inc. is the largest turnkey contractor and manufacturer of hog equipment in the United States. This family-owned business started in 1969 by manufacturing and selling slats for hog barns. Today, the business has grown to include:

- 1) turnkey construction of confinement type hog and poultry units;
- 2) the manufacture and distribution of hog and poultry equipment; and,
- 3) the production of live hogs.



Hog Slat, Inc., directly employs approximately 1,000 people throughout the USA in their manufacturing facilities and local retail operations; Hog Slat, Inc., employs an additional 1,400 subcontractors working on the company's local construction projects for both family farms and large corporate farm units.

Representatives at the Hog Slat retail location will provide an overview of the hog equipment and supply industry, display or demonstrate various Hog Slat products and equipment, and also share information and insights into current trends and innovation related to their business. A visit to a hog facility construction site (and /or a meeting with a construction project specialist) may be possible depending on availability and if construction/installation activity is scheduled during the dates of this tour.

Return to Des Moines, Iowa (160 km / 100 miles / 2 hours)

Dinner

Overnight Des Moines, Iowa (2nd of 2 nights)

Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Drive to Waterloo, Iowa (210 km / 130 miles / 2 hours)

Visit John Deere Tractor and Cab Assembly

John Deere Tractor and Cab Assembly Operations (TACO) building is 19 hectares (48 acres) under roof on 526 hectares (1300 acres) of land. You will see John Deere tractors being made from start to finish on this one-of-a-kind tour. John Deere has long been known as the world's leading manufacturer of agricultural tractors. John Deere is the only tractor manufacturer in the world that still retains its founder's name. You will also visit the factory gift shop where you can purchase clothing, toys and other items bearing the renowned "Leaping Deer" emblem.



Lunch

Drive to Calmar, Iowa (115 km / 70 miles / 1 hour, 30 minutes)

Visit Iowa Dairy Center

The Iowa Dairy Center has a milking herd of 260 head that is housed in the farm's freestall barn. Stalls are bedded with sand and are cleaned every milking. Cows are fed free-choice in this tunnel ventilated barn. The center also features a "transition" barn for calving and a calf barn.



The farm's unique double-eight milking parlor demonstrates both herringbone and parallel parlor styles side-by-side, making it the only dairy educational facility to feature this type of comparison. Cows going through either the parallel or herringbone milking parlors are milked three times a day and average over 26,000 pounds of milk a year. In 2013, two robotic milking units were added. Cows milked on the robotic system average slightly more, with the Holsteins at 28,000 pounds per year and the Jerseys at 19,000 pounds per year.



The Iowa Dairy Center and Dairy Farm are operated by the Northeast Iowa Dairy Foundation, a non-profit partnership of Northeast Iowa Community College (NICC), Iowa State University Extension and the Midwest Dairy Association (MDA). In addition to being a successful working dairy farm ... it provides hands-on experience for agriculture students regarding dairy farm operation and also provides ongoing education for existing dairy farmers.

Drive to Dubuque, Iowa (145 km / 90 miles / 1 hour, 45 minutes)

Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight Dubuque, Iowa (1 night)



Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Visit Dairy / Grain Farm

***This farm** is owned and operated by a father-son team. They started their dairy operation in 1975 with 80 cows; after several expansions their dairy has grown to 864 cows milked three times a day.*



During that time, the farmers invested in building free-stall barns and increased the size of their milking parlor to hold 24 cows.

They also farm 360 hectares (856 acres) of land, to produce crops to feed their cattle.

Cows are housed in free-stall barns, where they can move around, eat and drink, or lay in stalls at any time and be clean and comfortable.

Free-stall barns are bedded with 12 inches of sand, cows stand on rubber floors, and cow pens give the animals plenty of room to walk around. The barn is also equipped with several large fans and a sprinkler system. All of these features combined help to keep cows both cool and comfortable—from where the cows lie down, to where they walk, to the temperature in the barn—allowing them to produce excellent quality milk—and a lot of it. The cows currently produce 100 pounds per day, and their milk quality is in the top tier of excellence.

The farmers also receive significant premiums due to their milk quality that they believe is a direct result of keeping cows clean and comfortable. “The more comfortable you can make a cow, the more efficient she will be,” says the father. “We believe that if we take care of the cows, they will take care of us”.

Lunch

Drive to Evansville, Wisconsin (145 km / 90 miles / 1 hour, 45 minutes)

Visit Dairy / Grain Farm

***This farm** is a modern 5-generation dairy farm that milks 2,900 cows. The farm’s average production per cow is over 26,000 pounds.*

The benefits seen from reclaiming sand impressed the owners enough to add an identical unit when they built a new cross-ventilated facility. They also opted for a closed-loop system with sand lanes. While the sand from each system stays at the respective facilities on the farm, the manure effluent is combined and filters through the farm’s reverse osmosis and ultra-filtration system (created by Integrated Separation Solutions (ISS) of Madison, Wisconsin).



This farm also cultivates 2,025 hectares (5,000 acres) of cropland.

Drive to Madison, Wisconsin (40 km / 25 miles / 45 minutes)



Welcome to Madison, Wisconsin! Madison is a cosmopolitan city of over 220,000. It is home to the State Capital and to the respected University of Wisconsin. The city was built on an isthmus between lakes Monona and Mendota. The greater Madison area is consistently ranked one of the top small cities in the US. Elevation is 863 feet above sea level.

Hotel check-in

Dinner

Overnight Madison, Wisconsin (1 night)

Day 7 • Saturday, 23 September (B/L/D)*

Dubuque - Madison

Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Drive to Chicago (235 km / 145 miles / 2 hours, 30 minutes)

Shopping at Cabela's

Cabela's is the world's foremost outfitter of hunting, fishing and outdoor gear. Cabela's overwhelmingly popular stores throughout the U.S. are as much wildlife museums and education centers as retail stores. Cabela's showrooms provide a truly unique shopping experience. True destination stores, Cabela's showrooms offer outdoor enthusiasts an educational and entertaining shopping experience.



Lunch

Visit Chicago Skydeck

The Chicago Skydeck, located in the Willis Tower (formerly known as Sears Tower), is the tallest building in the United States (110 floors and 448 meters high). On a clear day, it offers a magnificent view of Chicago and Lake Michigan.

The newest attraction, **The Ledge**, will allow you to step out four feet from the building in a clear glass box and look 103 stories down to the street!



Chicago City Tour

Your narrated bus tour will include the following sights

- **Lake Michigan:** Lake Michigan is the largest body of fresh water in the United States. It is an important link in the great waterway system that reaches east to the Atlantic Ocean and south, through the Mississippi River, to the Gulf of Mexico.
- **The Chicago River:** The Chicago River flows west from Lake Michigan through the center of the city. The river originally flowed eastward. In 1900, when sewage from the river began to pollute Lake Michigan and threaten the City's supply of

drinking water, engineers reversed the river's flow; it is the only river in the world that flows backwards.

- **Buckingham Fountain:** *Buckingham Fountain is the world's largest lighted fountain.*



- **Millennium Park:** *Millennium Park is an award-winning center for art, music, architecture and landscape design. The result of a unique partnership between the City of Chicago and the philanthropic community, the 9.9-hectare (24.5-acre) park features the work of world-renowned architects, planners, artists and designers. Among Millennium Park's prominent features that you will see are the Jay Pritzker Pavilion, the most sophisticated outdoor concert venue of its kind in the United States; the interactive Crown Fountain; the contemporary Lurie Garden; and, the hugely popular Cloud Gate sculpture.*

There will be several opportunities to step off the bus for great photos.



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Hotel check-in

Farewell Dinner

Overnight Chicago, Illinois (1 night)

Day 8 • Sunday, 24 September (B/-/-)*

Depart USA

Breakfast in hotel

Hotel check-out

Chicago River Cruise

The Chicago River Cruise will depart from the Wrigley Building dock at Michigan Avenue and will feature highlights of Chicago's architectural heritage, amazing views of Chicago's magnificent skyline and up-close perspectives from the Chicago River. Your cruise will lead you through the Main Branch of the Chicago River and through the Chicago Lock out onto Lake Michigan.



Leisure time (depending on flight departure) to explore "The Magnificent Mile" shops

The Magnificent Mile: The Magnificent Mile, which includes Michigan Avenue between the Chicago River on the south and Oak Street on the north, is one of the world's great shopping areas, with representative branches of many national and international specialty and department stores.



Lunch on own

Transfer to airport for return flight to Europe

Day 9 • Monday, 25 September (-/-/-)*

Arrive Europe

Arrive Europe

*Meals included: B=Breakfast, L=Lunch, D=Dinner

Pricing based on group size: 30 passengers

LAND ONLY: Twin Share: Euro 2797 per person

LAND ONLY: Single: Euro 3578 single room