

CAREER PATHWAY GUIDE



Overview

Are you are interested in a career in the pork industry, but you have no idea what to do to get to this given career? Well, you've come to the right place. The Career Pathway Guide was developed to provide you with real life examples of individuals who work in the pork industry. Through their stories, we hope to give you a better understanding of some of the skills, knowledge, and experience required to get on a wonderful career path in the pork industry.





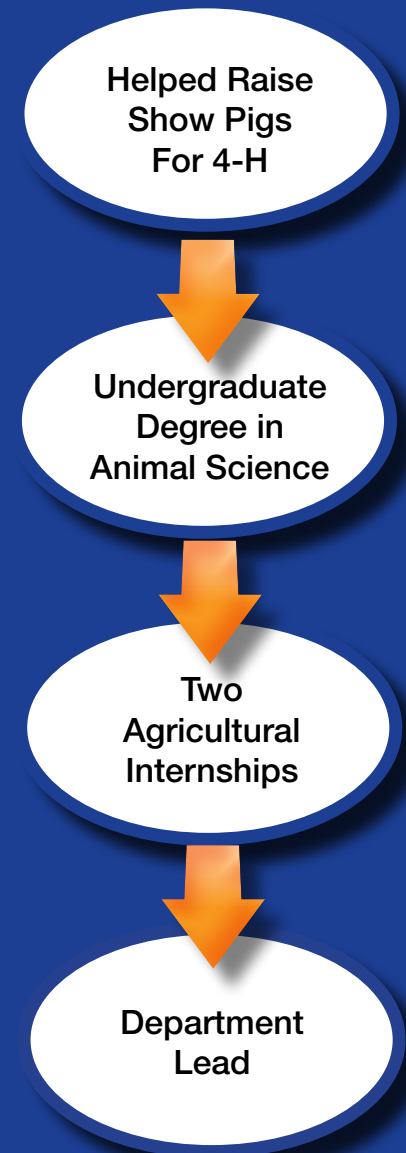
Your Path to Becoming a **Department Lead**

Tyler Peterson

My name is Tyler Peterson, and I am a department lead in the pork industry. I grew up on my family's farm and initially got my start in the pork industry through helping my brother raise show pigs for 4-H. My interest continued to grow throughout my youth, as I was presented with the opportunity to work as a hired hand for a 500-head sow unit when I was just 16 years old. Through this experience, I was able to gain skills in both breeding and raising sows. It also led me to pursue a bachelor's degree in Animal Science. While at the university, I had an opportunity to fulfill two internships, which later enabled me to grow into my current position as a department lead.

In my position, I am responsible for overseeing the animal well-being of our sow facilities. I oversee that sows have proper assistance during farrowing and maintain a proper diet. Additionally, I am responsible for processing new piglets after farrowing. My math skills are of utmost importance, as I am consistently determining production levels on the farm by calculating total born alive, weaning averages, and pre-wean data. A unique benefit of the pork industry is the opportunity to be involved in several training programs offered. In fact, I am participating in a management trainee program, which has allowed me to further develop the skills needed in my position.

The most rewarding aspect of my position is being able to watch pigs grow from the time they are in my care to the time they go to market. Because of my professional and personal contributions, I know that I have helped to produce a safe, wholesome product to feed the world.





Your Path to Becoming a **Commodities Professional**

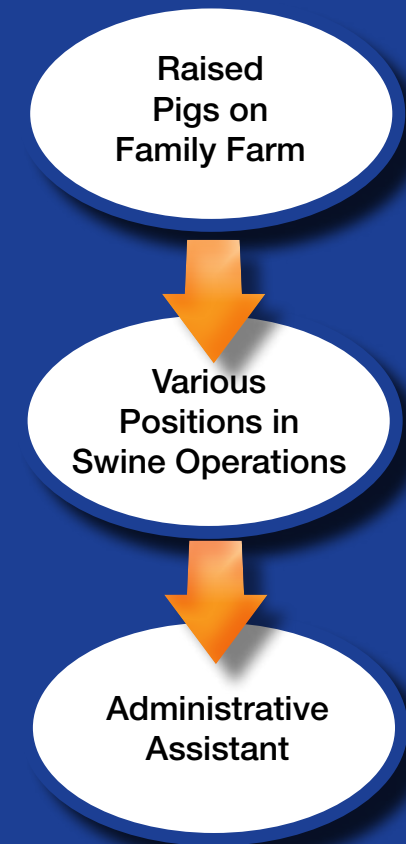
Patti Olsen

My name is Patti Olsen. I am an administrative assistant for the director of purchasing within the pork industry. I grew up in an urban community and was connected to agriculture at a young age through family members who farmed and raised pigs. I never received any formal training for my position, but rather gained the necessary skills from my experiences raising pigs with my family, as well as maintaining other positions in swine operations. Through these experiences, I had the opportunity to learn about different phases and aspects of the industry that have helped me in my current position.

My main job is to handle the daily purchases of our feeds. My position requires a great deal of coordination with various feed suppliers. Additionally, my job activities vary on a day-to-day basis. I'm constantly working with different individuals to secure our feed purchases for our swine operations.

In my position, I frequently use math and science skills. While it isn't critical in my position to know how to calculate specific statistics, it is important to understand the logic. Additionally, I believe that communication skills and the ability to ask the right questions are crucial in understanding how and why we function the way we do in our operation. Other important characteristics for someone in my position include the ability to delegate tasks and the willingness to ask for help.

I would encourage someone to work in the pork industry simply because of the wide variety of opportunities that exist. There is no limit to where you can go, while always feeling as though you are helping to provide a safe, wholesome product to feed the world. My advice to someone interested in the field would be to first gain formal college education, as well as take every opportunity to pursue an internship and gain some hands-on experience. If you do that, there is no limit to your success.





Lili Alonzo

My name is Lili Alonzo, and I am a human resource professional within the pork industry. I am originally from a big city and didn't gain my knowledge and understanding of the agriculture industry until I moved to a more rural area later in my youth. My only professional experience has been through working with and around people in bilingual environments. I am in the process of obtaining my degree in business administration at a local community college, while also working full time as a human resource professional. In my position, I am responsible for reviewing applications, as well as recruiting at various colleges, universities, career fairs, and industry events. I am able to use my bilingual skills to translate our employee handbook, as well as other human resource materials.

I have enhanced my already strong skills in the Spanish language, as I'm consistently provided with opportunities to translate materials we use in human resources. Additionally, my communication skills have improved dramatically as a result of the many interviews I've conducted. I believe that a person in this position should have strong interpersonal communication skills with the drive to provide service to others.

I enjoy working in the pork industry and feel as though the sky's the limit regarding the amount of opportunities I have for advancement in a given career path. My advice for a young person looking to pursue a career in the pork industry is to know what you want to do and then research a path that interests you by talking with people in the industry and gathering information from teachers and colleges. I encourage individuals to strongly consider a college education as it will provide you a lot of open doors from an opportunity standpoint. Also, take advantage of opportunities to gain hands-on experiences through internships and work study programs.

Your Path to Becoming a **Human Resource Professional**



Summary

We hope this guide has provided you with an inside view of some of the pork industry's finest professionals. We hope through reading their stories, you have a greater understanding of the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to get yourself on the right path to career success.

