

Important Note: This activity was developed for the original Green Lunchroom Challenge program, a voluntary pledge program for K-12 schools to improve the sustainability of their food service



operations. The project was coordinated by the [Illinois Sustainable Technology Center Technical Assistance Program](#) with funding from US EPA Region 5.

The following page(s) represent the content of this activity as it appeared on the original project web site, complete with available points and instructions for submitting documentation. **The project is no longer funded and as of June 2018 schools may no longer submit activity documentation to earn points and recognition as described.** The activity is presented for your information to guide your organization's sustainability efforts.

If your school or district implements the suggested activity and wishes to share its experiences, please email [Joy Scrogum](#). Your story may be incorporated into a blog post on this web site, the main ISTC site, or shared on social media to foster networking and inspiration among peer institutions.

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Educate staff on IL restrictions on provision of food scraps for livestock feed

Activity Category: Diverting Food for Animal Consumption

Activity: Educate staff on IL restrictions on provision of food scraps for livestock feed

Rationale: After you have practiced source reduction, and diverted any unused edible food to humans for consumption, the next preferable activity on the US EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy is diverting food from landfills for use as animal feed. This can reduce disposal costs for the entity generating the food scraps, and reduce costs for farmers by supplementing other forms of feed purchased for their livestock. Some schools in other states have had success in achieving food waste diversion from landfill through sending food scraps for processing into animal feed (often for swine).



However, the feeding of **“garbage” to swine is prohibited in Illinois** (see the [Swine Health Protection Act State Permit/Prohibit Status Map](#)). In the context of this law, “garbage” is defined as “all waste material derived in whole or in part from the meat of any animal (including fish and poultry) or other animal material, and other refuse of any character whatsoever that had been associated with any such material, resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking or consumption of food, except that such term shall not include waste from ordinary household operations which is fed directly to swine on the same premises where such household is located.” Even where “garbage” is from a household on the same premises as the swine to be fed, it must be cooked at a licensed facility prior to being fed to swine (in states where there is permitted). The definition means that even vegetable scraps kept separate from meat and other animal products in your kitchen might be interpreted as having been “associated” with such materials as the result of handling and preparation in your kitchen. Further, according to the law, “garbage” may not be feed “to swine or any animals or

poultry on any farm or any other premises where swine are kept...nothing in this Act shall be construed to apply to any person who feeds garbage produced in his own household to animals or poultry kept on the premises where he resides except such garbage if fed to swine shall not contain particles of meat." According to the State Veterinarian/Bureau Chief at the Bureau of Animal Health and Welfare in the IL Dept. of Agriculture, the cooking of "garbage" for animal feeding purposes is not allowed in Illinois. **Thus your if your school is located in IL, do not attempt to divert food scraps to livestock feed in Illinois.** You may, however, educate students and staff about the use of vegetable scraps for feeding livestock that they own on the premises (e.g. chickens, goats, etc.) to encourage their diversion of food waste. **(See the "Raise Awareness and Share Successes" category for the "Submit an original lesson plan on diverting food for animal consumption" activity, which pertains to teaching students about this sort of activity and successes in other states.)**

Activity Description: Educate staff at your school or school district regarding IL restrictions as described above.

Earn Challenge Points (150 points): Submit a brief (1-2 pages) description of how your staff was made aware of these restrictions, in PDF or Word format, indicating the date upon which information was distributed, the format of its communication, and how many staff received it. Your description should be emailed to Joy Scrogum at jscrogum@illinois.edu.

Resources:

-  [US EPA Food Recovery Hierarchy](#)
-  [US EPA: Feed Animals](#)
-  [Swine Health Protection Act State Permit/Prohibit Status Map](#)
-  [Code of Federal Regulation \(CFR\) Title 9--Animals and Animal Products, Subchapter L--Swine Health Protection Act \(Parts 166-199\)](#)
-  [Leftovers for Livestock: A Legal Guide for Using Food Scraps as Animal Feed](#)
-  [What to Feed Your Chickens \(see section on vegetables and table scraps\)](#)
-  [Food Scraps Go to the Animals: Barthold Recycling and Roll-off Services](#)

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