

Pig Stories Untold



Whether we admit it or not, research tells us as humans we want to hear negative news stories. Think about it. What types of stories are covered in the news, both traditional TV news and Internet news? Our human nature wants to click on these stories so we can read the gory details about these "terrible" stories. Some days you wonder what is becoming of our world. I have to admit, it can be really, really annoying at times. And because bad news stories help media ratings, many positive voices and stories are not heard. I want to share with you pig stories untold. You will not hear this story on your regular newsfeeds or news channels.

Background information.

For those of you that don't live in the midwest, our gravel roads (yes, I live on a gravel road) normally "breakup" in the early spring. What does "breakup" mean and why does it happen?

We typically have very cold winters and everything freezes hard. In the spring as the gravel roads are unthawing, we have spots in the road where there are [frost boils](#). Frost boils create very soft and muddy areas in the road. Typically, you can see them from a distance and drivers slow down to navigate through them. The "frost boil season" doesn't last long but we deal with them nearly every spring to some degree. And this spring was no exception.

The last little bit of background information is we are part owners of a sow farm. Our sow farm is where female pigs are bred, gestate (pregnancy) and farrow (give birth). Our breeding stock comes from another farm that specifically raises female breeding stock. That farm is located in Canada.

Okay, so let's fast forward to our early spring. Late one rainy night, our sow farm had a semi-truck load of female pig breeding stock arrive at the farm from Canada. Unfortunately, because of the frost boil conditions and rain, the driving surfaces (roads and farm sites) were in terrible condition. It was very easy to get stuck because of the muddy state of the driving surfaces. And that's exactly what happened to the semi-truck. The semi became stuck and could not back up to the barn to

unload the animals. Now what? These pigs couldn't wait until the next day to be unloaded.

Desperation

Because we have managers on this farm, we didn't know the specifics of the arrival of these pigs until we received this email from the sow farm manager. The text in green are my notes for clarification and names have been changed.

Last week new gilts arrived at isolation (*sow farm site for new breeding stock*), the truck was late arriving due to being detained at the border and when it first arrived it got stuck at the isolation site due to the frost boil in the ground. After several calls to local businesses, I ended up calling "Bill" and "Joe" (*Joe and Bill are neighbors*). They came out at 1:30 am with a tractor and got the trailer loose after several attempts. Then the driver told us he could not get to the chute (*chute is used to help animals move into the barn*) so I started to call employees in to work so we could carry the pigs in. However, "Bill" and "Joe" got the driver partly in to the chute so we, with panels and planks, could get the pigs in to the barn. Their help was highly appreciated.

Think about this email for a moment.

Neighbors showed up when most of us were sleeping. Employees were called and would have driven to work and carried those animals into the barn through the mud during the middle of the night. This is a story no one hears.

This is real pig farming.

Was a video or pictures taken as this story was unfolding? No.

Why? Because all of us were home sleeping. No one gave it a second thought that they should take a picture or video. They had work to do--they had to find a way to unload those animals. There was no hidden agenda. People were simply doing their job. Neighbors were helping neighbors in a desperate situation.

And it's as simple as that.

They all knew these animals had been on the truck for a very long time and needed to get them into a warm and dry environment with feed and water. And for that, I am *thankful and appreciative*.

And . . . these are the pig stories no one hears about. This is what happens "behind closed doors" or should I say . . . "during the middle of the night."

Minnesota Farm Living

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Unfortunately, we have individuals and organizations that don't want you to hear these stories either. They do not want you to hear the vast majority of people do care about farm animals and are willing to go up and above the call of duty to care for these animals. They use words like "factory farms" and "Big Ag" so you don't associate farming with people who care. Their agenda is to abolish animal agriculture or at least greatly reduce it. I bring this to your attention so you can be aware of animal rights' hidden agendas and realize there are many *untold* stories of animal care. So please reach out to the farming community to have your questions answered.

Want to hear more about Real Pig Farming and other pig stories untold?

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[Meet the Real Pig Farmers of America](#)