**May 5,2020**

Another in the series of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom non-fiction text examples to be used in your classroom. Remember, these will be available every MONDAY afternoon that *FarmWeek* is published during the school year.

Questions about this can be directed to Kevin Daugherty, Education Director of Illinois Agriculture in the Classroom at [kdaugherty@ilfb.org](mailto:kdaugherty@ilfb.org).

\*\*Reminder these questions are designed to use with the on-line version of *FarmWeek.*

<https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Note, by request of teachers we have included the answers to the questions immediately following the questions on a separate worksheet.

*Teachers want to be sure to get this in a timely fashion? Sign up for your copy to be directly emailed at* <http://www.agintheclassroom.org/FWArticle/fwarticle.shtml>

**NAME:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CLASS PERIOD\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Directions:** Please use the online version of *FarmWeek.*  <https://www.farmweeknow.com/eedition/>

Use the article titled:

Livestock farmers face ‘difficult decisions’ as plant closures persist

1. How many pork packing plants are closed as of 4-28-2020?
2. Research Monmouth Illinois. This is the location of the Smithfield plant that reopened on 5-4-2020. What is interesting about Monmouth and the 1.700 employees of the plant?
3. Due to plant closures, how many market ready hogs are going un harvested each day?
4. According to Tasha Bunting, what is the major cause of some shortages of pork in grocery stores?
5. Because farmers are looking at a bottleneck in processing explain how farmers can slow pig growth?
6. Another option for farmers and processing plants is to begin possible herd depopulation. Describe how you feel about this.

See the article “The Road from Farm to Table” from Purdue University describing this bottleneck for more information. <https://ag.purdue.edu/stories/the-road-from-farm-to-table/>

Answer Key

1. 22 plants representing a quarter of the capacity.
2. Answers will vary, but Monmouth is in Western Illinois and the county sear of Warren County. There are around 9,400 citizens. 1,700 employees is a MAJOR employer for the city of Monmouth and that area.
3. Estimates range from 50,000 to 250,000 daily, this is 10 to 50%.
4. The combination of plant closures and lost restaurant and food service markers are the major causes.
5. Answers include transitioning the animals to a low-energy/high-fiber diet, remove all sources of added fat from rations, adjust the lysine-to-calorie ratio, remove any growth promoting technology and limit feed intake by adjusting feeder gate openings…basically put the pigs on a diet.
6. Answers will vary. This is a very sensitive subject. Farmers want what is best for their animal, however the health of the animal as well as the cost to the farmer should both be examined.