



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONTACTS:

Ashley Earnest  
Public Relations Manager  
Central Illinois Foodbank  
217.522.4022  
[aearnest@centralilfoodbank.org](mailto:aearnest@centralilfoodbank.org)

Katlyn Puclik-Baker  
Marketing Manager  
IL Pork Producers Association  
217.529.3100  
[katlyn@ilpork.com](mailto:katlyn@ilpork.com)

## **IL Pork Producers provide needed nutrition to central and southern IL**

### *Central Illinois Foodbank receives over 5,000-pound pork donation*

(Springfield, Ill., May 21, 2018) – As part of *Pork Power: Partnering to Fight Hunger In Illinois Campaign*, Illinois pig farmers recently gifted Central Illinois Foodbank with over 5,000 pounds of ground pork.

This donation will be distributed to the following Foodbank partner agencies: Carlinville Good Samaritan Ministries, Gillespie Caring Center, Montgomery County CEFS, Morrisonville-Palmer Food Pantry, Nokomis Food Pantry, Panhandle Food Pantry and St. Clare Food Pantry.

“A little over 10 years ago, I was made aware of the shortage of protein available for distribution through our foodbanks and pantries,” said Phil Borgic, owner of Borgic Farms. “With the help of Illinois corn and soybean farmers, Magro’s Meat & Produce, our grower partners and employees, Karen and I are bringing pork protein to Central Illinois Foodbank for distribution to areas where our pigs are raised. We strive to go the extra mile for our neighbors and encourage others to do the same.”

Each day, Illinois food banks provide access to healthy and nutritious food to keep families across Illinois from going to bed hungry. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) recommends meat protein as part of a nutritious and healthy diet but because of limited supply it is often difficult for food banks to provide their food pantries and feeding sites with enough protein for families in need.

“Protein is something we all need in our diets, but it’s also one of the hardest food groups for us to obtain,” said Pam Molitoris, Central Illinois Foodbank executive director. “Through the generosity of the Illinois Pork Producers Association, we are able to provide healthy, nutritious foods to our neighbors in central and southern Illinois.”

In 2008, Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA) launched Pork Power with the goal of helping fight hunger in Illinois. It provides a system for farmers to donate pork to food banks throughout Illinois. Since its inception, Pork Power has generated over 625,000 pounds of pork –



enough for more than 2.4 million meals - for families throughout Illinois. Pork, soybean and corn producers committed funds from their respective checkoff programs to support this program. The Pork Power program is also an opportunity to promote pork as families are educated on how to prepare and incorporate pork into their favorite dishes. Families receive information on the important nutritional, mental and physical benefits of including protein in the diet.

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### **About Central Illinois Foodbank**

Central Illinois Foodbank, established in 1982, distributes more than 9.4 million pounds of food annually to over 160 food pantries, soup kitchens, residential programs and after-school programs in a 21-county region. Central Illinois Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief organization. The mission of the Foodbank is to provide food, and develop awareness of and creative solutions for food insecurity.

### **About Illinois Pork Producers Association**

The Illinois Pork Producers Association (IPPA) represents more than 2,000 pork producers throughout Illinois and the Illinois pork industry, which contributes more than \$1.8 billion and more than 10,500 jobs to the state's economy. IPPA is comprised of county pork producer groups in approximately 20 counties throughout Illinois. IPPA is an affiliate of the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board.

### **About Borgic Farms**

Borgic Farms is a multigenerational pig farm in Montgomery County, Illinois, currently owned by Phil and Karen Borgic. The farm employs over 30 team members who are responsible for the daily management and care of animals at the home location. They work with 35 families around Illinois and Iowa who raise Borgic pigs on their own farms. Borgic Farms is proud to partner with area foodbanks to grow healthy communities.