9. What is your vision for your farm 5, 10, or 20 years in the future?

Questions to ask yourself while reading Hogs Your Way:
Now that you have completed these questions, you should have a good understanding of the values, interests and resources your family brings to a hog system. Keep your answers handy and use them to think through the following questions as you read about the various hog systems in the next section. In the third section, Selecting the Best Option for You, you will be encouraged to return to these answers.

Which systems best fit:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. What you value and enjoy most?</th>
<th>Swedish</th>
<th>Pasture</th>
<th>Hoops</th>
<th>Confinement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Your idea of success?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. The way you want your community to perceive you and your farm?</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. The issues of concern to your community?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Your comfort level with:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>— debt?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>— risk associated with equipment purchase?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>— risk associated with weather?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The types of farm work you enjoy most?</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Your reasons for adding or continuing hog production?</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8. Your family’s strengths and resources?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Your vision for how your farm will look in the future?</td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Add other questions here:
Taking Stock and Clarifying Values

As you review hog production systems, be sure to give your family's values, interests and resources serious consideration. The system you decide to use may significantly affect the amount of time you spend together, family members' roles on the farm, your family income and your children's interest in and ability to take over the farm and hog operation when you retire.

You should also review any impact your decision may have on your relationship with your community and neighbors. In several communities, concerns about odor and water quality have generated considerable conflict between livestock producers and their neighbors. Increasingly restrictive local ordinances and growing numbers of non-farm rural residents may also limit your options. Taking potential community concerns into consideration helps you maintain good relations with your neighbors and avoid local efforts to restrict the implementation of your plans.

The questions here are designed to stimulate your family's thinking about your potential hog enterprise. They can help you assess your family and farm's resources and strengths, identify your interests and values and set priorities. Use your answers in considering the hog production system options addressed in this book.

1. **What do you value and enjoy most?** *(check all that apply)*
   - Working in a pleasant environment
   - Working outside
   - Serving as a steward of the land
   - Working with animals
   - Learning about and using new farming methods
   - Having time to rest and take vacations
   - Satisfying family income goals
   - Working together as a family
   - Farming on a full-time basis
   - Finding a place for the next generation on the farm
   - Working independently
   - Using farming methods I know well
   - Working on a seasonal basis
   - Other

2. **To me, being “successful” in farming means:** *(check all that apply)*
   - Paying down our expenses without falling behind
   - Putting money away for the future
   - Farming full time
   - Finding a place for the next generation on the farm
   - Taking time to rest, vacation
   - Being able to save for down times
   - Having a surplus to share with others in need
   - Working together as a family
   - Helping neighbors who are farming
   - Generating ______% of my income from the farm

3. **How would you like to be seen by your neighbors and community?** *(check all that apply)*
   - Don't care
   - As a leader
   - As a steward of the land
   - Close working relationship with my community
   - As a model, aggressive modern producer
   - As a good community member

4. **What issues are of concern to your community that might affect your choice of a hog production system?** *(check all that apply)*
   - Odor issues
   - Livestock concentration issues
   - Dust
   - Unsightly farm buildings/outside lot
   - Water quality
   - Flies
   - Hiring labor/purchasing equipment from outside the local area
   - Other
5. **How comfortable are you with different types of risk?** *(circle the appropriate level)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Risk Description</th>
<th>Uncomfortable</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Comfortable</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Carrying a lot of debt</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Being highly leveraged</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having expensive equipment that can be used for only limited purposes</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having your operation be potentially vulnerable to extreme weather conditions</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Having limited market access for your operation</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6. **What types of farm work do you like?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Work Type</th>
<th>Dislike</th>
<th>Neutral</th>
<th>Like</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Working closely with livestock</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Growing crops</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Working with machinery</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing employees</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Managing farm finances</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Inside work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seasonal work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steady, year-round work</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. **Why are you considering adding or continuing production of hogs on your farm?** *(check all that apply)*

- [ ] Add value to crops produced
- [ ] Increase net farm income / profit
- [ ] Utilize existing buildings
- [ ] Make room for another family member to farm
- [ ] Diversify farm's sources of income

8. **What are your family's strengths and resources that you can use to farm effectively?**

   **A. The skills of family members who are interested in working on the farm.**

   Sample: name Roger (self) has these skills: working with hogs, growing crops
   Sample: name Regina (wife) has these skills: working with computer, managing finances

   name ____________________________ has these skills: _______________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________

   name ____________________________ has these skills: _______________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
   ______________________________________________________
name ____________________________ has these skills: _______________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

name ____________________________ has these skills: _______________________________________________

____________________________________________________

____________________________________________________

B. Land resources you have available.

Total acres owned ___________________________

Tillable ___________ Pasture ___________ Other ___________

Total acres leased ___________________________

Tillable ___________ Pasture ___________ Other ___________

C. Buildings you have available; dimensions, special features and condition.

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

5. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

D. Equipment you have available (Tractors, combines, planters, cultivators, computers and other equipment).

1. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

2. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

3. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

4. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

5. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

6. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

7. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

8. ______________________________________________________________________________________________

E. Community resources available (check all that apply)

- Feed mill
- Breastfeeding supplies
- Veterinarian
- Equipment
- Neighbors with swine experience