



# BEFORE BUILDING AN INTEGRATOR BARN, INVEST IN PLANNING

## Planning and Teamwork Are Keys to Success

Are you interested in building an integrator barn to sustain your farm or diversify your operation? Before committing to this significant financial investment and complex project, spend time in the planning process. To learn more, contact your local AgChoice loan officer.

- 1. Research and Evaluate Your Options** - In Pennsylvania, there are several integrators primarily specializing in pork and poultry production. Consider what type of operation will best meet your needs, understanding that labor and time management requirements will vary depending on the project. Contact a company representative to learn about their contracts and expectations before moving forward with the planning process.
- 2. Build Your Team** - Build a robust team of advisors with experience navigating the integrator barn construction process. Members may include your lender, engineer, builder, integrator representative, excavator, nutrient management professional and other business advisors such as your accountant or lawyer.
- 3. Complete Your Homework** - Visit other operations similar to the one you intend to build. Discuss the project's financial feasibility with your lender. Be aware that the two largest costs in a building project are excavation and the building itself. Secure bids from several contractors to compare and contrast. Plan for unexpected cost overruns in the budget.
- 4. Secure Permits** - It is common for a project to take more than one year, depending on the size and complexity. Check with your local officials, such as the township and your county conservation office, to learn your township and county regulations and permit requirements. If your project is a CAO (Concentrated Animal Operation) or CAFO (Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation) or is located in a high quality watershed, you will need to meet additional requirements.
- 5. Visit Your Neighbors** - During the planning process, visit with your neighbors. Do they have concerns? Can you alleviate those concerns before making the final decision to build? The key to success is good communication.



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