Second Harvest Farms - Johnson Family

Back in 1927, LeRoy Johnson received three pigs from his father-in-law as a wedding gift. Johnson, who at the time did not have the money to cover the costs for feeding his new pigs, sought out neighboring grocers and was able to collect their food waste to feed his pigs. These food waste collections spawned what is now known as Second Harvest Farms and their concept of collecting food waste is still practiced to this very day.

Second Harvest Farms, which is located about 40 miles north of the Twin Cities in Isanti, Minnesota sits on 80 acres of land and raises between 700 - 1100 hogs per year. All of the hogs born on the farm are raised without antibiotics or growth hormones and live happily in the great outdoors with a continuous supply of fresh water, food and shelter.

Owned and operated by LeRoy’s grandson and great-grandson, David and Drew, Second Harvest Farms picks up food waste from hospitals, grocery stores, restaurants and the Minneapolis Convention Center and brings it back to the farm where it is cooked to at 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes and fed to the livestock. The farm has been featured in the Star Tribune and other news outlets along with a YouTube video called “Pigs Aren’t Picky”.
2012 Anoka County Family Farm of the Year, Johnson Family