

Calihan Pork Processors - "26-150 Employees"

Calihan Pork Processors has been awarded Outstanding Small Business

in the '26 - 150 employees' category with 61 current employees. Calihan is a family-owned company whose business has been to produce pre-rigor pork from lightweight sows for the last 67 years. This product is sold to fresh sausage makers throughout the United States including Johnsonville Sausage, Hillshire Farms (Sara Lee), Klement's, and other regional fresh sausage producers.

Calihan's processing capabilities have significantly improved over the past several years. By reinvesting in their plant and using Peoria-based companies, they have increased annual production over 12 percent since 2001. Current plant capacity is now 400 to 425 sows per day. Renovations still in progress will increase plant capacity an additional 50 percent. Calihan's is currently in the process of patenting an advanced packing process that will increase product shelf-life for their customers.

Owners of Calihan's are Lou and Tom Landon. Lou Landon has been involved with Calihan and the Peoria business community for over 50 years. Lou has experienced and weathered the ups and downs of the meat business and the Peoria economy in general through the years. Tom was born and raised in Peoria, and in 2003 returned to the area to take Calihan into its third generation of family ownership.

Over the years the Landon Family and Calihan have been involved with and financially supported numerous community organizations including the South Side Misson, Bradley University, St. Augustine Manor, and other numerous Catholic Diocese of Peoria organizations.

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