



## **DISCUSSION GUIDE**

*Suggested discussion topics are listed below. Choose those most appropriate for your group.*

- Do you think the jury should have been allowed to visit Joey Carter's farm to see the farm's conditions for themselves?
- Joey Carter's farm fully complied with strict regulations established by the State of North Carolina. Is it fair for farms that comply with all state and federal regulations to be the target of nuisance lawsuits? Should there be a national "Right to Farm" bill that provides additional protections to farmers?
- What do you make of the fact that the plaintiffs in these cases never complained to Joey Carter about odor or other issues related to his farm's operations?
- The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court, was tried in Raleigh, an urban area about 100 miles from Joey Carter's farm. Do you think Joey Carter was tried by a jury of his peers?
- What do you make of the fact that the plaintiffs in these cases asked only for monetary damages — not for any changes to the farm's operation?
- The lawsuits were filed against Smithfield Foods/Murphy Brown, not the family farmers like Joey Carter. But the company and the farmers were both significantly impacted. Who do you think was impacted most by the jury's verdict?
- Smithfield Foods was purchased in 2013 by WH Group, a publicly traded company headquartered in China. Do you think references to Smithfield as a "Chinese-owned company" impacted the jury's perception of the company?
- Some of the plaintiffs moved into an agricultural community where hog farms had been around for years. What responsibility does a person have when they move next to a farm? And what responsibility does a farmer have to communicate with neighbors?
- What could Joey Carter or the neighbors in these cases have done differently?
- What character in the film was most compelling? Most credible?  
Were there any characters in the film whose comments surprised you?
- The judge made several important rulings in this case. (Examples: jury couldn't visit farm, dirty hog on display, Smithfield odor expert couldn't testify, gag order, punitive damages, etc.) Which of these decisions do you think had the greatest impact on the outcome?
- The nuisance lawsuits created discontent in the community. What can be done to help the community heal from this conflict?