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**4-H Swine State
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On the cover: Retiring board president Fred Walcott (right) stands with his father, Russell Walcott (left).

SPOTLIGHT

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By: Emily Walker
MPPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Dr. Dale Rozeboom
MSU EXTENSION SPECIALIST

Michigan Secure Pork Supply

With the recent Avian Influenza outbreak in the Midwest, the devastation caused by this disease is the perfect example of why producers need to prepare for any possible type of disease outbreak in the U.S. Millions of birds have died from this outbreak, causing major clean-up efforts across the country. If something like this highly-contagious disease outbreak would occur in the pork industry, the question is: how would pork producers in Michigan be prepared for such an event and how would they continue to operate?

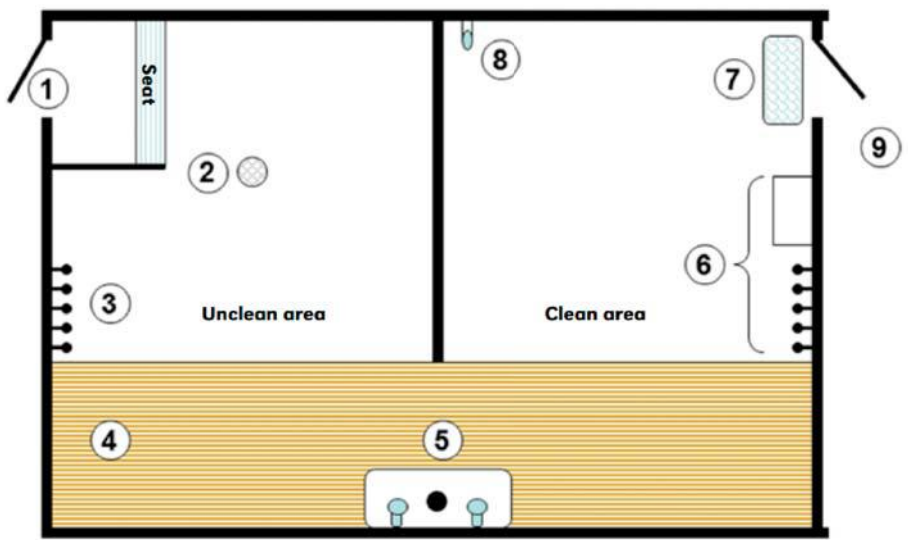
The Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA), the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) and Michigan State University Extension (MSU) are working together to help answer these questions. By

developing and implementing a plan for Michigan producers, this group hopes to ensure that producers will have a very good opportunity to maintain or continue pork production in the event of a highly-contagious or foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak in the United States.

The Michigan Secure Pork Supply (MSPS) project originated through MDARD's Be Aware, Be Prepared committee to discuss how pork producers could continue to stay in business in the event of a highly-contagious animal disease outbreak. The MPPA Board of Directors supported the idea of the project and approved funding for 2014 and increased funding for 2015.

If this type of outbreak were to occur in the U.S., maintaining business continuity for the pork industry is critical for food security and animal health and welfare. In recent years, it has become apparent that the size, interdependent structure, efficiency and extensive movement inherent in both the national and Michigan swine industries present unprecedented challenges should such an animal disease outbreak or other disaster occur which impacts the Michigan swine industry. The goal of the MSPS is to enhance communication and coordination, accelerate a successful disease response and provide a workable business continuity plan for commercial pork producers that is credible to State and Federal animal health officials while providing a safe supply of pork for consumers.

The MSPS project began in 2014, with the first year devoted to the development of an exercise audit. The audit was created using reference material from the Production Animal Disease Risk Assessment Program, which was initiated in 2006 by Iowa State University, and biosecurity information



A Danish Entry Method is often used for a non-shower farm. 1. Only entrance to facility and footwear is removed; 2. Floor drain; 3. Street clothes are removed; 4. Wooden-grate passage is only entered in stocking feet; 5. Hands are washed and disinfected; 6. Protective clothing and boots; 7. Use footbath before entering unit; 8. Water-tap with hose; 9. Pig facility. Photo from University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension.

from the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The planning committee consisting of Dr. Madonna Benjamin with MSU, Dr. Nancy Barr with MDARD, Dean Ross with Agrosecurity Consulting, Dr. Dale Rozeboom with MSU, Elizabeth Ferry with MSUE and Emily Walker with MPPA, replacing Megan Sprague, now with MDARD, have been working together to meet with pig farmers across the state. This research study is completely voluntary for producers to participate, and all information collected remains anonymous.

The exercise audit group consisting of Ferry, Ross, Rozeboom and Walker asks each participating farm a series of more than 700 questions about security measures and compiles the data from each farm. This information is then used to help determine the level of security in the pork industry in Michigan, the highest biosecurity risks and the best practices currently in use. This data will also help the group create business continuity plans to help farmers handle a possible outbreak event.

At this point in the project, the group has visited six farms across the state to collect data. The responses from those producers are currently being compiled to show anonymous, real life results. The group is planning to meet with six more producers this year to complete Phase 1 of the project. Depending on the results and response from the MPPA board of directors and Michigan producers, a Phase 2 of the project is possible to

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Signs similar to this can help improve biosecurity measures on farms by instructing visitors on farm practices.

continue learning about ways to improve the security of the Michigan pork industry and business continuity in the event of a highly-contagious disease outbreak in the U.S.

While the team learns from the practices of the participating farms, the audit team shares new biosecurity protocols that can help farms better prepare for animal health threats. Farms participating in this program should be given priority approval for the movement of animals from their farms to harvest channels or other production sites as long as they have no evidence of disease during a highly-contagious disease outbreak. Producers' participation prior to a highly-contagious disease outbreak is essential to the successful response to a FAD outbreak because producers will have implemented measures to enhance animal traceability, biosecurity and disease surveillance.

The goal of the committee is to complete this project by the end of this year and report findings to the MPPA board early in 2016. The results will also be reported to the National Pork Board to help other states create similar projects with the hope of improving biosecurity procedures and increasing the likelihood of business continuity in the event of an outbreak.



Passing the torch

I can't believe the year is already half over. And it's even harder to believe how fast the past two years have gone. As I stepped-down as President of the Michigan Pork Producers Association, I started looking back at everything that has happened in the pork industry during my tenure. The past couple years have definitely seen some ups and downs in the industry and I want to reflect on a few of the changes.

Feral Swine

After a long battle with the feral swine issue, I believe we have finally seen the light at the end of the tunnel.

I would like to thank the Court of Appeals for its recent decision. The Appellate Court, obviously, understood the perspective of Michigan agriculture in upholding the Department of Natural Resources' Invasive Species Order (ISO) on Wild Hogs. We must realize that not all feral swine have been eliminated from the state, but the recent ruling upholding the ISO is a step in the right direction in that it continues to make it illegal to have the Russian Breed of Hogs, and crosses of this breed, for sport shooting purposes in this state. We still have work to do to eliminate feral swine that have escaped, but confirming the Constitutionality of the ISO will stop the flow of additional wild hogs running at-large.

PEDv

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus hit the swine industry in Michigan nearly two years ago, and we have been dealing with it ever since. Managing this disease has been a shining example of the way farmers, not just in our state, but across the country can come forward with new ideas and information about protecting the rest of the livestock industry and utilizing these ideas to slow the spread of the disease.

It is amazing to me that something as small and invisible as PEDv can have such visible and devastating impacts on swine operations. How the state came together (producers, producer organizations, government and



By: Fred Walcott
MPPA PRESIDENT



Coldwater Pork Processing Plant Announcement

academia) to protect our industry against PEDv is evidence of how great the American agriculture system can work to overcome something as economically devastating as this disease. Hog farmers just have to keep moving forward with an even greater focus on bio-security in their operations.

Processing plant in Coldwater

One of the most exciting bits of news in the Michigan swine industry during my presidency was that a new pork processing plant will be built and is expected to be up and running in Coldwater in late 2017 or early 2018. This addition to the Michigan agricultural industry, and specifically the pork industry, is a great example of farmer ingenuity at its best. Producers saw a situation and a need for a processing plant in the area, so they moved forward with a solution and connected with the right partners to implement the plan.

With the changes that are ongoing, I am excited for the future of the pork industry, especially in Michigan. I urge fellow producers to get involved with the Michigan Pork Producers Association to continue to push our industry forward.

We recently sent out membership brochures and I want to emphasize how important it is to become a member of MPPA. Membership allows you to have input on issues facing the pork industry and have a vote at association meetings. Through our connection with Michigan State University, National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board, we are able to work together with



Above, Fred and Patti Walcott volunteer at a Breakfast on the Farm event.

// With the changes that are ongoing, I am excited for the future of the pork industry, especially in Michigan.

farmers throughout the country to address challenges collectively. It is important to become a member so that you can have access to the array of information put forth by these organizations to help you have a more successful farm operation. Your membership allows MPPA to have a voice in representing your interests, not only in Lansing, but also in Washington, D.C.

While serving as president,

I had the opportunity to work with a great board of directors and wonderful staff. I want to give a big “thank you” to the MPPA Staff that

// work in the office in East Lansing. They do a lot of work behind the scenes that we don’t always see and I want to say that I really appreciate everything they do.

I also want to add how grateful I am to have had the opportunity to serve as President of the MPPA Board of Directors. I am looking forward to continuing my work with the board and helping to grow and improve the Michigan Pork Industry.



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By: Sam Hines

MPPA EXECUTIVE
VICE PRESIDENT

“Maybe this column should be re-titled Sam’s Memoirs.”

A couple of issues back I wrote in this space about my concerns with the quality of today’s pork. The point being that we may have compromised delectability and an enjoyable eating experience by actually making today’s hogs a little too lean. To my astonishment, I probably had more comments about that article than any I have written. I was also surprised that no one responded countering my conclusions, although that doesn’t necessarily mean that everyone that read the article likely fully agreed with me either. Nonetheless, those that did respond all agreed that product quality is something that deserves greater consideration if pork is to become the consumers’ “meat-of-choice.” To further reinforce this point, I think one only needs to observe the current popularity of several of the heritage breeds and the raves they get by chefs and some consumers in providing an enjoyable dining experience. I would contend that the biggest difference between these heritage animals and the majority of the hogs produced today is merely the amount of fat they carry and, consequently, even if overcooked, the fatter breeds provide a more palatable meal. As I mentioned in the article, the Pork Board has a pork quality initiative underway, so this issue isn’t being overlooked and, hopefully, a way forward can be found to address today’s product quality concerns while not compromising all the strides we have made in making pork lean.

In making my point about pork quality, I drew on experiences I had raising hogs on the farm where I grew-up during the 1940s and 50s to point-out how much hogs have changed since that time. My trip back in time also intrigued a few readers and they commented that, since I have been involved in this industry and with this organization so long, I should use that same tact in writing about some of the experiences I have had on both fronts over the years. At first blush, I didn’t think revisiting my experiences would be all that interesting but, in thinking about it, I realized that both the industry and this organization have changed dramatically during my tenure and maybe looking back from time-to-time might be appealing. If nothing else, a little historical perspective may be worthwhile and make us appreciate how far we have come. So, I will devote the next couple articles to “looking back.” In fact, during that time maybe this column should be re-titled *Sam’s Memoirs* rather than *As I See It* but, regardless, I hope you find the diversion interesting.

In 1954, The National Swine Growers Council (NSGC) was formed in an

effort to bring together a number of state organizations and other swine groups under a national umbrella. NSGC was renamed The National

Pork Producers Council (NPPC)

in December 1964, but NPPC first really came into prominence following

the infamous “Moline 90”

meeting held on May 25, 1966,

at a Holiday Inn near the

Moline, Illinois, Airport. At this meeting, 90 pork producers came together and laid the groundwork for what would eventually become a national organization focused on addressing industry challenges and promoting pork. At the time of the Moline meeting, I was working in

the Pork Department of Swift and Company in South St. Paul, Minn. My job primarily entailed live hog procurement on the South St. Paul Terminal Market, but I also spent time buying hogs directly from producers in the country and also selling fresh pork and variety meats to brokers and meat wholesalers from the sales desk. In late 1966, I was transferred to the Swift facility in Sioux City, Iowa, and it was in Sioux City where I first began to hear about the formation of NPPC and the voluntary checkoff that was being put in place to fund the new national organization.

The first executive hired to run NPPC was Rolland “Pig” Paul. As the story goes, “Pig” acquired his nickname as an infant because

“ During Pig’s tenure, NPPC became the largest dues paying commodity organization in the U.S. ”

he was such a hearty eater. The moniker stuck and couldn’t have been more appropriate for someone who followed the career path he did. Pig grew-up on an Iowa farm and graduated from Iowa State University where he worked at the

Swine Farm. In 1957, he became the field representative for the Iowa Pork Producers Association and, while in that role, also served as secretary-treasurer for the National Swine Growers Council.

In what was perhaps a strange twist of fate, I had gotten acquainted with Pig while I was still in college at Ohio State. During the summers following my freshman, sophomore and junior years, I worked for the National Chester White Swine Registry Association that, at that time, was based in Rochester, Ind. It was while working for the Chester White Association that I was first introduced to Pig. In what could probably be best described as another twist of fate, I was hired to work for the Chester White Association by J. Marvin Garner.

(Continued on page 11)

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Pictured left: Renee Souva, senior division winner and Emily Walker, MPPA Program Director; pictured right: Lacey Burke, junior division winner and Emily Walker

2015 Michigan 4-H Swine Science State Award Winners

The 2015 Michigan 4-H State Award Recognition Program was held Thursday, June 25 during Exploration Days at the Huntington Club in Spartan Stadium on the campus of Michigan State University. Youth from across the state competed to be the state award winner in categories ranging from swine science to technology, engineering and much more. This is the highest honor bestowed on Michigan 4-H youth, who are recognized for their outstanding accomplishments. Youth compete in 19 different award areas showcasing their knowledge, skills and experiences.

Renee Souva of Branch County was the 2015 4-H State Swine Science Award winner in the senior division. Renee is a 16-year-old junior at Bronson High School. Renee started her 4-H career showing rabbits at age 5. She shows swine in various shows around the state throughout the year, and last year, Renee was a member of the state 4-H champion junior meats judging team and competed nationally at the FFA marketing contest. Renee is very active in the Branch County Leaders Council and Junior Livestock Board, serving as president of her 4-H club, and as a teen leader for livestock and cake decorating. She is a former participant of the Take the Lead and Dale Carnegie 4-H Leadership Program in her county. She lives on a small family farm, raising beef in addition to her swine project.

Lacey Burke of Van Buren County was the 2015 4-H State Swine Science Award winner in the junior division. Lacey has been a member of her 4-H club in Van Buren County since 2006. She lives in Kalamazoo and attends Loy Norrix High School. She is active in the swine, poultry, dog and horse project areas. Lacey has served in leadership roles as vice president, community service officer and teen leader. She also plays cello in the Loy Norrix High School Orchestra. After graduation, Lacey plans to attend Michigan State University to pursue a degree in music education.

4-H programs offer youth the opportunity to engage in rich learning experiences that result in life-skill development, content knowledge, lifelong friendships and connections with other youth, adults and industry professionals that help them grow and succeed. To learn more about Michigan 4-H Youth Development, contact your local MSU Extension office or visit www.4h.msue.msu.edu. 

As I See It

(Continued from page 9)

Mr. Garner, who had been Director of the St. Joseph, Missouri, Market Foundation at the St. Joseph Stockyards since 1951, assumed the role of Executive Secretary of the Chester White Swine Registry Association in 1958, a couple years prior to hiring me in the summer of 1961. Mr. Garner would later become the second Executive Vice President of NPPC. During his time at the helm of the organization, I was elected to the NPPC Board and Executive Committee, but that's a story for the next installment.

Pig Paul was a friendly, gregarious individual who could relate well to producers and he was certainly the right man for getting the organization started. During Pig's tenure, NPPC became the largest dues paying commodity organization in the U.S. Additionally, the "Nickels for Profit" voluntary checkoff program was initiated under his leadership and the pork checkoff also became the largest voluntary market deduction program by a commodity organization. In 1969, Pig stepped-down from his position as the chief executive officer of NPPC and, along with his wife and family, relocated to Willow Springs, Missouri, to raise purebred hogs. Pig ultimately retired and moved to Arizona. I last saw Pig at Pork Forum in Phoenix in 2010 where I enjoyed having breakfast with him and reminiscing about old times. Pig was certainly one of the

founding fathers who, along with other early stalwarts in the industry, had the vision, drive and determination to lay a successful framework for NPPC. Following Pig, the organization experienced unprecedented rapid growth, along with some daunting challenges, during Marvin Garner's tenure. This period included my first direct involvement with NPPC and I'll revisit some highlights and lowlights from that time in the next article. 🐷



Rolland "Pig" Paul
First CEO of NPPC

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MAEAP funding legislation signed by Snyder



On July 9, Governor Rick Snyder signed House Bill 4391 into law as Public Act 118 of 2015 to broaden the funding base for the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program's (MAEAP).

Specifically, the legislation provides for expanding the funding base for MAEAP by taxing all fertilizers and extending the sunset of those fees to 2021.

With these changes implemented, MAEAP will be able to:


- Continue helping farmers implement conservation practices and secure cost-share dollars from federal programs.
- Help farmers reduce pollution risk, and reinforce commitment to proactively protecting the environment by including phosphorus in the fee structure.
- Increase efficiency in program delivery, speed up MAEAP verification, and provide improved research, data gathering and reporting to show environmental benefits.
- Strengthen partnerships with private industry initiatives. For example, continuing work with the 4R's Nutrient Stewardship Plan.

This was originally published by Michigan Farm Bureau. 



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Court overturns ruling on invasive swine

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Director Keith Creagh applauded a published decision from the Michigan Court of Appeals that upholds a 2011 Invasive Species Order issued by the department prohibiting Russian boar in Michigan.


“This decision provides important protections for natural and agricultural resources in Michigan,” says Creagh. “The ruling provides additional clarity around this issue and is a strong affirmation of DNR policies intended to protect the state’s forests, fields and farms from the invasive species.”

The court ruling overturns a March 2014 decision from the Marquette County Circuit Court. The 3-0 Appeals Court decision holds that the Invasive Species Order “meets constitutional standards in all respects” and remains in effect in Michigan.

In Michigan, almost all feral swine – that is, swine outside of capacity – are Russian boar. Russian boar are not native to Michigan. All Russian boar in the wild were either introduced intentionally into the wild or escaped from captivity.

The Invasive Species Order that declared Russian boar illegal in Michigan was prompted by concerns that feral swine are major disease carriers that can jeopardize domestic livestock and threaten wildlife and even humans, and that feral swine cause ecological and agricultural damage, ranging from rooting up farm fields and damaging crops to wallowing in rivers and destroying aquatic habitat. The order was designed to prevent additional Russian boar from becoming feral.

“Feral swine have become established in other states, and we know how costly and detrimental those populations are for those states,” says Creagh. “Once established, invasive species of all types pose a serious threat to our natural resources. It’s the goal of the department to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species. This ruling is a significant step in achieving that goal.”

More information regarding feral swine in Michigan can be found at Michigan.gov/feralswine. 



MPPA Educates Visitors at Ag Day at the Capitol

MPPA staff recently participated at Ag Day at the Capitol. At the event, MPPA, along with numerous other agricultural organizations had the opportunity to interact with legislators and their staff. This gave the agricultural groups the chance to speak with the legislators and share information about the importance of agriculture in Michigan. MPPA handed out appetizers, recipes and pork fact sheets to attendees, while showing off the little pig barn to help demonstrate how pigs are raised.

MPPA Executive Director Mary Kelpinski shares information about pig farming with attendees during Ag Day at the Capitol.



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More than projects at the county fair

4-H youth participating in fairs exhibit projects and important life skills. Look for opportunities to increase youth leadership at your local fair.

The fair is a time for 4-Hers to showcase their projects and show what they've learned and accomplished throughout the year. Fairgoers will see such projects as beautiful ceramics, handmade garments, delicious foods and breathtaking photographs, along with many well-groomed and cared for animals. These projects are the results of many hours of hard work, lessons learned and the pride and joy of a 4-H member.

Beyond the physical projects exhibited at fair the general public see, developing leadership skills in youth is also a priority for fairgoers to observe. As we build leaders of today to fulfill adult roles tomorrow, developing a leadership program at the fair so teens are prepared to take over as adults is crucial. One way this can be accomplished is by developing a teen superintendent role.

There are many roles and responsibilities during fair week where teens can work side by side with an adult leader or take complete leadership of the task. The following are some ideas of roles and responsibilities for teens during fair:

- **Check exhibitors in and out.**
- **Be responsible for recording results in the judging books.**
- **Hand out ribbons.**
- **Record weights during weigh in.**
- **Assist with developing classes.**
- **Complete information on winners to release to the media.**
- **Serve as a spokesperson for media inquiries.**
- **Greet judges and take them to lunch.**
- **Assist with greeting and checking-in auction buyers.**
- **Serve as ring stewards to monitor safety in the show ring.**
- **Announce at the show or auctions.**



The key to a successful teen superintendent program is having adult superintendents willing to work with teens and work with staff in developing leadership skills. It is also crucial for trainings to occur to assure all parties involved are working towards the same goal. There are numerous roles and responsibilities a teen can be responsible for in the 4-H program and at a county fair. Setting teens up for success through trainings is the important part of having them serve as teen superintendent.

Michigan State University Extension's Leadership and Civic Engagement work team members can assist you with educational workshops around youth and adult partnerships, how to set up programs for youth and adults to work together as well as teen leadership trainings. For more information, email 4-hleadership@anr.msu.edu.

Upon your next visit to your local fair, look for youth showcasing their leadership skills or ask how youth can take on a more active role in the work that goes on "behind the scenes."

This article was written by Janelle Stewart, MSU Extension Educator, and originally published by MSU Extension. 🐷

Clean Trucks & Clean Drivers

Livestock transporters, pork producers and transportation company owners are invited to join the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development and Michigan State University Extension for a discussion on “Clean Trucks and Clean Drivers - Putting the Emphasis on Transportation Biosecurity.” Cathy Templeton, an industry expert, will review biosecurity practices and discuss practical standards to help protect the health of swine herds. Extension specialists will also review a survey from Michigan owner/operators of pork facilities regarding their biosecurity needs. In addition, participants will receive a biosecurity kit with \$500 worth of supplies.

When:

August 14 from 2:30 - 4:00 p.m.

Where:

Travel America, 15587 M-60, Tekonsha, MI 49092

What:

Disinfection: What Works Best - Dr. Madonna Gemus
Clean Trucks and Clean Drivers - Dr. Cathy Templeton
Wheels in Motion: How to Keep Your Trucks on the Road
and Business Growing - Tom Guthrie and Beth Ferry

**Dinner and \$500 worth of supplies
provided to each attendee!**

For more information about this event, contact Beth Ferry at franzeli@msu.edu

Trade Promotion Authority Bill Goes To Obama

With recent passage by the Senate of legislation granting the president authority to enter and finalize free trade agreements, the National Pork Producers Council called on

U.S. trade negotiators to conclude the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an Asia-Pacific regional trade deal.

Senate lawmakers voted 60-38 to approve Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), which defines objectives and priorities for trade agreements the United States negotiates and establishes consultation and notification requirements for the president to follow throughout the negotiation process. Once trade negotiators finalize a deal, Congress gets to review it and vote – without amendments – yes or no on it. Congress has granted TPA to every president since 1974, with the most recent law being approved in August 2002 and expiring June 30, 2007. The House recently approved TPA by a 218-208 vote.

“We applaud Congress for approving TPA, which is imperative for finalizing free trade agreements that boost U.S. exports and create U.S. jobs,” said NPPC President Dr. Ron Prestage, a veterinarian and pork producer from Camden, S.C. “Now we need U.S. trade negotiators to get the best deal possible from the other TPP countries and to finalize one of the most significant regional trade agreements ever.”

The TPP talks among the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries would generate 10,000 U.S. jobs tied to pork exports, according to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes. The U.S. pork industry would

see exponential growth in exports to the TPP countries.

“U.S. trade negotiators now have the leverage they need to close the TPP negotiations,” Prestage said.

“The U.S. pork industry needs TPP to continue growing our exports.”

Since 1989 – the year the United States began using bilateral and regional trade agreements to open foreign markets – U.S. pork exports have increased 1,550 percent in value and 1,268 percent in volume. The United States shipped more than \$6.6 billion

of pork to foreign destinations in 2014. The U.S. pork industry ships more pork to the 20 nations with which the United States has Free Trade Agreements than to the rest of the world combined. 🐷

// U.S. trade negotiations now have leverage they need to close the TPP negotiations. The U.S. pork industry needs TPP to continue growing our exports. //



Tips for Fair Season: Follow Biosecurity Basics

With more than a million pigs born, bred and raised each year for U.S. show rings, all exhibitors need to follow good biosecurity measures to help protect both pigs and people from disease threats.

“Ensuring that youth exhibitors have biosecurity information is a priority for Checkoff,” said Lisa Becton, DVM, director of swine health information and research for the Pork Checkoff. “Good biosecurity starts with knowing what steps to take at the farm, at the show and when returning home to reduce unnecessary health risks to pigs and people.”

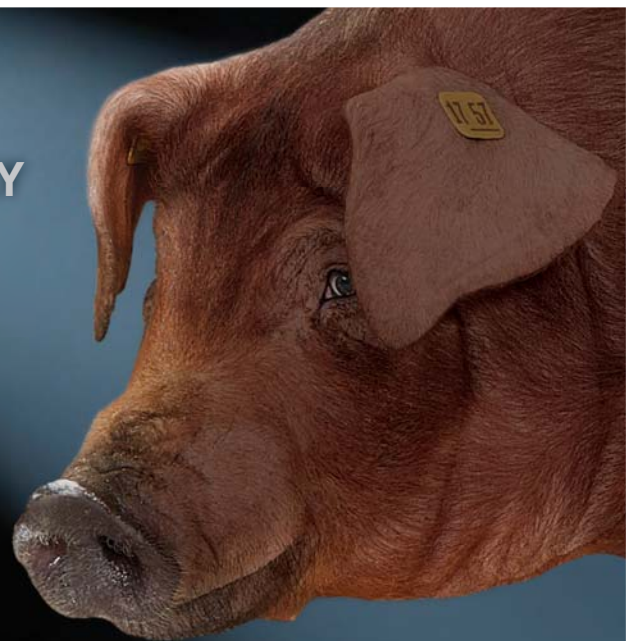
To put the best possible biosecurity plan in place, exhibitors should work with their local veterinarian. The Checkoff’s booklet, *A Champion’s Guide to Youth Swine*

Exhibition: Biosecurity and Your Pig Project, also offers information. It’s available by contacting Michigan Pork Producers Association at walker@mipork.org.

“The biosecurity basics remain the same, such as keeping all pens, feeders, waterers and other equipment clean, disinfected and dry between uses,” Becton said. “Minimize exposure of pigs to non-essential people and vehicles and take steps to keep wildlife away.”

Prior to attending a show, review your biosecurity plan. Some fairs and exhibitions may require health papers that list specific vaccines, such as for influenza, and may require targeted health testing, such as for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome virus.

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Before going to a show:

- Work with your veterinarian to determine the appropriate vaccination schedule and testing needs for your pig.
- Complete required training and paperwork in a timely manner
- Ensure that your pig meets specific show requirements (identification, vaccinations, health papers).
- Take only clean and disinfected equipment to prevent the transfer of potential pathogens.
- Bring adequate supplies so you won't have to borrow or share equipment.
- Never bring an unhealthy animal to a show, fair or exhibition. Evaluate your pig's health on a daily basis prior to the show.



“Biosecurity is an ongoing process,” Becton said. “The Checkoff will continue to create new ways to help everyone involved in showing pigs do their part in keeping pigs healthy and growing like champions.” 

This article was originally published in Vol. 34, No. 2 of Pork Checkoff Report.

Reduce Flu Risk

The Pork Checkoff has worked with many experts and other groups to help reduce the potential of spreading flu viruses and to keep pigs and people health at fairs.

“Our goal is to provide useful information and action steps to exhibitors and fairgoers,” said Jennifer Koeman, DVM, director of producer and public health for the Pork Checkoff.

Flu-related materials, such as posters, fact sheets, signs and guidance for swine exhibitors, can be downloaded at pork.org/flu. Or call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675 or visit the Pork Store via pork.org.

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Information for an Industry on the Move

June 2015

Vol. 20 No. 2

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ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE
This newsletter is edited by:

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Measuring Manure Freeboard Using a Laser Measure- A Continued Discussion

By: Gerald May, Michigan State University Extension Educator

Madonna Benjamin, Michigan State University Extension Swine Veterinarian

Last fall I, along with co-author Madonna Benjamin, wrote an article “Measuring manure depth in the PEDV era” (available at: http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/measuring_manure_depth_in_the_pedv_era) recommending pork producers use a laser measure device to determine the below slat freeboard and calculate manure depth, rather than a stick or tape measure. We reported the laser measure worked well in the manure pit environment but I was later asked if the below slat measurements with the laser device were comparable to a standard measuring tool such as a steel tape measure. The honest answer was “no”. I learned to use the device above the slats by taking measurements then using a tape measure for comparison but once I was comfortable with the device only the laser was used to measure the freeboard below the slats.

This spring I had the opportunity to revisit the topic by collecting multiple measurements as two below slat pits were being emptied. Table 1 provides the comparison between the measured freeboard from the top surface of the slats to the surface of the manure below using the laser measure and a steel retractable carpenter’s tape measure.

Table 1: Comparison of below slat freeboard depth collected using a laser measuring device and a carpenter tape measure

Measurement	Laser Measure*	Tape Measure*	Difference*
#1	49.50	49.75	0.25
#2	52.50	52.50	0.00
#3	56.25	56.50	0.25
#4	20.50	20.50	0.00
#5	23.75	24.00	0.25
#6	26.00	25.75	0.25
#7	65.50	65.00	0.50
#8	66.75	67.00	0.25

*All measurements were collected in inches rounded to the nearest ¼ inch

A paired t-Test using Microsoft Excel data analysis indicates there is no significant difference between the two sets of measurements that were collected. True, when building a house it would be unacceptable for the studs to vary up to ½” in length but for the accuracy required when determining below slat freeboard, or to calculate manure depth, a laser measure is an acceptable measuring tool.

So why is this important? In the PEDV era there continues to be both circumstantial and scientific evidence of PED virus remaining viable for extended periods of time in stored manure. Late last summer personal communications from producers reported pigs showing clinical signs of PEDV after being exposed to stored manure. Also in 2014, Dr. Steve Tousignant with the Swine Vet Center, St. Peter, MN, tested manure from 15 barns 4 months post PEDV infection. Thirteen of the barns were PCR positive for the PEDV and 2 of

the barns were positive in a bioassay study to confirm the presents of viable PED virus. Dr. Tousignant’s report is available from the National Pork Board at: <http://porkcdn.s3.amazonaws.com/sites/all/files/documents/PEDVResearch/Tousignant-14-246-Main.pdf>

Virus such as PEDV, may remain viable in stored manure for at least 4 months as indicated in Tousignant’s report. One could speculate that other virus such as PDCoV, TGEV and bacteria such as Erysipelas spp. and Hyodysenteriae spp. may also re-infect the herd through routine practices that expose pigs to stored manure. Measuring manure freeboard with a stick or tape measure should be avoided when possible. Measuring freeboard with a laser measure provides an accurate assessment of the remaining manure storage volume and measurement to calculate manure depth.

Give Them a Break...Rest Duration for Market Hogs

By: Tom Guthrie, Michigan State University Extension Educator, Jackson, MI
Dr. Madonna Benjamin, Michigan State University, Swine Extension Veterinarian

It is known that loading is one of the most stressful events for market hogs. In addition to loading, factors such as noise vibrations, mixing, fighting, careless driving, weather conditions are just a few other influences that may impact the quality of rest of market pigs during transit. Furthermore, allowing pigs the opportunity to recover from transport stress is crucial in regard to meat quality and animal welfare (Warriss, 2003). The lack of recovery issue during transport may be illustrated by the case of fatigued pigs, which represent a significant portion of transport losses (Benjamin, 2005). However, the majority of fatigued pigs will recover if given enough time to rest (2 to 3 h), but further exposure to stressful events may lead to death in these animals (Ritter et al., 2009b).

A more recent study conducted by Gouman et al., 2013, evaluated the extent to which the duration of the rest time given to near-market-weight pigs after an initial exposure to exercise affected their recovery from subsequent exercise. In this respective study, pigs weighing approximately 245 lbs. were randomly allocated to 1 of 3 treatments, consisting of rest periods of either: 35 minutes, 75 minutes, or 150 minutes. Groups of pigs were exercised in a hallway. A session of exercise consisted of walking at a moderate pace in a handling course, up and down a bridge (6 times each) over a total distance of 1,640 feet (Gouman et al., 2013). The bridge was made of aluminum and consisted of 2 ramps (slope: 19.4°) joined by a horizontal platform. The same handler walked each group of pigs using a paddle to hit the floor 3 times every 15 seconds and using the voice every 5 seconds. On the bridge, a handling board was used to push reluctant pigs up or to block pigs trying to turn back. Each pig was tapped with a paddle, twice on the back on the way up and twice on the way down. After completing the course, pigs were returned to their individual pens. Pigs were then given a rest period of either 35, 75, or 150 minutes. After the assigned rest period elapsed, all pigs were moved a second time through the handling course in the same way, returned to their pens, and then given a rest period of 150 minutes (Gouman et al., 2013). Recovery from the second exercise was assessed using measures of heart rate, respiratory rate, skin temperature, and posture.

Gouman and coworkers (2013) reported that the pigs allowed to rest for 75 minutes after the first exercise experienced no detrimental effect of the second exposure to exercise on cardiac and respiratory responses or on handling time. Exposure to exercise resulted in similar increases in heart rate to those found during loading under commercial conditions. Pigs that were assigned the 150 minute resting period after the first exercise required less time to complete the handling course during the second exercise period compared to pigs receiving 35 and 75 minute resting periods, respectively. In contrast, pigs that were allowed to rest for 35 minutes after the first exercise event were more susceptible to stress during the second exercise period and the second rest period. However, when these pigs were given more than 35 minutes to rest during the second resting period they eventually recovered (Gouman et al., 2013). Therefore, indicating that a lack of rest after an initial exposure to exercise makes pigs more susceptible to stress during the second exercise and rest periods.

Gouman and others (2013) study shows the importance of the length of a rest period. If pigs are not initially given enough rest to recover from exposure to exercise, there will be a detrimental effect on the recovery from subsequent exposure to the same exercise.

In conclusion, it is imperative for producers, load out crew members and transporters to possess the skill set to identify the signs or the onset of fatigue in market pigs. It is evident that allowing pigs to have the opportunity to rest and recover in the incidence of fatigue is advantageous for the pig. Consideration of designating an area or pen inside

the barn for pigs that express signs of fatigue when load outs occur creates a space for these respective pigs to rest while other hogs are being loaded. In some cases, designating a resting area for fatigued animals to recover gives more flexibility for management decisions to be made, such as when that respective animal would be loaded and transported. It is also important to keep in mind other potential stressors of transportation and unloading and how these may impact a pig that has already shown signs of fatigue before that respective pig is loaded onto the transport trailer.

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Do H2S Monitors Belong on the Swine Farm?

By: Dr. Madonna Benjamin, Michigan State University, Swine Extension Veterinarian

Visiting Michigan swine production sites at the time of manure transfer we wondered: "Should Hydrogen Sulfide (H2S) monitors be used on swine production sites during manure transfer?"

"We lost 200 head of finishing pigs to hydrogen sulfide poisoning during routine manure pumping. We were walking back from lunch with assignment to scrape pens and fortunately, our father recognized the ominous silence as we neared the finishing barn. Had he not been with us, three of his children would have walked into the same fate as those pigs. Stories and experiences similar to this one are emotional but not surprising. By using the appropriate monitoring safety equipment and guidelines during agitation, potentially fatal situations can be avoided.

Hydrogen sulfide is a toxic colorless, flammable gas a by-product of anaerobic bacterial reduction of sulfates. Any time manure is being agitated or when shallow-pit plugs are pulled there is a potential for airborne concentrations of H2S to become elevated, potentially putting both workers and pigs at risk of being overexposed

The H2S concentration considered immediately dangerous to life and health (IDLH) is 100 ppm. Above 600 ppm, a person can die after only one or two breaths. It is important for farms to identify situations and practices where there may be increased amounts of airborne H2S. Field studies have shown that H2S concentrations can exceed this level quickly during slurry agitation with concentrations recorded as high as 1,300 ppm

Human Detection and Awareness:

Human exposure to hydrogen sulfide is primarily through inhalation. The "rotten egg" smell can be detected at low levels, but with continuous low level exposure or at higher concentrations the ability to smell the gas - even though it is still present - is lost. The ability to smell H2S may begin to dull at 50 ppm. You CAN NOT depend on your sense of smell for indicating the continuing presence of H2S or for warning of hazardous concentrations

MIOSHA's (Michigan Occupational Safety and Health) Occupational Health Standard Part 700 -

Agriculture specifies that an employee's average 8-hour airborne exposure cannot exceed 10 ppm or 1 mg/m³. A hog farmer in Michigan is required to follow MIOSHA health and safety standard requirements.

H2S awareness training on swine farms in Canada has proven effective in changing attitudes regarding safety of employers and employees. Hydrogen sulfide monitors are being used when liquid manure is being agitated or when pits plugs are pulled within barns systems. Training for H2S covers properties of H2S, exposure limits, detection, and the importance of standard operating procedures and emergency response plans. Pork producers should be quick to appreciate the importance of H2S monitors. First, they provide early detection of the gas within a facility. This knowledge, when coupled with employee training, helps people understand when to immediately exit that facility. The monitor can also be used to determine if, after turning on the ventilation, the H2S level is lowered and it is safe to enter. Individual monitors can be purchased for a reasonable cost of \$130.00 or up to \$1000.00. depending on battery life and sensory levels.

Non-Human toxicity:

Similar to stories of coal miners, the pig might be the unsuspecting canary. Anecdotally, it is not unusual for producers and veterinarians to find one or a few dead pigs housed in pens that have "dead air" or limited air exchange during or immediately after manure transfer. It is known that H2S is sometimes released during manure agitation. While the number of cases submitted to Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (ISUVDL) due to H2S toxicity are relatively few, the true incidence of H2S intoxication is likely to be underreported. Field observations by Drs. Steve Ensley, Wilson Rumbelha and Kent Schwartz at ISUVDL suggest that livestock death typically occurs the same day as manure agitation in barns with deep pits. Warning signs are inconsistently present but may include mucosal, corneal, conjunctival, and/or respiratory tract irritation. ISUVDL is currently working on diagnostic biomarkers in serum and urine of affected pigs. If you are aware of similar cases please contact ISUVDL.

Rescue and recovery:

If overcome by H2S, it is important to note that a

rescuer has only about six minutes to apply CPR. The (victim or the rescuer) will require a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) -like firefighters wear - to enter the space and, most likely, recover the exposed individual. The majority of hydrogen sulfide poisonings (approximately 86%) occur in confined spaces and many poisonings are the direct result of others trying to help co-workers in need. Use of H2S monitors and training help avoid these tragic outcomes.

MSUE Pork Team - Recommendations for farmers during manure transfer.

1. The hazards of working in and around manure pits should be communicated to farmers
2. Ventilation rates should be increased before, during and after agitation
3. Workers should leave a confinement building during agitation of manure

4. Wear an H2S monitor
5. When pulling pit plugs increase the ventilation rate for 10 minutes prior to pulling pits.
6. Never allow slurry to accumulate less than 6 inches from the bottom of the flooring.
7. As part of the emergency plan, have proper respiratory protection and a rescue capability in place before entering a manure pit.

Publication References:

CDC on Hydrogen Sulfide <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/HydrogenSulfide/>

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All comments and suggestions should be directed to the:

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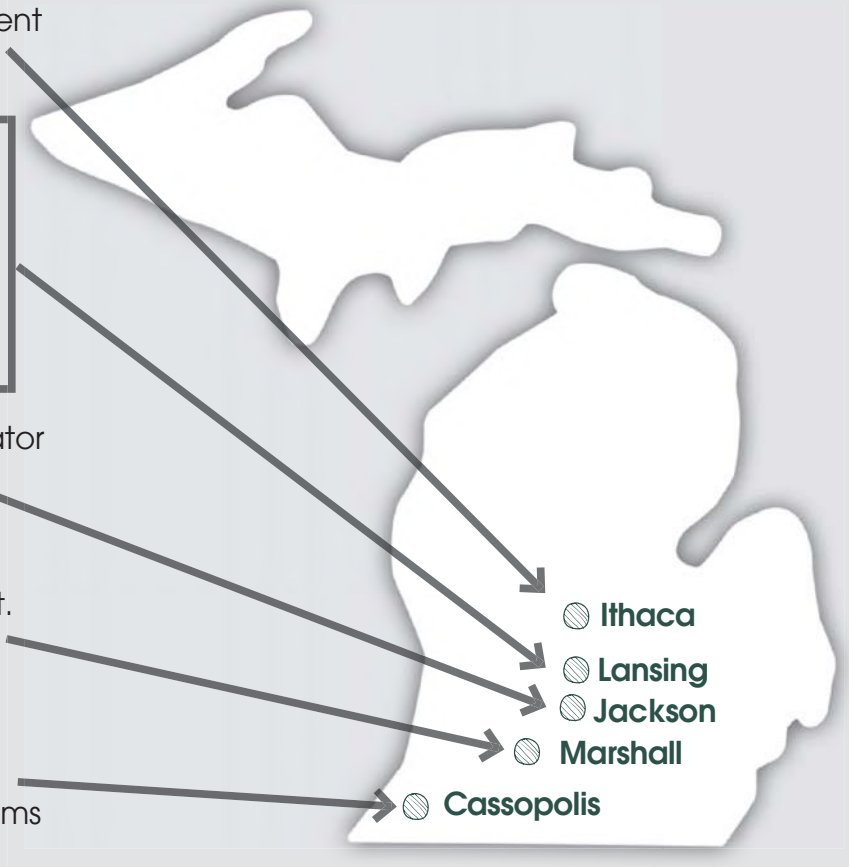
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Capital Update

All activities reported under this heading are financed by non-checkoff funds.

NPPC, OTHER GROUPS FILE LAWSUIT TO STOP 'WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES' RULE

NPPC and 13 other organizations recently filed a lawsuit asking a federal court to vacate a new Clean Water Act (CWA) regulation that will bring under federal jurisdiction “a staggering range” of land and water and adversely affect numerous agricultural and business activities. The final “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule was issued May 27, 2015, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ostensibly to clarify the agencies’ authority under the CWA over various waters. Currently, that jurisdiction – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – includes “navigable” waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters.

The WOTUS rule would broaden that to include, among other water bodies, upstream waters and intermittent and ephemeral streams such as the kind farmers use for drainage and irrigation. It also would encompass lands adjacent to such waters. In their suit filed in the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas against EPA and the Corps of Engineers, the agricultural and business groups said the final rule “bears no connection” to the CWA and violates provisions of the U.S. Constitution. They also allege that in writing the rule the agencies misinterpreted the Supreme Court’s decisions on CWA jurisdiction and subverted the notice-and-comment process by failing to seek public comments on scientific reports used to write the regulation and on major revisions of the proposed rule, conducting an inadequate economic analysis and engaging in an advocacy campaign during the comment period. Similar lawsuits have been filed by the attorneys general of 27 states. NPPC also is backing bills now making their way through Congress that would require EPA and the Corps of Engineers to withdraw the WOTUS

rule and to work with affected parties, including farmers, on a new regulation.

HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE PASSES FISCAL 2016 AGRICULTURE SPENDING BILL

The House Committee on Appropriations recently approved the fiscal 2016 agriculture appropriations bill by a voice vote. It provides \$20.65 billion in discretionary funding – \$175 million less than fiscal 2015 and \$1.1 billion less than the president’s budget request. The bill funds agricultural and food programs and services, including food and medical product safety, animal and plant health programs, rural development and farm services, marketplace oversight and nutrition programs. Of particular interest to NPPC, the legislation includes an increase of \$5 million for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative for research on combatting antimicrobial resistance. It also directs the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to add \$2.3 million to the current funding level of \$3.7 million, for a total investment of \$11 million, for research on antimicrobial resistance. Rep. Robert Aderholt, R-Ala., added an amendment that would require USDA’s Agriculture Research Service (ARS) to work with USDA’s Animal Plant and Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to ensure that animal research conducted at ARS facilities is in compliance with Animal Welfare Act regulations.

Two amendments proposed by Rep. Sam Farr, D-Calif., failed to pass, including one to prohibit funding for horse slaughter inspections, which would have kept in place a ban on processing horses, and one to strip from the funding bill a rider prohibiting the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans from including language related to agriculture sustainability. The bill now awaits consideration by the full House, where additional amendments could be considered.

U.S., JAPAN WORK ON BILATERAL ISSUES BEFORE TPP MINISTERIAL

Acting Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Wendy Cutler recently traveled to Tokyo to wrap up outstanding bilateral agricultural and automotive issues with Japan as part of the greater Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations, an Asia-Pacific trade deal. Now that the U.S. Congress has passed Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation, efforts to finish the negotiations have accelerated. TPA authorizes a review period for Congress to read through a trade deal once it is finalized and then vote – without amendments – yes or no on it.

With assurances that the U.S. Congress will not pick apart the final deal piece by piece, the TPP countries have scheduled a ministerial meeting for July 28-31 in Maui, Hawaii. Chief negotiators will head to the island to work out various technical issues before the trade ministers arrive. NPPC continues to be deeply engaged in the TPP negotiations, which include the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries. A final TPP agreement, with a good outcome for U.S. pork, could generate 10,000 U.S. jobs tied to pork exports, according to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes. NPPC expects to see exponential growth in exports to the TPP countries.

U.S., SOUTH AFRICA CONTINUE DISCUSSION ON OPENING SOUTH AFRICAN MARKET TO PORK

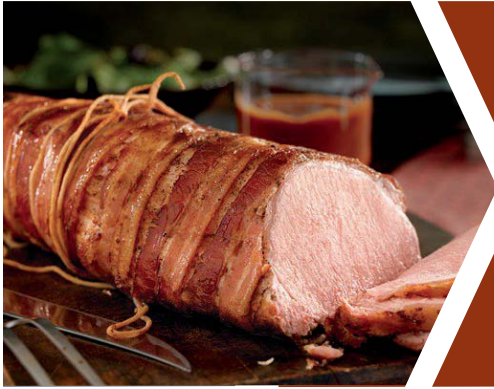
Officials from the United States and South Africa met again recently to discuss opening the South African market to U.S. pork exports. NPPC has been working closely with U.S. and South African government officials to gain market access. The United States is at a significant disadvantage in exporting pork to South Africa's large and growing market because that nation accepts pork from key competitors Brazil, Canada and the European Union. While the Sub-Saharan country prohibits U.S. pork, it is a beneficiary of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) and the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), which

provides beneficiary countries with duty-free access for certain products going to the U.S. market. Legislation to reauthorize these preference programs, passed in both the House and Senate, and await approval from President Obama.

CONFERENCE WILL HIGHLIGHT STUDY ON SWINE FEED EFFICIENCY

Animal science scholars, researchers and swine industry experts will gather in Omaha, Neb., Oct. 20-22 to share the results of a five-year study on swine feed efficiency gathered from multiple industry vantage points and ranging from pig health, nutrition and physiology to genetics, feed manufacturing and pork quality. Presented by Iowa State University and Kansas State University, the conference will feature findings presented by research and extension faculty from those schools supplemented by speakers from Michigan State University and the University of Illinois. International speakers will include researchers and industry experts from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Spain and the United Kingdom. The program also will feature speakers from the pork industry, including Cargill, Christensen Farms, Murphy-Brown, Nutreco and Topigs Norsvin.

The research, funded by USDA's National Institutes of Food and Agriculture, has generated a body of knowledge that will have relevance for pork producers interested in learning how to most effectively manage feed efficiency on their operations, for allied industry serving the needs of swine producers around the globe and for the research and animal science community interested in the science surrounding feed efficiency. (For more information and to register for the conference, visit www.swinefeedefficiency.com.)



Pork Checkoff

Reports on checkoff-funded promotion, research and consumer information programs.

NATIONAL PORK BOARD DEFINES ANTIBIOTICS STEWARDSHIP PLAN, ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

The National Pork Board has announced a stewardship plan to guide and support the responsible use of antibiotics for the U.S. pork industry. The newly defined position statement and governing policy was approved at the board's June meeting and announced through a news conference at World Pork Expo.

Following unanimous approval, the Pork Board updated its position and policy statement that "embraces responsible antibiotic use in pork production" and pledges to "emphasize these values in its revised Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) producer certification and training programs" in the year ahead. Additionally, the National Pork Board intends to allocate up to \$1.4 million in funding of scientific research and antibiotic risk assessment studies, producer education and consumer awareness programs.

"We understand the critically important role antibiotics play in both human medicine and in livestock production and know that consumers are keenly interested in how their food is produced," said Chris Hodges, chief executive officer of the National Pork Board. "This stewardship plan will shape our industry's approach to antibiotics, finding ways for our pig farmers to improve animal health with and without antibiotics."

In other action, Derrick Sleezer, a pork producer from Cherokee, Iowa, was elected as president of the National Pork Board. Sleezer is serving his second three-year term on the National Pork Board and just concluded two years as the board's treasurer.

"First and foremost, I am proud to be an American pig farmer and to serve my industry in leading the Pork Checkoff in the year ahead," Sleezer said. "There is great consumer interest in agriculture and in understanding

how food is grown, raised and marketed. I see much opportunity in the year ahead as we help shape that story."

Serving with Sleezer as vice president is Jan Archer, a pork producer from Goldsboro, North Carolina. Terry O'Neel, a producer from Friend, Nebraska, was elected treasurer. The three executive officers will serve one-year terms in their positions beginning June 3. Outgoing president Dale Norton, a producer from Bronson, Michigan, will serve in a non-voting role as immediate past president.

"As we look ahead to the next five years, the Pork Checkoff is prepared to meet the challenges facing our industry," Sleezer said. "Guided by the strategic plan, we have a sharp focus on building consumer trust, driving sustainable production and growing consumer demand for U.S. pork."

Derrick Sleezer is an owner and employee of Sleezer, Inc., a farrow-to-finish, farrow-to-wean and farrow-to-feeder operation that has 700 sows and markets 15,000 hogs annually. The operation includes 2,000 acres of corn and soybeans. He also works for Kerber Companies in product design/implementation, safety and compliance. Sleezer chairs the Finance Committee, and serves on the Animal Welfare and Trade committees and represents the Pork Board on the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence board. He is a member of the 2010 Pork Leadership Academy and an avid Operation Main Street speaker who has given more than 40 presentations.

Jan Archer is an owner of Archer Farms LLC. The farrow-to-wean operation has 1,200 sows and produces about 31,000 weaned pigs annually. Archer also raises corn, soybeans and hay on 120 acres and operates Archer Consulting, an enterprise that provides personnel training to the pork industry, including PQA Plus, Youth PQA Plus® and Transport Quality Assurance® certifications

for producers and allied industries. Archer serves on the National Pork Board Finance Committee and is a member of the Domestic Marketing and Producer and State Services committees. She is a member of the 2007 Pork Leadership Academy class and an Operation Main Street speaker. She serves on the executive committee of the North Carolina Pork Council and the North Carolina 4-H Development Board.

Terry O'Neel is the owner and manager of O'Neel Farm, a farrow-to-finish operation with 500 sows that markets 10,000 hogs annually. He also raises corn and soybeans on 700 acres. O'Neel is a member of both the National Pork Board Finance and Administrative committees and also serves on the Domestic Marketing and Pork Safety, Quality and Human Nutrition committees. He is an Operation Main Street speaker. O'Neel served as president of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association in 2007 and was an officer and director from 2001 to 2009.

NEW STUDY FINDS LEAN PORK CAN BE INCLUDED IN THE DASH EATING PLAN

Adults following the health-promoting DASH (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension) eating plan to help lower blood pressure can also include nutrient-rich lean pork as the primary source of protein in their diets, according to new research published in *The American Journal of Clinical Nutrition*.¹

Purdue University researchers found that when adults ate lean pork, instead of the typical chicken and fish as their main protein source in the health-promoting DASH diet, they had the same blood pressure benefits regardless of protein source – with systolic blood pressure decreasing around 7 to 8 points and diastolic around 4 to 5 points after six weeks, based on a 24-hour blood pressure monitoring system.

The DASH diet, one of the best-studied eating approaches, has been recognized by government and health organizations as an eating pattern that can improve health and help lower the risk of chronic diseases. The 2015 Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee recently

included research showing the DASH Diet may have favorable effects on cholesterol and may help reduce the risk of heart disease, in addition to helping lower blood pressure which impacts nearly 30 percent of Americans.^{2,3}

This study included 19 overweight or obese older adults – 13 women and 6 men – with elevated blood pressure who were randomly assigned to follow the DASH diet for two six-week periods with either chicken and fish, or lean pork as the major protein source (about 55 percent of their protein intake). The DASH diet emphasizes increased consumption of fruits and vegetables, whole grains, lowfat dairy and typically, fish and chicken, along with reduced intakes of sodium and red meats.

Nutrient-Rich Pork, Part of Healthy Eating Patterns:

Lean, nutrient-rich pork is versatile, affordable and accessible for many Americans. Its many beneficial qualities make it easy to incorporate into any healthy diet:


Source of Key Nutrients: Pork is both a good source of protein and also provides several important vitamins and minerals. A 3-ounce serving of pork is an “excellent” source of thiamin, selenium, protein, niacin, vitamin B6 and phosphorus, and a “good” source of riboflavin, zinc, and potassium.⁴

Lean Protein: Today's pork is 16 percent leaner and 27 percent lower in saturated fat compared to 20 years ago.⁵ Seven cuts of pork meet the USDA guidelines for “lean” by containing less than 10 grams of fat, 4.5 grams of saturated fat and 95 milligrams of cholesterol per 100 grams of meat.⁶ Popular pork tenderloin has the same amount of fat as a skinless chicken breast.

Heart-Healthy: Pork is naturally low in sodium and a “good” source of potassium – two nutrients that, when coupled, can help regulate blood pressure. Pork tenderloin is certified as heart-healthy by the American Heart Association with its heart-check mark, indicating that it contains less than 6.5 grams of fat, 1 gram or less of saturated fat (and 15 percent or less calories from saturated fat) and 480 milligrams or less of sodium per label serving, among other criteria.

(Sources continued on page 25)


August farm tour will feature manure processing and conservation practices

 On August 18, 2015 Michigan State University Extension and the Clinton County Conservation District will be hosting a farm tour for livestock farmers and cash crop farmers who utilize manure in their crop nutrient program. This event will feature manure processing technologies and conservation practices that help retain manure nutrients in the rootzone for crop utilization. The “What’s new with Poo” bus tour will originate from Providence Agriculture’s Carson City location at 9650 Roosevelt Road at 8:15 a.m., space is limited and pre-registration is required, which is available online or by calling the Clinton County Conservation District at (989) 224-3720 or the Gratiot County MSU Extension Office at (989) 875-5233. The registration fee, which covers the tour, lunch and all materials, is \$25 per person or \$40 per farm up to four individuals. Please be sure to pre-register early for this event.

“What’s New with Poo” promises to be an informative event. The tour will provide the opportunity to see firsthand practices being implemented on Michigan farms, time to network with fellow producers and learn from University and company researchers.

The processes and four farms featured on this tour include:

- Manure handling and processing at Double Eagle Dairy. This innovative manure handling system processes manure into three or more components, each with a different nutrient composition. This system is designed to reduce the cost associated with manure application, improve manure nutrient utilization and reduce environmental risk.
- The harvestable buffers planted by Nobis Dairy. Harvestable buffers protect water quality without taking land out of production. Buffers are planted to a grass mixture of Orchard grass, Timothy, Perennial Rygrass and Brome grass and annually provide three cuttings of dry hay.
- The cover crop rotation used by Dutch Meadows Dairy. A unique cover crop rotation of triticale and sudan grass, which are also harvested as feed, increases the opportunity for manure application, reduces runoff and increases available feed.
- Manure separation at Vanderploeg Holsteins. Separation improves manure nutrient management and reduces application costs. This visit will include a discussion on cow management and health when bedding with manure solids.
- Amber Radatz, the codirector of the Wisconsin Discovery Farms, will be the event’s lunch time keynote speaker.

Discovery Farms is a cooperative effort of Wisconsin farmers, University of Wisconsin Extension and University of Wisconsin, Madison. The farmer led program gathers and disseminates credible and unbiased water quality information for the agriculture community, consumers, researchers and policy makers. For more registration information, see brochure insert. 




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U.N. Body Approves Guidance For Trichinae Risk

A new international guidance for establishing negligible risk for trichinae in swine could significantly boost exports of U.S. pork, according to the National Pork Producers Council.

With strong support from NPPC and the National Pork Board, which provided scientific input, the United Nations' food-safety standard-setting body, the Codex Alimentarius Commission, Saturday finalized global guidelines that provide a way for countries to define negligible risk for trichinae and establish methods for monitoring risk over time.

"The U.N. guidance will greatly increase confidence in the safety of pork and protect consumer health while facilitating trade," said NPPC President Dr. Ron Prestage, a veterinarian and pork producer from Camden, S.C. "In turn, that will help us get more high-value U.S.

pork to foreign destinations."


A number of countries require testing for trichinae as a precondition to accepting exports of fresh chilled U.S. pork despite the fact that the United States is at negligible risk for the parasite. Other nations will accept only frozen or cooked pork. Elimination of the trichinae mitigation requirements could increase U.S. pork exports by hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

Trichinae is nearly non-existent in the U.S. pork supply because of increased knowledge of risk factors, adoption of controlled management practices and thorough biosecurity protocols, but many U.S. trading partners still have concerns over trichinae because of its prevalence in their domestic swine herds, which can result in severe human health issues.

Dr. Ray Gamble, past president of the International Commission on Trichinellosis, has estimated the prevalence of trichinae in the U.S. commercial swine herd at 1-in-300

million, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes the U.S. commercial herd as low risk.

The guidance approved by the Codex commission allows countries to establish a negligible risk "compartment," which must include controlled management conditions for swine herds, ongoing verification of the status of the compartment and a response plan for deviations from negligible risk status. Two years of data collection verifying negligible risk levels through slaughter surveillance, which consists of random sampling, is required to establish a compartment. Once established, a compartment can be monitored through on-farm audits, surveillance at slaughter or a combination of both.

The U.S. pork industry's Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) Plus and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Trichinae Herd Certification programs will be used to create a compartment in the United States, the world's 

New Study Finds Lean Pork Can Be Included in the Dash Eating Plan

(Continued from page 23)

SOURCES

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³ Nwankwo T, Yoon SS, Burt V, Gu Q. Hypertension among adults in the United States: National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, 2011-2012. *NCHS data brief, no 133*. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2013.

⁴ National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 27. Based on 3-ounce cooked servings (roasted), separable lean only.

⁵ National Nutrient Database for

Standard Reference, Release 27. Based on 3-ounce cooked servings (roasted or broiled), visible fat trimmed after cooking.

⁶ National Nutrient Database for Standard Reference, Release 27.

⁷ Buyck JF, Blacher J, Kesse-Guyot E, Castetbon K, Galan P, Safar M, Hercberg S, Czernichow S. Differential associations of dietary sodium and potassium intake with blood pressure: a focus on pulse pressure. *Journal of Hypertension*. 2009;27:1158-1164.

Michigan Ag Council Hosts Pasture to Plate Tour

How can farmers, food processors and retail chains work collaboratively to provide a platform of discussion revolving around Michigan's food system? Simple answer, work with the Michigan Ag Council to present an experience for stakeholders in today's food industry.

On May 6, Michigan Ag Council worked with the Michigan Beef Industry Commission, Michigan Soybean Promotion Committee and United Soybean Board, to host a "Pasture to Plate" tour for 11 participants. The tour highlights included a beef and sheep farm, a feedlot for cattle, a meat processing facility, a local grocery store and a diverse beef menu dining experience.

One attendee said, "I learned so much! I think the most beneficial thing I learned was why animals are fed what they are fed and the use of antibiotics usually only being used to keep the animals healthy. I have so much more faith in farmers and the food system in general now. I also learned a bit about soy and not having to be worried about GMOs."

President of the Michigan Ag Council, Mary Kelpinski, said, "Our goal for these tours is to connect bloggers, chefs and other food stakeholders directly with farmers, dietitians, veterinarians and other agribusiness professionals to address questions relating to the food system, including animal care and other farming practices, food safety, product branding/labeling, health and nutrition and other related topics. The Council serves as a hub of available resources relating to Michigan food and agriculture."

Future events where Michigan Ag Council will be present include Breakfast on the Farm, the Farmers Market at the Capitol and the Michigan Restaurant Show. Visit www.michiganagriculture.com for more information.



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Michigan Pork Producers Association

Join us this summer for Breakfast on the Farm

Educational farm tours are providing the consumer an opportunity to see how modern farms work and to interact with producers and agribusiness professionals.

For the past three years, MPPA has joined Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) in their mission to engage with consumers by bringing the “little pig barn” to the BOTF events.

These events offer producers an opportunity to talk with attendees about how pigs are raised. The barn also gives visitors a mini visual to help them better understand the farming process.

Check out our Calendar of Events for the next BOTF in your area. We would love to have more pig farmers join us at the events. Please contact me to sign up at walker@mipork.org or 517-853-3782.



Calendar of Events

July:

- 11** **Mason County Breakfast on the Farm**
- 15-19** **Michigan Livestock Expo**
East Lansing, Mich.
- 21** **MLE Sale-abration**
- 25** **Sanilac County Breakfast on the Farm**

August:

- 8** **Van Buren County Breakfast on the Farm**
- 14** **Clean Trucks and Clean Drivers Educational Meeting**
Tekonsha, Mich.
- 15** **Gratiot County Breakfast on the Farm**
- 18** **What's New With the Poo Tour**
- 29** **Hillsdale County Breakfast on the Farm**

Sept.:

- 23** **MPPA Board of Directors Meeting**
East Lansing, Mich.

October:

- 7-8** **Oktoberfest**
Des Moines, Iowa

We're Listening



Dear MPPA,

Thank you for your donation of a picnic basket and for your sponsorship of the 24th Annual CANR Golfing for Scholarships outing. We truly appreciate your wonderful support for this event and in turn support of students enrolled in the MSU College of Agriculture and Natural Resources. This academic year, 15 students received leadership scholarships and 13 student club grants have been awarded totaling more than \$52,000. These important scholarships and grants are possible because of donors like you.

Sincerely, Kathlyn Reed

Assistant Director, Alumni Relations and Special Events

Dear MPPA,

Thank you for supporting the 2015 Family Fun at the Farm. We had over 2,700 guests visit Tubergen Dairy on June 6. Your support made it possible for us to reach so many people and have another successful event.

Sincerely, Family Fun at the Farm Committee
Ionia County



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Swine Systems' program allows producers to purchase boars or gilts for their own production. Retailers or consumers can also purchase processed meat from our program.



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