

# MICHIGAN

Michigan's Pork Producers source for information.

# PORK



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**Meet New Board  
Member: Ryan Hunter**

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**Processing Plant  
Opens with Ribbon  
Cutting Ceremony**

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**4-H Swine Science  
State Award Winners  
Announced**

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3515 West Road, Suite B, East Lansing, MI 48823  
Fax: 517-853-3785

All nominations must be in by December 1, 2017.

# MICHIGAN

# PORK

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\*\*\*On the cover: New MPPA board member Ryan Hunter stands in the offices at H & H Farms.\*\*\*

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**By: Madison  
Wensley**

MPPA Intern

## Meet New Board Member: Ryan Hunter

**T**he Michigan Pork Producers Association would like to welcome one of its newest board members, Ryan Hunter. Ryan is the owner of H & H Farms located in Vicksburg, MI. In 1978, Ryan's father, Pat Hunter, past-president of the MPPA, and Pat's father, purchased an old feed mill and began a feed retail operation. Two years later, they started raising pigs and laying hens. In 2000, they fully transitioned to pork and feed production. Over the past seventeen years, the operation has grown exponentially. H & H Farms is currently a 6,200-sow farrow-to-finish operation that markets 150,000 hogs annually. This number is expected to reach 250,000 as more sows are added to their expanding production sites over the next few years.

Ryan grew up working at the feed mill, poultry, and hog farms with his two brothers Scott and Brad. After graduating high-school he graduated from Western Michigan University where he received a degree in Business Management. He soon returned to the family farm and after six months "ended up really liking it." When asked about his favorite part of hog production, Ryan responded, "people. There are people that have worked here since I was born. Finding these kinds of people with the same goals as you, makes it fun to come to work." Ryan and his wife, Reagan, spend most of their time at the feed mill office. Reagan oversees all hiring and employee management, including: 60 full-time staff, and 10 plus part-time, high-school, and internship employees. It is important to Ryan that all employees have a positive experience, which makes employee training key to the success of their operation. Ryan manages the marketing end of H & H Farms, buying local grain for the feed mill and selling hogs. He relies on three main managers to watch over all their sow farms and finisher sites. Ninety percent of their purchased hogs, feed ingredients, and now processing facilities are within a 50-mile radius, making their farm extremely local and sustainable.

Ryan was also involved in the groundbreaking of Clemens Food Group pork processor in Coldwater, MI. "It has been exciting to sit in on those meetings since the beginning," he said. When the plant becomes operational, H & H Farms plans to send 80-90% of their market hogs to the Coldwater location. With Clemens only 45 minutes from H & H finishing sites, Ryan said the plant is expected to change their operation.





*Pictured above, Ryan Hunter in his office at H & H Farms.*

Ryan and Reagan have three children; Kyla (12), Payten (11), and Houston (3). Reagan grew up on a small dairy farm and vowed to never marry a farmer, that was until she met Ryan. After practicing as a dental hygienist for several years, Reagan slowly took on important managerial roles at H & H Farms. In recent years, their oldest daughter, Kyla began working on one of the farm production sites in the summer. When Ryan isn't working, he enjoys spending time with his family outdoors.

When asked why he thought it was valuable to be a MPPA board member, Ryan responded, "I am a Michigan pork producer so I think being on the board is important." Ryan feels that this opportunity will allow him to

meet the Michigan producers and learn something from others who are doing what he does every day. "I think if you are a producer, you should at least spend a little time on the board," he continued. He attributes outreach associations, organizations, and programs to the growth of industry knowledge. Prior to taking

over H & H Farms from his father, Ryan attended the Pork Leadership Academy, a program sponsored by the Pork Checkoff, which is used to identify and train swine industry leaders. He feels the program was an awesome experience and has helped develop him into someone that can successfully lead H & H Farms into the future.





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## “Summer Season Update”



**By: Bob Dykhuis**  
MPPA PRESIDENT

### **N**ational Pork Industry Conference

I attended the National Pork Industry Conference at the Wisconsin Dells in mid-July. This event grows in size of attendance every year. The agenda is always very good. The group that puts this event together is very well organized and they try to find speakers that are relevant to the issues we face in pork production. Key staff from the NPPC and NPB organizations attended this event, and were available to participate in the discussions. There are a lot of pork producers and support people to interact with. It is always a great time to catch up with people we know but do not see very often. It was a great event again this year. We have family members that go with us who take advantage of the water parks and the other fun things to do there. My wife, Lorrie and I took our motorcycle along and spent a week in the UP and Northern Michigan after the meeting. We enjoyed that also.

### **Pork Processing Plant Ribbon Cutting**

I had the opportunity to tour the new Clemens plant in Coldwater, July 29th. That is an impressive structure. There is a lot of concrete and stainless steel. I have toured a number of harvest facilities over the years, but I am always amazed at the number of machines with the latest technology that can break down the carcass with amazing precision. They will improve the quality of the product and replace the need for as much labor doing very tough work. It will serve its suppliers and customers for a very long time. It is a great asset for the pork producers in the eastern corn-belt. Congratulations to all those involved.

### **Ready for Harvest**

Our farms continue to get enough rain this year, along with the irrigation

**“ There is an old Chinese proverb that gets quoted that says ‘May you live in interesting times.’ This certainly would describe the futures market we trade for corn, soybean meal and hogs. ”**

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we have on the sandy ground, to make good corn and soybean crops. We are hoping for very good quality corn that has low DON levels this year. We are ready to be done with the 2016 corn crop. We dream of clean DDGs and clean corn. Nothing compares to it.

There is an old Chinese proverb that gets quoted that says "May you live in interesting times". This certainly would describe the futures markets we trade for corn, soybean meal, and hogs. We see big price swings in all of three of those commodities. Our marketing strategy has been to reduce the weight of our market hogs as the market has dropped, and we are trying to hedge some base hits as prices moved in the right direction. These are head scratcher markets. I honestly did not think we would have the opportunity to hedge the margins that we were able to. I hope you all have the markets figured out, because I do not.

Let's enjoy fall and a good harvest. 🐷

*Above left, Doug Clemens shakes hands with Governor Rick Snyder at the Clemens pork processing facility ribbon cutting ceremony. Above left, a Hatfield Brands truck. At right, the Clemens Food Group plant in Coldwater, MI.*

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**High Quality - High Health Aggressive**



**By: Mary Kelpinski**

MPPA CHIEF  
EXECUTIVE  
OFFICER

## “October September Pork Month”

October has traditionally been called National Pork Month for a number of years, but this year I think we need to consider September as Michigan Pork Month! October became known as National Pork Month because it was the time of year when hogs were traditionally marketed.

Since September 5 was the scheduled date for the Clemens Food Group to start processing hogs, I think it is time for Michigan pork producers to start celebrating!

In addition to the Clemens Food Group plant in Coldwater, Triumph-Seaboard opened their plant in Sioux City, Iowa on the same day. According to Steve Meyer, vice president of pork analysis for Express Markets Inc. Analytics of Fort Wayne, Ind., the industry will see its harvest capacity grow by more on that one day than it has seen it grow in any single year within the memory of anyone alive today – perhaps ever! When you factor the Coldwater plant and the plant in Pennsylvania owned by the Clemens Food Group, they will be the fifth largest pork processing company in the country.

**“ Since September 5 was the scheduled date for the Clemens Food Group to start processing hogs, I think it is time for Michigan pork producers to start celebrating! ”**

With the growth we have seen in pork production throughout the country, these plants were desperately needed. Pork production is currently over 2 percent higher year over year and since 2014 production has grown 13 percent! The added capacity of these two plants should be enough to handle the large number of pigs headed to market this fall.

Whether you are a producer selling pigs to the plant, or involved in another segment of agriculture, this processing plant will help improve your profitability. Having processing capacity in Michigan will help increase demand for hogs in the state and encourage construction of hog facilities, especially finishing space. With more hogs being finished in the state, there will be more demand for corn, soybeans and other agricultural inputs to feed, house and take care of those hogs.





*At left, Michigan pork producers Harley Sietsema, Ed Reed, Fred Walcott, Pat Hunter and Joel Phelps break ground at the site of the Clemens Food Group pork processing facility, July 2015. Below, Doug Clemens cuts the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the pork processing plant July 29, 2017.*

With the increase in hog numbers and attention, now more than ever, producers need to step out of their comfort zone and talk about what they do on a daily basis to care for their pigs and provide safe quality food. One way you can do that is by sharing your stories on social media and through conversations with neighbors. If you are uncomfortable sharing your story, or just need some extra encouragement or training, contact the MPPA office and we can get you enrolled in Operation Mainstreet training. The training is available throughout the year and can help you whether you want to talk to large audiences or just a few neighbors at a barbecue. We all need to talk about what we do to raise safe healthy food for everyone. 🐷



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# Pork Industry gears up for processing plant opening with ribbon cutting ceremony

By: Emily Schmitt

**P**ork industry members, local citizens and government officials came to celebrate the opening of the Clemens Food Group fresh pork processing plant with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and open house July 29 in Coldwater, MI.

With Michigan being the second most agriculturally diverse state in the nation, the opening of this facility is good news for all of the agriculture in the state.

During the ribbon cutting ceremony, Governor Rick Snyder spoke about the impact the plant will have on the agricultural industry in Michigan. "One of the key things is what this place represents," he said, "From the people growing the hogs themselves to the people transporting them to everyone working at this world-class facility."

Snyder welcomed Clemens Food Group to Michigan and looks forward to the future of the plant. "I hope to see Clemens Food Group having a celebration in 100 years for their 100th anniversary here in Michigan.

Doug Clemens, CEO of the Clemens Family Corp., thanked everyone for their role in opening this processing facility. "Today these families and our family have joined together and made this vision a reality," he said. "We are committed to job growth, economic growth, doing our part to feed the world, educating consumers where their food comes



from, supporting this community and surrounding communities in which we live and work, and finally, committed to our core values of ethics, integrity and stewardship."

Congressman Tim Walberg and Senator Debbie Stabenow also spoke at the ribbon-cutting ceremony. Following the ceremony, tours were given of the facility to an estimated 800 attendees.

The processing facility opened September 5, 2017 and is expected to begin running at full capacity early in 2018. The site has created more than 800 jobs in the area and is expected to process 11,000 hogs/day. Approximately 80 percent of those hogs will come from Clemens Food Group producer partners in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio.

Bob Dykhuis, Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) Board President, is excited for the potential growth a plant like this creates for the industry in Michigan. "To have a processor that can handle the increased production will strengthen

the pig industry," he said. "This allows for growth in Michigan, which means it's a healthy and expanding industry. For those who are contract growers, it gives them space for growth, along with the feed industry including corn and soybeans. You want to be part of an expanding industry, not a shrinking one."

Mary Kelpinski, MPPA Chief Executive Officer, is thankful for the opportunity this facility creates for the producers in Michigan. "This is an exciting time in the pork industry," she said. "As we continue to see expansion and growth in production numbers, this packing plant could not have come at a better time."

Kelpinski also said the processing plant would likely not be here without the help of the forward-thinking producers. "Thank you to the producers that pursued a plant to come to Michigan," she said. "Thank you for all your hard work during the feasibility study and throughout the process of working with Clemens Food Group to bring this plant here."





# Pork Producers Lobby Congress on Pork Industry Issues

**N** PPC hosted its fall Legislative Action Conference in Washington, D.C., Sept. 13-14. The biannual fly-in brought in from around the country more than 125 pork producers, including Michigan producers: Ryan Hunter, Vicksburg, Tim Kruihoff, Kent City, and Ed Reed, Marcellus. Eric Reed, Marcellus, participated in NPPC's Pork Leadership Institute, a grassroots leadership development program. The U.S. pork representatives advocated on these issues: the importance of maintaining existing free trade agreements such as NAFTA and KORUS and establishing new trade agreements with Japan and other countries; the need for federal funding for an FMD vaccine bank; support for H.R. 2887, the "No Regulation Without Representation Act," which would prevent states from regulating beyond their borders; and the need for visa reform to address the industry's



*At left, Michigan pork producer Ryan Hunter and Michigan Pork Producers Association Chief Executive Officer Mary Kelpinski met with Congressman John Moolenaar during the Fall Legislative Action Conference. Below, Eric Reed attended the Pork Leadership Institute, while his father, Ed Reed, attended the Legislative Action Conference in Washington D.C.*

labor shortage. The ever-popular NPPC Congressional "Bacon Fest" drew another large crowd of pork producers, members of Congress and staffers eager to enjoy the world's #1 protein. 🐷



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# Thinking about food systems when disaster strikes

**W**hen Hurricane Harvey caused extreme flooding in southeast Texas, news reports started focusing on the 1.2 million head of beef cattle impacted by the storm. Several national beef market experts have reported that they do not believe the potential loss of most of these cattle will dramatically impact the nation's beef supply; however, beef prices have risen in recent weeks. Texas is the nation's leading producer of beef cattle.

Out west, an estimated 1.5 million of acres have been impacted by recent wildfires and extreme drought. This affects beef cattle ranches as well as the feed supply. In the south, experts believe that Hurricane Irma damaged 50-60 percent of the Florida orange crop in some locations.



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These events prompt us to think about the security of our food supply and how we can be better prepared at home if an emergency were to impact our state. We are fortunate to live in one of the most agriculturally diverse areas. Michigan produces a wide variety of crops from dairy to apples and pork to peaches. September and October are prime harvest months. Now is the time to stock up on locally produced fruit, vegetables as well as meats for the winter months, when severe weather can make life more challenging. Stocking up now may also save you money in the long-term. Produce is usually the cheapest during its harvest season when supplies are more abundant.

If preserving food or purchasing meat for the freezer is new to you, Michigan State University Extension has a wide variety of articles that can help, including:

Storing and preserving apples, Savor the taste of summer tomatoes, How much to expect when buying freezer meat, Proper produce storage, Michigan Fresh tip sheets

September is also National Preparedness Month. Ready.gov has all kinds of tips and toolkits to talk with your family members.

*This article was originally published by MSU Extension.* 

# Michigan Pork Producers Association Membership Application



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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\$40.00 Producer/Owner Member: Individuals or firm (one vote per firm) with over \$30,000.00 gross annual sales from hogs.

\$40.00 Producer/Grower Member: Contract grower and/or person or firm (one vote per firm) with less than \$30,000.00 gross annual sales from hogs.

\$40.00 Associate Member: Person or companies associated with the pork industry. Associate members do not have voting privileges.

\$5.00 Student Member: Individuals under 21 years of age. Student members do not have voting privileges.

\$100.00 Gold Contributor: A Gold Contributor provides additional support for MPPA programs requiring the use of unrestricted (non-checkoff) funds. Producer Gold Members are eligible to hold office and vote.

\$250.00 Gold Industry Member Contributor: A Gold Industry Contributor provides additional support for MPPA programs requiring the use of unrestricted (non-checkoff) funds. Gold Industry Contributors do not have voting privileges.

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As a result of changes made by the 1993 Tax Act, 25% of membership dues for 2016 are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.



NATIONAL PORK BOARD

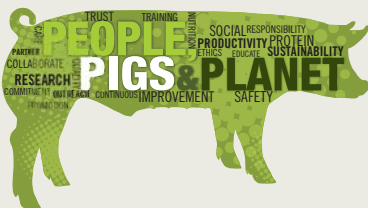
# VISION

The National Pork Board will **ELEVATE U.S. PORK** as the *global protein of choice* by continuously and collaboratively **WORKING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT** for people, pigs and the planet.

NATIONAL PORK BOARD

# MISSION

The National Pork Board is the *catalyst* that **UNITES PORK PRODUCERS WITH KEY STAKEHOLDERS** focused on *building a bright future* for the pork industry through **RESEARCH, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION.**



## What does the Checkoff mean for pork producers?

### How was the Pork Checkoff established?

The U.S. pork industry has had a **100 percent legislative checkoff program since 1986**. Congress created the Pork Checkoff as part of The Pork Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act of 1985. Pork producers had requested the legislation so they could take advantage of having all producers and importers participate in a checkoff program designed to strengthen the position of pork in the marketplace.

### What is the Pork Checkoff rate?

U.S. pork producers and importers pay **\$0.40 per \$100 of value** when pigs are sold and when pigs or pork products are brought into the United States.



### When is the Pork Checkoff assessed?

**Feeder pigs, market hogs and seedstock** are the means by which producers are assessed. For example, a feeder-pig producer is assessed when the pig is sold for the first time. If the animal is sold as a feeder pig a second time, there is no assessment. However, an assessment is collected on the sale of the pig when the animal is sold as a market hog. The same producer is never assessed twice for the same animal.

### Who is responsible for collecting the funds?

Pig marketers, including packers and dealers, are responsible for collecting assessments, except in the cases of seedstock and farm-to-farm sales, which are also covered under the law. In the case of seedstock, the seller or breeder is required to remit funds in farm-to-farm sales. It is common for feeder-pig producers who have numerous producer customers to remit the checkoff as a convenience to their customers.

### Is it possible to get a refund of the assessment?

No. The Pork Checkoff is a national program designed so **all pork producers and importers participate in the program and its benefits.**

### How are my interests as a producer represented?

Annually, the nation's pork producers elect fellow producers to represent their state in the Pork Act Delegate Body. **States are represented in proportion to their level of hog production.** Each state is eligible to have at least two representatives.

The delegates meet during the annual Pork Industry Forum, typically in early March, to determine the recommended rate of assessment and the amount of funds returned to states.

### The law requires that each state pork producer association receive a minimum of 16.5 percent of assessments generated in that state.

The current rate of return to each state varies from 16.5 to 39 percent, according to the three-year average number of hogs marketed in the state.

### Who administers and decides how the money is spent?

The 15 elected members of the National Pork Board and the Pork Checkoff staff are responsible for the collection, distribution and program accountability of the Pork Checkoff. Those nominated to serve on the National Pork Board are appointed for three-year terms by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.





NATIONAL PORK BOARD

# VALUES

We value all diversity of opinion and *strive for collaboration.*

We embrace the industry's *We Care® principles.*

*We do what's right* for people, pigs and the planet.

We are *proactive* in defining solutions for emerging challenges.

We are committed to *continuous improvement* in all we do.

# PEOPLE PIGS PLANET

Detailed information about Checkoff programs and expenditures is available by contacting the National Pork Board and requesting its publications and/or annual report. Information about the Pork Checkoff is available online at [www.pork.org](http://www.pork.org) or by calling the Producer Service Center at 1-800-456-7675.

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515.223.2600  
[www.pork.org/aboutus](http://www.pork.org/aboutus)

## Where does the Pork Checkoff money go?

Collections and reports are remitted monthly to the National Pork Board. These reports must state the number of hogs marketed, the gross value, the amount of assessments made and the state of origin of the marketed animals. By federal law, this information is confidential. Only

figures generated from multiple or statewide data can be made public. Failure to comply with these collection requirements can result in fines of up to \$1,000 for each unreported sale and the payment of 1.5 percent interest per month on late payments.

## How do I Submit My Remittance to the Checkoff?

### Producers can submit their Checkoff one of two ways:

**Online:** Payments can be completed through the online Checkoff remittance system. Like other online bill pay programs, the Checkoff online payment system eliminates the need for paperwork and mailing in your remittance. It's easy to use and offers convenience while keeping your financial information secure. To learn more about the online remittance system

and to get your login code to register, just email [paycheckoff@pork.org](mailto:paycheckoff@pork.org).

**By mail:** Producers can fill out the Checkoff form found at: [www.pork.org/aboutus](http://www.pork.org/aboutus) under the forms and instructions section, either by hand or computer. Then mail the printed form to the National Pork Board at PO Box 9113, Des Moines, IA 50306.

## How is the Pork Checkoff used?

**The National Pork Board executes specific programs in the areas of promotion, research and education.** No funds may be used for lobbying or to influence government policy.

**Promotion:** Checkoff-funded promotions are designed to increase domestic pork sales through consumer, retail and food service outreach. Foreign promotions for U.S. Pork funded by the Pork Checkoff have helped to move the U.S. from a net importer to a net exporter of pork.

**Producer Education:** Access to the latest technologies and information is often the key to a producer's ability to be competitive. Checkoff-funded seminars, workshops, videos, digital tools and other instructional materials are available to all producers. Topics range from employee management to producer issues to genetics.

**Research:** Checkoff-funded research is administered in all areas of pork production, processing and human nutrition to develop a higher quality and more profitable product in the competitive meat protein market.

**Consumer Education:** Food editors, chefs, journalists and other food trend influencers in the U.S. receive pork industry information on a regular basis. Checkoff funds also make information about how pork fits into a healthy diet available to health care professionals, Registered Dietitians, teachers and others.

Research funds are invested in animal welfare, environmental and production studies that help producers meet the challenges of responsible pork production. Checkoff funds also are used to find new pork products for our growing consumer base.



Information for an Industry on the Move

September 2017

Vol. 22 No.3

## In This Issue...

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**Pg. 4 Weaning Woes, An Overview of Weaning Stress in Piglets**

**Pg. 6 Meet New MSUE Pork Team Members**



This newsletter is edited by:

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& Emily Schmitt MPPA, Program Director,  
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## Stress and Transportation

By David Thompson, Elizabeth Ferry, Dale Rozeboom, Madonna Benjamin, Michigan State University Extension - Swine Working Group

Raising healthy and productive animals is critical to the commercial success and sustainability of all livestock production systems. There is a growing awareness of the interrelationships between physical health and performance in food animals, and how various forms of stress can adversely affect them. Recent research has demonstrated, for example, that the same molecular mechanisms underlie stress responses in people and livestock animals, including pigs. A stressful stimulus, once recognized, leads to release of adrenaline and cortisol, which can raise heart rate and blood supply to skeletal muscle while shutting down pathways critical to gut barrier and immune system function (Moeser et al, 2007).

The existence and potential importance of stress at various stages in swine production systems has been the subject of considerable research (reviewed by Roldan-Santiago et al, 2013, and Sutherland et al., 2014). This report focuses on some recent findings aimed at quantifying the impacts of shipping stress on pig health and performance, and offers some practical recommendations around how to minimize its impacts. As we look at the transportation practices in the industry, we can surmise that this event can be stressful for the animals due to various factors. The MSU Pork team has reviewed and summarized some of the critical components of transportation for swine producers.

### Change in Season

As the seasons change, market hog handling practices during loading and transport must also change. Estimates show that meat quality defects can cost the U.S. pork industry more than \$213 million per year (National Pork Board 2004). Additionally, transport losses of market hogs creates challenges for the U.S. food chain. Transport losses cause reduced returns to pork producers and pork processors, while compliance with changing rules and regulations regarding market hog transport along with increased animal welfare

scrutiny indirectly impact financial returns to all segments of the pork chain. Pork producers should critically evaluate transportation management practices before each season to reduce transport losses.

Research has demonstrated that the percentage of dead pigs on arrival at packing plants is at it's highest during the summer season (Ellis and Ritter, 2006, Sutherland, 2009). However, the rate of non-ambulatory or injured pigs numerically increases and is highest during the late fall and early winter months (Ellis and Ritter, 2006; Rademacher et al., 2005; Sutherland, 2009). Additionally, Fitzgerald et al., 2008 recently reported an experiment evaluating 12,333 loads of market hogs (2,053,945 market pigs) that were transported (May 2005 to April 2006) from 9 different farms to a single processing facility. Conclusions of this experiment supported previous research findings: the second and last week of December incurred the highest percentage of losses per trailer. In comparison, pigs transported to the processing facility in June and July experienced fewer losses than those transported during the months of November and December.

### Use of bedding

The practice of bedding and boarding trailers while transporting pigs to slaughter is commonplace in the industry. Choosing the right amount of bedding and boarding, however, has been the center of many debates.

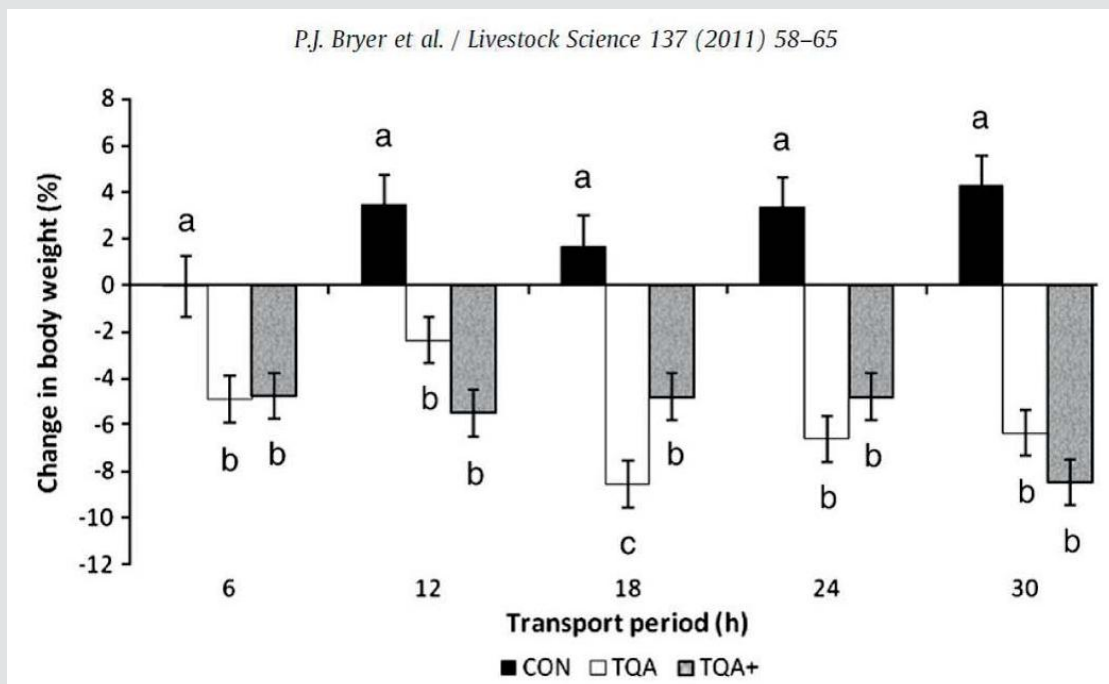
This practice has welfare and consumer viewpoint concerns, along with economic impacts for the producers. Recent research has attempted to define the bedding requirements for swine during transportation during exposure to cold, mild and warm temperatures. Investigators looked at over 700 loads of

pigs, totaling 128,686 pigs, transported during various types of weather conditions, and looked at the amount of bedding used, along with the condition of the animals (number of dead on arrival or injured/non-ambulatory) after transport. After reviewing the effects of bedding density during times of cold, mild and warm weather, the following recommendations were made (Sapkota, 2012):

- Cold weather < 32° F – No advantage beyond 6 bales of bedding
- Mild weather 32°- 70° F – No advantage beyond 3 bales of bedding
- Warm weather 70 – Utilizing more than 3 bales of bedding had a negative effect on DOAs

### Breeding Gilt Stress at Transport

Should we be concerned about how we transport breeding gilts? Probably, but we have too little research to guide us presently. Bryer and coworkers (2011) studied replacement gilts and the effects of transport duration and the amount of space provided during the trip. Gilts, weighing about 200 pounds, were transported for 6, 12, 18, 24, or 30 hours in a straight-deck livestock trailer that had been modified to create compartments which held four gilts in two different space allowances; either TQA (3.6 ft<sup>2</sup> per gilts) or TQA+20% (4.4 ft<sup>2</sup>





per gilts) additional space. The research took place in temperate weather of October 2007 in or near Lubbock, Texas. Stress indicators and weight were measured. The changes in metabolites, enzymes, and (or) hormones were inconclusive. Percent change in body weight of gilts, as shown in the figure on the previous page, suggested that most weight loss occurs in the first 6 hours, and that there was no difference from 30 hours of transport, irrespective of the amount of space provided gilts. (See figures on page 2)


The few differences could not lead the authors to conclude that one duration of transport or space was preferential. The conclusion they did report was that gilts transported for a period of up to 30 hours experience stress and changes in homeostasis, likely due to dehydration and fasting. A note about this study is that prior to transport gilts had been moved into their treatment groups and given 72 hours to acclimate to their pen-mates. Thus, the study does not provide information about the impact of mixing and social interactions among gilts occurring during transport, such as those that would normally occur in a commercial setting where gilts are not acclimated to pen-mates before transport. These interactions, combined with duration of transport and space provided, may give different results. More information in the area of commercially common practices of gilt transport are needed.

### Take Home Message

Continued research regarding transportation management of market hogs and breeding gilts is needed to identify the factors associated with transportation losses. The goals of this research are to develop industry recommendations for internal trailer environment management protocols that will optimize internal trailer temperature, maintain pig comfort and core body temperature and minimize transport losses. Educational programs such as the National Pork Board's

Transport Quality Assurance program are also available to help pork producers improve their knowledge about the handling and management of loading and transporting market hogs. Lastly, it is absolutely imperative that animal handlers' evaluate/re-evaluate transportation management practices for every season of the year.

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# Weaning Woes, An Overview of Weaning Stress in Piglets

By: Dr. Madonna Benjamin, MSU Extension Swine Veterinarian, Contribution: Dr. Adam Moeser, DVM PhD, Michigan State University, College of Veterinary Medicine, Student Contribution: Sarah LaTrendesse, CVM 2019, MSU.

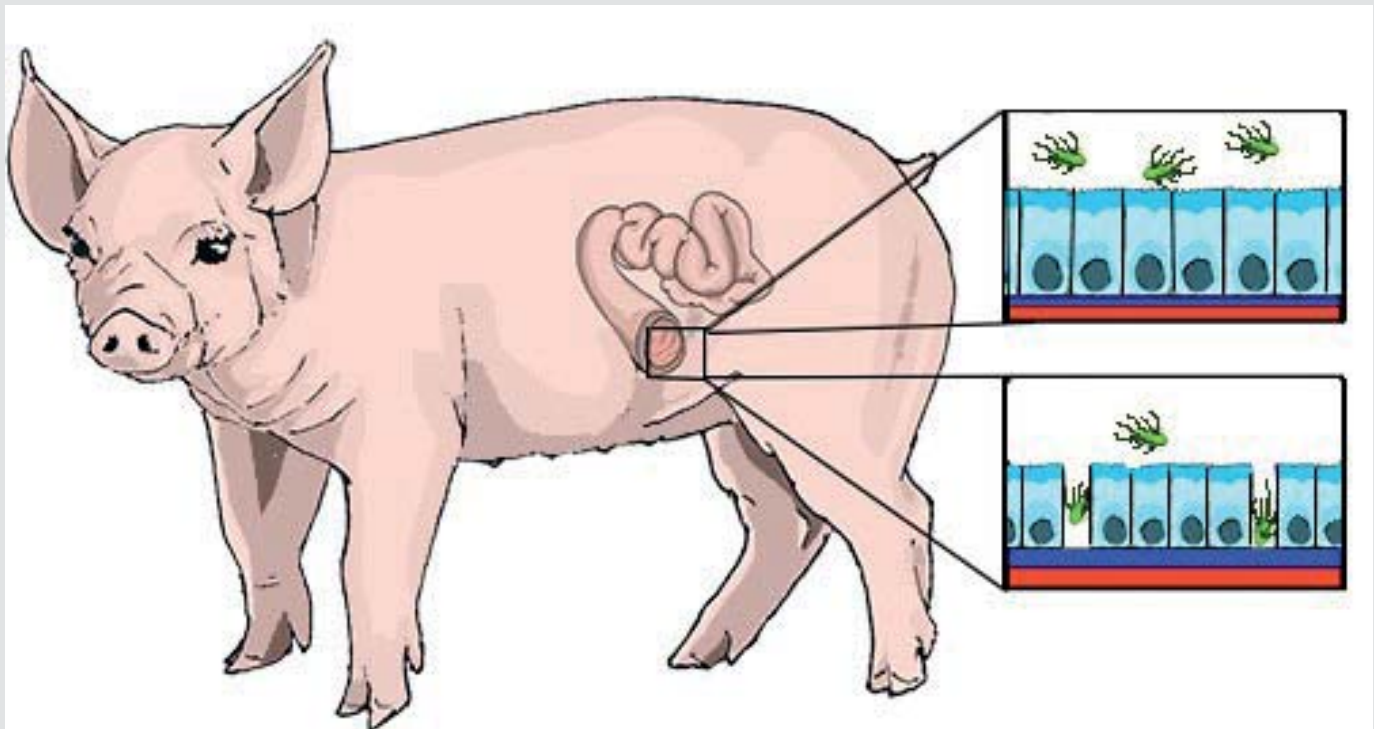
Let's start with a question. What is stress? It's a word commonly used to describe the feeling people experience when they're undergoing strain, which can be physiological (such as prolonged exposure to intense heat) or emotional (for example, loss of a loved one) or a combination of both. But what is happening in the body when someone experiences stress?

To keep it simple, when stress inducing events are short lived, stress is a protective mechanism. Examples of short term stress events include slamming on the breaks when driving to avoid hitting another car or being attacked by an animal or person. During short lived stress episodes chemical mediators, such as adrenaline, are released to promote muscle tenseness and increases in respiration and heart rate to effectively prepare the body for possible incoming pain or injury. This is a normal function.

However, when stress is prolonged, those responses negatively impact individuals and can decrease functional capabilities of all body systems.

Stress can negatively impact young animals faster than adult animals. It is well known that weaning is an intensely stressful event that young animals face, due to reduced contact with mothers and siblings and physiological stress as the young animals experience considerable dietary changes. This stress can result in increased susceptibility to diarrhea, infection and less growth.

Gastrointestinal (GI) disorders are of particular concern when weaning piglets. One of the main defenses of the intestines is the gastrointestinal epithelium, which lines the inside of the intestines and is composed of a cell type which absorbs nutrients from digested feed while



*Diagram 1: Normal (top box) versus compromised (bottom box) gastrointestinal epithelium in piglets. Top box: In normal piglets, disease causing agents have a hard time getting past the gastrointestinal epithelium. Bottom box: Gaps form in the gastrointestinal epithelium when piglets are weaned at an early age (ex: less than 22 days of age) making it easier for disease causing agents to cause disease.*

providing a protective barrier against disease-inducing agents, like bacteria and viruses. However, in very early weaned piglets, the GI epithelium is not yet fully formed, and when compromised, results in disruption of tight junctions between the cells and predisposes neonates to GI diseases, like edema disease caused by *Escherichia coli* infections (Masri et al, 2015).

Using a stress model whereby pigs were mixed 7 days after weaning and higher density than control pigs, these chronically stressed pigs had damage of the gut barrier and reduced nutrient uptake, resulting in lower body weight gain and feed efficiency (Li et al, 2017). This research led by Dr. Adam Moeser, an endowed chair and associate professor in the College of Veterinary Medicine (Michigan State University) focus investigates how the process of weaning can promote GI disorders or diseases. When comparing early weaning age to a later age at weaning, there was less mast cell degranulation (typically associated with allergies—think of swelling after a wasp sting). Early weaning resulted in increased mucosal permeability and enhanced mast cell degranulation compared to late weaned mucosa. Early weaned pigs (16 d and 18 d weaning age) exhibited a more rapid onset and severity of diarrhea and reductions in weight gain in response to ETEC challenge compared with late weaned pigs. In a separate publication authored by Pohl et al, (2017), early weaned female piglets expressed more mast cell mediators and had more intestinal permeability and diarrhea than early weaned male pigs. Interestingly, women are 4 times more likely to have stress-related gastrointestinal disorders such as Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

Other research support these results and found that


weaning piglets prior to 28 days of age results in massive changes to the structure of the gastrointestinal epithelium and as such, loss of protective functions. Interestingly, and importantly, it was found that there were nearly no negative changes in the gastrointestinal epithelium when weaning was delayed to 35-day of age (Masri et al, 2015).

Stress is never enjoyable, and may prove to increase sickness to bacteria and virus when experienced too early in life. Later weaning may benefit both piglets and producers by reducing the prevalence of GI diseases in piglets, thus improving piglet welfare and increasing profit margins. We also wonder what we might be overlooking when we compare weaning age and gender in production data.

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## Meet Dave Thompson and Melissa Millerick-May, newest members of the MSU Extension Pork Workgroup

### Dave Thompson

Dave Thompson joined the MSU Pork Extension Working Group in July, 2017. He will be working out of the Branch County Michigan State University Extension office in Coldwater, MI. Dave is returning to his academic roots at MSU after a 32-year career in the pharmaceutical/biopharmaceutical industry, where he held several positions in research and development.

Dave's educational background includes a PhD in Neurobiology from MSU, where he studied the physiology and pharmacology of endo-parasites, including liver flukes and roundworms, and concluded with postdoctoral studies in the pharmacology of calcium binding proteins in parasites. In 1984, he joined Parasitic Diseases Research at The Upjohn Company in Kalamazoo, MI, where he conducted basic and applied research on endo- and





### **Melissa Millerick-May**

Dr. Millerick-May has over 20 years of practical experience as a toxicologist, industrial hygienist, and epidemiologist in both the automotive industry and now in an academic setting. Her goal is to leverage her expertise as an exposure scientist to conduct field-based research centered on occupational and environmental exposures related to disease development – both human and animal. Her current research is focused on the determination of prior occupational exposures related to the development of cancer, as well as the identification of sentinel event and subsequent environmental/occupational exposures relevant to development of disease in individuals with hypersensitivity pneumonitis. Recently, and amidst concerns over transport of highly pathogenic microorganisms such as enteropathogenic viruses and influenza affecting food animal production, Dr. Millerick-May has been collaborating with colleagues in extension, animal science and veterinary medicine to identify risk factors for disease transmission with an aim to create a paradigm shift toward implementation of source-based control strategies rather than those currently focused at the level of the receiver.

ecto-parasites that infect animals and humans. His research there focused on the identification of new molecular targets and screening systems for novel anti-parasitics.

Dave joined Pfizer Animal Health in 2003, where he directed discovery research teams in the areas of livestock performance and wellness. In that capacity, he built relationships with researchers globally, and with industry leaders at all levels of the pork production and marketing chain in north America. He is looking forward to applying lessons learned through that experience to support the growing pork production business in Michigan. His dual proximity to MSU and the new Clemens facility in Coldwater as well as current and forthcoming industry relationships should facilitate that.

Dave will be participating in several of the educational programs offered by the MSUE Swine Working Group. Areas of special interest to him include parasitic diseases of swine, biosecurity and zoonoses, performance and agronomics. He is also developing an interest in 4H programs in swine husbandry and showmanship, especially the roles they serve in preparing future contributors to Michigan's agriculture industry, and looks forward to participating more in this area.





# Protecting and Improving Your On-Farm Investment

## HEALTH *Champions*

### Agenda:

- **Health Talks-Parasite Control for Herds:**  
*Identifying what deworming programs will be effective for your operation and proper use of products*
- **Health Talks- Managing PRRS:**  
*Transmission between and within farm, monitoring, diagnosis, biosecurity, herd management and the impact of vaccination on virus transmission*
- **Gilt Development- What we know, what we think we know and what we have yet to learn:**  
*Heat checking & estrus and gilt development; what factors play a role in getting your gilt to cycle*
- **Can we get rid of the RED TAPE?**  
*Understanding the laws and regulations for transporting and selling animals, quality assurance programs and the Common Swine Industry Audit*
- **Farm Safety:**  
*Who is the biggest risk for accidents and injury?*

### Locations:

Coldwater  
Oct. 10, 6-9 p.m.  
Branch County MSU Extension Office  
570 Marshall Rd., Suite C  
Coldwater, MI 49036

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Mt. Pleasant  
Oct. 11, 6-9 p.m.  
Isabella County MSU Extension Office  
200 N. Main St.  
3rd Floor, Room 340  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858

**Dinner provided at 6 p.m.  
Program to start at 6:30 p.m.  
Door prizes!**

**No cost for attending. RSVP to  
Emily Schmitt at  
schmitt@mipork.org or  
517-853-3782.**



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All comments and suggestions should be directed to the:

# MSU Pork Team

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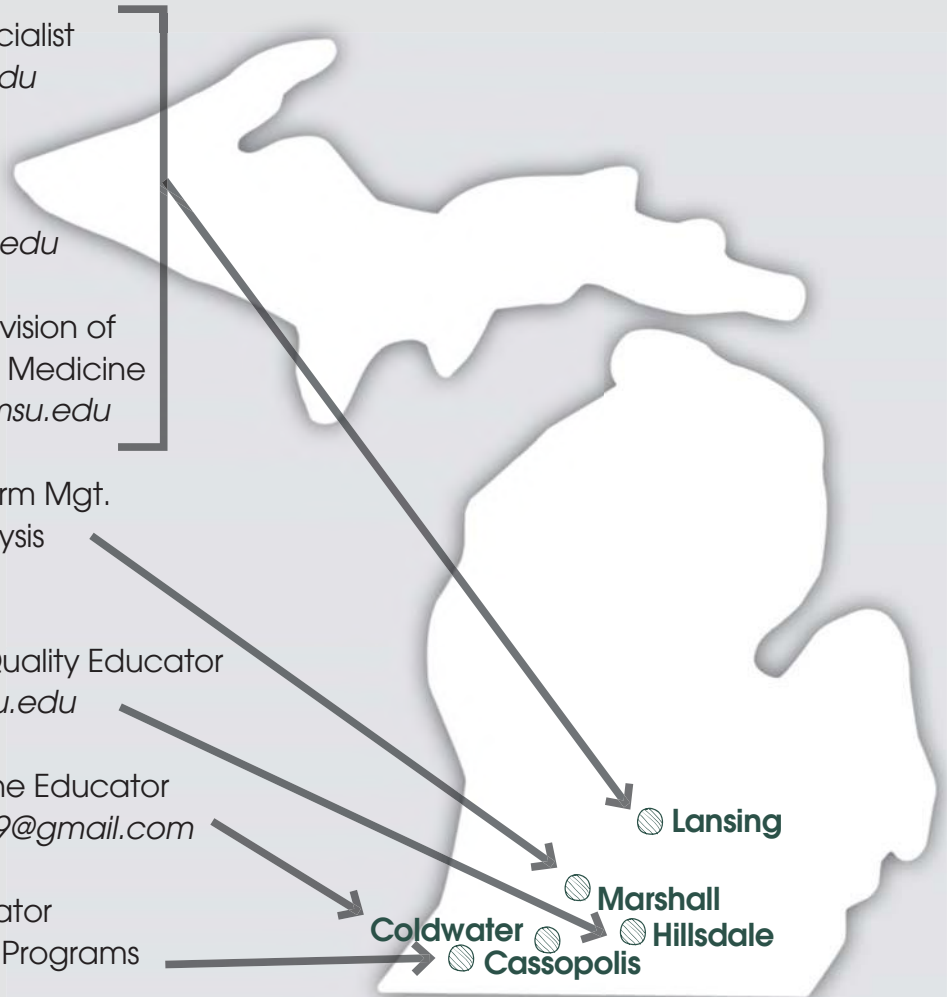
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# Extension





# Capital Update

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

## NPPC SUPPORTS NORTHEY AND IBACH USDA NOMINATIONS

NPPC was a signatory to a letter recently supporting the USDA appointments of Bill Northey as Undersecretary of Farm Production and Conservation and Gregory Ibach as Undersecretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs. Currently, Northey is secretary of the Iowa Department of Agriculture, and Ibach is director of the Nebraska Department of Agriculture. Noting their long-standing commitment and diverse industry experiences, the letter addressed to the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry urged swift advancement of the nominations..

## NPPC MOBILIZES TO PROTECT KOREAN MARKET

NPPC learned recently that President Trump was close to invoking the 180-day termination notice for its free trade agreement with Korea (known as KORUS). The council mobilized quickly, working over the Labor Day weekend to urge the administration to reconsider its position, emphasizing the considerable benefits of the agreement for the industry and U.S. economy. According to Iowa State economist Dermot Hayes, if KORUS is terminated, live hog prices would fall by 3.8 percent, or \$4.71 per animal, and the United States would lose the South Korean pork market to the European Union, Chile and other countries with preferential trade access. For now, the administration has pulled back on issuing a notice of termination, but appears resolved to renegotiate at least some terms of

KORUS. NPPC will continue to strongly advocate for maintaining the zero-tariff treatment for pork and other benefits of the agreement for U.S. pork producers in the industry's fifth largest export market.

## NPPC JOINS CALL FOR INCREASED USDA MARKET DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

NPPC, as a member of the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports, was among the signatories to a letter to the House Committee on Agriculture emphasizing the need for enhanced international market development. The coalition is calling for increased U.S. Department of Agriculture funding for the agency's key export programs: the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) initiative. The coalition asked the committee to consider \$400 million and \$69 million of increased annual funding for MAP and FMD, respectively, through the 2018 Farm Bill. These programs have not seen budget increased since 2002.

## PRESIDENT RATCHETS UP NAFTA WITHDRAW THREAT AS TALKS RESUME

Since again raising the possibility at a recent rally in Arizona, President Trump has repeatedly threatened to withdraw the United States from NAFTA leading up to the resumption of renegotiation talks in Mexico City. According to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes, withdraw from NAFTA would result in a

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5 percent decrease in U.S. pork production. Based on August 2017 live hog prices, that translates to a loss of \$12.40 per animal and an aggregate loss to the pork industry of approximately \$1.5 billion. Since NAFTA implementation, U.S. trade with Canada and Mexico has more than tripled, growing more rapidly than U.S. trade with the rest of the world. These countries are the two largest destinations for U.S. goods and services, accounting for more than one-third of total U.S. exports. NPPC continues to work with administration officials to preserve these enormous benefits for U.S. pork.

## NPPC OPPOSES CALIF. BALLOT INITIATIVE ON ANIMAL WELFARE STANDARDS

The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) recently filed to get on the 2018 California ballot - an initiative to ban the sale of out-of-state pork produced through the use of gestation stalls. The HSUS proposal also seeks to ban the sale of out-of-state eggs and veal from animals raised in housing that California outlawed in 2008 through a ballot proposition. Initiatives like this and others in states such as Massachusetts are the reason NPPC supports the “No Regulation Without Representation Act of 2017” (H.R. 2887), legislation introduced by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., that would prohibit states from imposing regulatory burdens on businesses, including pork operations, not physically present in the state. NPPC CEO Neil Dierks recently testified on H.R. 2887 before a House Judiciary subcommittee, saying: “Several states - most with little pork production - have banned gestation stalls, either

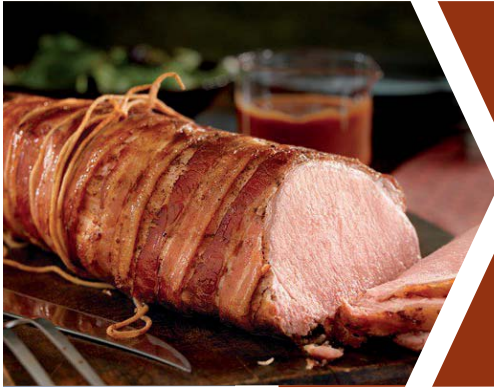
through ballot initiatives or legislation. That was their prerogative, however ill-advised or uninformed their motives were. What NPPC and pork producers object to is one state adopting a law or regulation that dictates the practices of the other 49 states.”

## NPPC PRESIDENT TALKS FMD VACCINE BANK WITH HOUSE AG COMMITTEE

NPPC President Ken Maschhoff recently participated in the Decatur, Ill., segment of Conversations in the Field: A Farm Bill Listening Session, presented by the House Committee on Agriculture. When addressing the committee, Maschhoff reinforced the critical importance of 2018 Farm Bill funding for a Foot-and-Mouth disease (FMD) vaccine bank and the need for U.S. agriculture to remain globally competitive through free trade agreements. These two issues were front and center when U.S. pork producers visited Capitol Hill, Sept. 13-14, as part of NPPC’s Legislative Action Conference (LAC).

## TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP TALKS CONTINUE

The 11 countries remaining in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) will renew talks to revive the trade agreement next month in Japan. The TPP 11 continued to advance the partnership following U.S. withdraw from Asia-Pacific trade pact earlier this year, a step NPPC strongly opposed. NPPC continues to advocate for bilateral trade agreements with key countries such as Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines.



# Pork Checkoff

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

## 2017 AMERICA'S PIG FARMER OF THE YEAR FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

The National Pork Board has announced the four finalists who are vying to be named the 2017 America's Pig Farmer of the Year<sup>SM</sup>. The program honors a U.S. pig farmer each year who excels at raising pigs using the We Care<sup>SM</sup> ethical principles and is committed to sharing his or her farming story with the American public.

"The four finalists represent the diversity of the pork industry in the United States," said National Pork Board President Terry O'Neel, a pig farmer from Friend, Nebraska. "They exemplify the best in pig farming and in taking the lead on environmental sustainability, animal welfare and continuous improvement."

The 2017 finalists are:

- Bill Luckey – Columbus, Nebraska
- Maria Mauer – Greensburg, Indiana
- Leslie McCuiston – Columbus, Nebraska
- Leon Sheets – Ionia, Iowa

The four finalists met with an expert panel of third-party judges in Chicago. The judges viewed videos produced at the finalists' farms and interviewed each of them.

Through Sept. 8, the public had the chance to vote once a day per person per email address for their favorite finalist at [www.americaspigfarmer.com](http://www.americaspigfarmer.com). The winner will be announced Oct. 3 based on the judges' scores and the online voting.

### About the Finalists:

Bill Luckey – Columbus, Nebraska

Farming and raising pigs has been a family tradition for Bill Luckey, who is a fourth-generation farmer. Luckey,

along with his wife and three sons, market 10,000 pigs a year. They also raise cattle, corn and soybeans on their farm.

Maria Mauer – Greensburg, Indiana

Providing sows with a clean, comfortable environment is step No. 1 for Maria Mauer at Smiley Brothers, Inc., where they market 18,000 pigs a year from the farrow-to-finish farm. Mauer believes in the importance of teaching her six-year-old son life lessons by bringing him to the barn with her to care for the sows.

Leslie McCuiston – Columbus, Nebraska

Focusing on people is Leslie McCuiston's main goal as a senior production manager for The Maschhoffs, LLC. McCuiston believes in equipping employees with the right tools to provide the best animal care every day. She oversees 70 employees who care for over 18,000 sows in central Nebraska.



**Bill Luckey**



**Maria Mauer**



**Leslie McCuiston**



Leon Sheets – Ionia, Iowa

Raising pigs has been a life-long passion for Leon Sheets, who started raising pigs with his grandfather when he was a young child. Sheets raises 33,000 pigs on his farm in northeast Iowa, where he focuses on animal care and environmental sustainability. With the help of his employees, son and wife, Sheets also raises corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops.



**Leon Sheets**

## PORK CHECKOFF'S ASIAN TRADE MISSION OFFERS INSIGHT

With a clearer vision on how to elevate U.S. pork as the global protein of choice, three National Pork Board officers and two members of the senior leadership team have returned from an Asian trade mission. The team representing the Pork Checkoff toured Japan and China from Sept. 5-16, visiting with pork processors, distributors and retailers, as well as importers and traders. Asian team members of the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) also accompanied the Pork Checkoff crew.

“Pork is the No. 1 most consumed protein in the world, and that was certainly obvious as we toured parts of Japan and China,” said National Pork Board CEO Bill Even. “It is important for us to see firsthand how pork is raised, processed and promoted in Asia. The Asian customer and consumer culture is unique, and we need to understand the global motivation to purchase U.S. pork.”

The U.S. is facing record-breaking pork production in 2017. The Pork Checkoff is committed to growing demand, not only in the U.S., but also among top customers in Asia. In terms of pork volume (pounds), China/Hong Kong and Japan are currently the No. 2

and 3 export customers of the U.S. Combined volume in these areas is 534,953 metric tons (or about 1.18 billion pounds). In terms of pork value (U.S. dollars), Japan is No. 1 and China/Hong Kong is No. 3, with a combined value of nearly \$1.6 billion of exports, both according to the most recent (through July) USMEF data.

“Marketing pork comes down to building long-term relationships and having a safe, dependable, high-quality product that is presented well to the buyer,” said Pork Board President Terry O’Neel, a producer from Friend, Nebraska. “Consumers are encouraged to experience U.S. pork through fun events and social activities.”

While in Japan, the trade team were able to see specifically how U.S. pork is marketed, including through USMEF’s current Gochipo (sumptuous pork) campaign. That marketing campaign extols the virtues of high-quality, delicious U.S. pork and the rising value of U.S. pork products.

After spending five days on the ground in Japan, Checkoff leadership traveled to China. While in China, O’Neel and Even presented the U.S. pork production perspective at the annual China Swine Industry Symposium. O’Neel spoke on managing financial, environmental and labor risk in U.S. pork production.

“China is a huge market in terms of volume and opportunity,” said Pork Board Vice President Steve Rommereim, a producer from Alcester, South Dakota. “While China is 98 percent self-sufficient in pork production, we need to further our outreach efforts here. The economic growth and infrastructure development we saw in China is intimidating, to say the least. This level of growth points to a greater dependence on foreign market imports, with price a key buying criteria.”

Kaysen added, “In China, I envision cold pork storage experiencing dramatic growth as the population grows and as the country continues to consume more meat. Our job is to make U.S. pork truly recognized in the meatcase at the retail level in China as much as it is in Japan.”

O’Neel called the Board’s Asia trade mission a great success.

# Michigan 4-H Swine Science State Award Winners Announced



**4**-H state awards were presented to youth from across the state of Michigan during 4-H Exploration Days at Michigan State University June 22, 2017. The presenter of the 4-H Swine Science awards was Emily Schmitt, Michigan Pork Producers Association Program Director.

## **Elizabeth Vincent of Monroe County is the 2017 Junior 4-H Swine Science Award winner.**

Elizabeth has been involved in the 4-H program for six years; she began showing hogs at the age of ten. She is very active in the 4-H program; she is currently the community service leader in her club the Rockin' Ranchers. She has also served as vice-president and treasurer in this club. Elizabeth is an active member of Youth Leadership Board, Teen Ambassadors, and New Horizons. She has been a junior superintendent at the Monroe County Fair for the past three years where she enjoys helping out with animal and project check in. She has also participated in Monroe County Ag Day where she helps walk elementary school children around the fairgrounds so they can learn about farming and tractor

safety, raising honey bees, and care of livestock animals, Elizabeth enjoys working with the younger members in 4-H and giving them help with showing swine project. She has future plans on joining the Junior Livestock Board. She is also very involved in her community both in and outside of 4-H.

## **Heather Dufek from Emmet County is the winner of the 2017 Senior 4-H Swine Science Award.**

Heather had been a 4-H member for more than eleven years, doing market livestock animals and crafts. She has raised hogs and rabbits. Last year was her first year raising rabbits, where she won Grand Champion Overall for Market and Show. She is on her high school golf team, and was asked to represent Michigan to play golf in Australia this summer. She is also involved with her high school steel drum band, and will be playing with them at Mardi Gras in New Orleans. She rings the bell for the Salvation Army during the holidays, she makes cards, and visits the elderly at local care facilities. This February she will be on a medical missionary trip to Panama. She is involved in the leadership program at her high school and has been involved with community leadership. 🐷

# MSU names new animal science chair

By: Farm News Media, MSU

**D**r. Pamela Ruegg has been name chair of the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University.

The announcement came recently from Ron Hendrick. Professor & Dean of MSU's College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Janice Swanson, Chair of ANR's Animal Science department.

Our sincere thanks and appreciation to members of the search committee, those in the department who organized and hosted interview sessions during this search," the two said in a letter announcing the hire.

Ruegg is a professor and Extension milk quality specialist in the Department of Dairy Science at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She received her undergraduate degree and DVM from MSU. She completed a residency in Food Animal Herd Health and Reproductive Management and Masters of Preventive Veterinary Medicine at the University of California - Davis.

Prior to joining the University of Wisconsin, Madison, Dr. Ruegg spent time in private practice and in academic faculty positions at the Atlantic Veterinary College in Prince Edward Island, Canada, and the College of Veterinary Medicine at MSU as well as corporate technical service.



Dr. Ruegg is active in a number of industry organizations and is a past-president of the National Mastitis Council. Her Extension program is focused on developing programs that help farmers maintain

healthy cows, and improving milk quality and safety on dairy farms.

She has received a number of awards for research and extension programs and maintains a popular milk quality website with a goal of providing practical tools and resources to help farmers, consultants and veterinarians.

Dr. Ruegg's research interests are focused on using epidemiologic techniques to solve critical issues related to animal health, milk quality and she enjoys bridging the gap between research and practical applications on dairy farms.

Dr. Ruegg was born and raised in St. Ignace, Mich., and is proud of her 'Yooper' heritage. She and her husband, Keith Morgen, have two adult sons, Sam and Lucas.



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# USDA Rural Development National Value-added Producer Grant opens

*Farmers are invited to apply for planning or operating funds through Jan. 31, 2018.*

**A**pplications are now being accepted under the USDA Rural Development National Value-added Producer Grant program from agricultural producers and eligible groups to process, enhance, and/or market their goods in order to increase business sustainability. The Notice of Solicitation of Application (NOSA) was published in the Federal Register on Aug. 29, 2017. Proposals are due Jan. 31, 2018. Applications materials including the NOSA, Applicant Tool Kit, links to required forms and other important application resources are available at: <http://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/value-added-producer-grants>

Eligible applicants include agricultural producers and groups who actively grow, manage and control at least 51 percent of a commodity. Farmer cooperatives, certain non-profit grower entities and majority-controlled businesses are examples of groups who will be considered. Beginning, veteran farmer, socially-disadvantaged, operator of a small or medium sized family farm, cooperatives, mid-tier value chain project and group applicants are eligible for priority points.

Value-added projects are those that process a raw product, enhance a commodity, physically



segregate a commodity, create a locally-produced food and establish farm-based energy operation or market an agriculture product. Examples include selling farm-raised meats, packing individual servings of fruits, separating of non-GE soybeans, processing corn into bio-fuel and developing a marketing campaign for a new winery.

Grants are limited to \$75,000 for planning purposes and \$250,000 for working capital. This grant requires a dollar-for-dollar match in the form of cash or eligible in-kind contributions. Planning grants support third-party feasibility studies and marketing and/or business plan development. Operating grants may be applied to the cost of processing or marketing a product. Certain restrictions apply to operating fund grants over \$50,000. Land, buildings and equipment, grant preparation, research and development, engineering or architectural, agricultural production-related

expenses are not eligible under the program.

Michigan State University Extension and the MSU Product Center assist in the development of high-value businesses in food, agricultural and natural resources sectors. Visit [www.productcenter.msu.edu](http://www.productcenter.msu.edu) to request free business counseling. Online resources for proposal development include MarketMaker market research tools, and the Agricultural Market Research Center.

An estimated \$18 million is allocated nationally for the USDA Rural Development National Value Added Grant Program which is administered by the USDA Rural Development State Office. Michigan-based USDA staff Bobbie Morrison and Natalie Garr encourage interested parties to contact them prior to proposal submission by calling 517-324-5157.

*This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.*



# MI Pork PAC

Helping elect friends of the Michigan pork industry.

*The Michigan Pork PAC is the bi-partisan political action arm of the Michigan Pork Producers Association. The MI Pork PAC enables producers to pool their resources together and become directly involved in the election process.*

*A strong political action committee compliments our advocacy efforts at the state Capitol. By contributing to the MI Pork PAC, you are helping to elect legislators who support your industry. By working with our elected lawmakers, we can be assured that we will have maximum impact in shaping policy issues that impact you. A strong PAC assures us that pork producers and candidates who support us will be at the table when decisions impacting your industry are being made.*

*Please keep in mind that contributions may be accepted from individuals, partnerships, LLC's, and Sole Proprietors. However, NO CORPORATE CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE ACCEPTED.*

*Contributions to the PAC are not deductible as charitable contributions for Federal income tax purposes.*



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# NPPC Seeks Waiver from ELD Mandate

**T**he National Pork Producers Council recently asked for a waiver and exemption for livestock haulers from U.S. Department of Transportation regulations that could have negative effects on animal well-being.

NPPC delivered to the office of DOT Sec. Elaine Chao a petition, which was filed on behalf of the U.S.


pork industry and other livestock sectors, requesting the waiver and exemption because of concerns about the Electronic Logging Device (ELD) Rule's effects on animal well-being. It also asked the agency to address incompatibilities between the transportation of livestock and DOT's Hours of Service rules. Those regulations limit truckers to 11 hours of driving daily, after 10 consecutive hours off duty, and restrict their on-duty time to 14 consecutive

hours, which includes nondriving time.

"The ELD Rule presents some serious challenges for livestock haulers and the animals in their care," said NPPC President Ken Maschhoff, a pork producer from Carlyle, Ill. "We're asking the secretary to exempt truckers transporting hogs, cattle and other livestock from this regulation because they have a moral obligation to care for the animals they're hauling regardless of what some bureaucratic rule says."

The Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Enhancement Act, enacted as part of the 2012 Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act, mandated ELDs by Dec. 18, 2017, for commercial motor vehicles involved in interstate commerce, when operated by drivers who are required to keep records of duty status. ELDs, which can cost from \$200 to \$1,000, record driving time, monitor engine hours, vehicle movement and speed, miles driven and location information.

DOT did recently issue an interpretation intended to address shortcomings in its Hours of Service rules, exempting from the regulations and from any distance-logging requirements truckers hauling livestock within a 150 air-mile radius of the location at which animals were loaded.

NPPC and other livestock groups also are supporting language included in the transportation fiscal 2018 funding bill that would delay the ELD mandate for one year for livestock haulers. 



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## Recipe Corner:

# Caramel Apple Pork Chops



- 4 NEW YORK PORK CHOPS (3/4-INCH THICK)
- 2 TABLESPOONS BROWN SUGAR
- SALT AND PEPPER TO TASTE
- 1/8 TEASPOON CINNAMON
- 1/8 TEASPOON NUTMEG
- 2 TABLESPOONS BUTTER
- 2 MEDIUM TART RED APPLES, CORED AND SLICED INTO 1/2-INCH WEDGES
- 3 TABLESPOONS PECANS, CHOPPED

Heat skillet over medium-high heat. Saute chops, 8 minutes, turning occasionally, until internal temperature on a thermometer reads 145 degrees F, followed by a 3-minute rest time. Remove; keep warm.

In a small bowl, combine brown sugar, salt, pepper, cinnamon and nutmeg. Add butter to skillet; stir in brown sugar mixture and apples. Cover and cook for 3-4 minutes or just until apples are tender. Remove apples with a slotted spoon and arrange on top of chops; keep warm. Continue cooking mixture in skillet, uncovered, until sauce thickens slightly. Spoon sauce over apples and chops. Sprinkle with pecans. Serves 4.



## Calendar of Events

### Oct:

- 10 Health Champions Meeting**  
Coldwater, Mich.
- 11 Health Champions Meeting**  
Mt. Pleasant, Mich.

### Dec.:

- 13 Ag Club Breakfast**  
Radisson Hotel  
Lansing, Mich.
- 13 MPPA Board Meeting**  
GCSI, Lansing, Mich.

### Feb.:

- 22 Michigan Pork Symposium**  
Lansing, Mich.
- 23 MPPA Board Meeting**  
Lansing, Mich.

# We're Listening

## Dear MPPA,

Thank you once again for your donation of coloring books and the little pig barn for "Peels and Squeals" Ag day camp at Montcalm Community College. We had 42 campers and 15 volunteers. It was a great time.

**Sincerely, Michelle Gibson,** Montcalm Community College

## Dear MPPA,

Thank you so much for your donation. You helped make our Family Fun on the Farm event a success.

**Sincerely, Kent County Farm Bureau**

## Dear MPPA,

We would like to thank you for your continued support of our fair. Our baby animal tent was a crowd favorite again this year. Thank you so much for the coloring books you provided to help educate the children that came through our exhibit.

**Sincerely, Chrissy Curtis,**  
Genesee County Fair

## Dear MPPA,

Thank you for sponsoring the 2017 Swine State Award. I am honored to have been chosen to win this award. Thank you!

**Sincerely, Liz Vincent,**  
Monroe County

## Dear MPPA,

Thank you for your continued support of the 4th annual Farm to Fork 5K Run/Walk. Your sponsorship will have an immense impact in our community, as this event supports the Greater Lansing Food Bank and the Michigan FFA Foundation. We sincerely appreciate your commitment to the families and children in our community.

**Sincerely, Jordan Henry**  
St. Johns, MI



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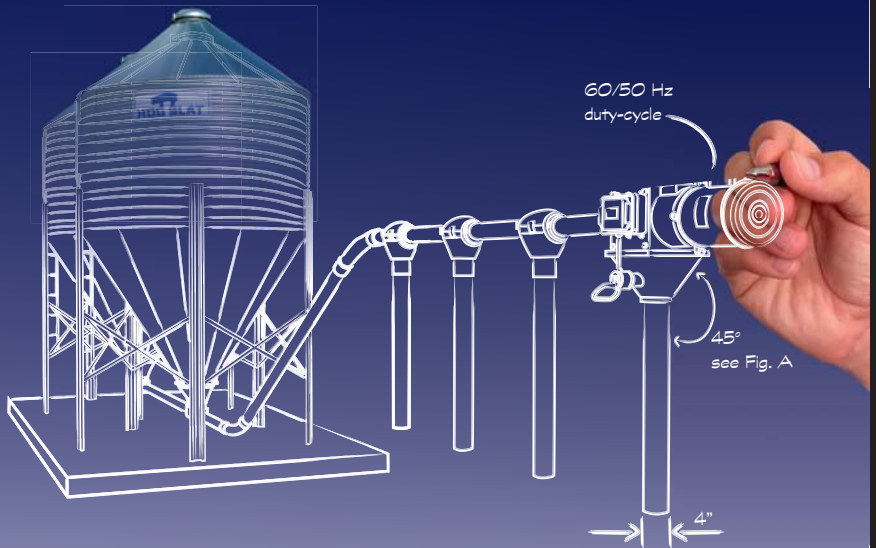


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