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**2018 Michigan
Pork Producers
Association Awards**

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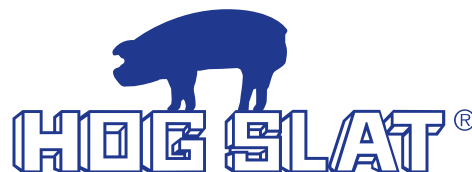
**How Have VFD
Regulations
Affected Your Farm**

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**MPPA
Scholarships
Awarded**

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For any questions regarding Michigan Pork's mailing list, advertising or content please contact Emily Schmitt at schmitt@mipork.org or 517-853-3782.

MPPA Staff:

Mary Kelpinski

Chief Executive Officer
Managing Editor
kelpinski@mipork.org

Emily Schmitt

Program Director
Editor
schmitt@mipork.org

On the cover: MPPA Distinguished Service Winner Dr. Jim Kober at the 2018 Michigan Pork Symposium.

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2018 Michigan Pork Symposium

On February 22, 2018, the Michigan Pork Producers Association hosted the 2018 Michigan Pork Symposium. The 2018 symposium focused on day-to-day tools producers could take back to the farm such as employee management, working with sows and farrowing and issues facing grow-to-finish operations. The goal of the symposium was to provide producers with knowledge that will help them provide a growing human population an environmentally-safe, socially-acceptable, low-cost source of meat. The conference also allows producers to get an update on the outlook of the industry.

The Symposium started with a welcome and introductions, followed by a keynote by Dr. Larry Firkins about getting work done through others..

Attendees then chose between sessions in a sow housing track and a grow/finish track. The sow production track featured topics such as fixed-time insemination, employee management, day-one pig care, sow housing and selection, sow longevity, farrowing, breeding and caring for the gilt through her first litter. Growing and finishing topics included ventilation, economics of manure, packer audits, pig start-up/successful transition, barn cleaning and maintenance and managing the unexpected outbreak.

At noon, attendees were treated to a delicious, captivating lunch of pork dishes prepared by the Lansing Center's culinary staff and National Pork Board Regional Producer and State Relationship Manager John Heins spoke about the pork board and the goals of the Pork Checkoff. Awards were then presented to Michigan pork producers for their dedication to the industry.



Pictured above, pork producers and industry representatives gather for lunch and the presentation of Michigan Pork Producers Association awards.

During the Awards Luncheon, four individuals were recognized for their excellence in pork production and contributions to the pork industry. MPPA's highest honor, the Distinguished Service Award went to Dr. Jim Kober of Holland, Mich. Kober is a swine veterinarian working with producers of all sizes throughout the state. He also owns a contract-finisher operation for

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Valley View Pork.

Another honor went to Dennis Russcher of Precision Pork, Zeeland. Russcher received the Master Pork Producer Award.

MPPA also awarded Jerry May of High Lean Pork the Contract Grower Award, and the Swine Herd Manager Award went to Kevin Turner with the MSU Swine Farm.

In the afternoon of the Symposium, attendees went back into breakout sessions and then heard a pork industry outlook update from Steve Meyer with Kerns and Associates.

The day concluded with a sponsor reception. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres featuring pork while talking with industry representatives and fellow pork producers.

The 2018 Michigan Pork Symposium successfully provided pork farmers from around the state information about their ever-changing industries. Valuable impact is anticipated in the future as farmers use information from the symposium to produce food for the world. This event was also made possible by many significant pork industry sponsors (see page 24).

Pictured above, Dennis Russcher, surrounded by his family, receives the Master Pork Producer Award.

Above right, Dr. Jim Kober accepts the Distinguished Service Award with his wife and his office staff.



Pictured above, Jerry May receives the Contract Grower Award with his wife, Kathy. At left, Kevin Turner accepts the Swine Herd Manager Award with his wife Erin and daughter Emma.



By: Bob Dykhuis
MPPA PRESIDENT

“A Few Notes for Thought”

I have traveled to meetings several times over these last few months. There are some ideas banging around in my mind that I would like to share. It may seem a bit haphazard but I hope you find in this column a nugget to ponder on.

The “Boomer Generation” is burying their parents and making plans to reduce the workload in their life. I can relate to that. I went to three funeral visitations last week. I was at Pork Forum and did see a lot of boomers still involved in our organization. There are a number of millennials getting involved now. That is very good to see. We need to make it possible for more to get involved.

Boomers want to own a chunk of something to get ahead in life, such as a house, car, farm, or pickup. A millennial wants to experience something, such as, “good” food, Disney, time with children doing stuff. They are more concerned about the impact they are having on their world.

Millennials are becoming the largest purchasing group in the US.

I was involved with several other people pulled into a committee to study sustainability in our industry. Through this, I learned some interesting ideas. Sustainability is rapidly moving from a cool buzzword to specifications that are measurable. There are social, economic, and environmental aspects to it. It is a “journey” we

need to be on as suppliers of products. Retailers estimate that more than eighty percent of the sustainability improvements will come from their supply chains. Communication and transparency are very important throughout the chain. They want to see a “values” buy-in throughout the chain.

The “cage free eggs” deal is a study in how not to accomplish sustainability.

If we wait for the consumer to define what they want in sustainability, then we are already behind. We need to educate consumers by answering the right question for the right consumer.

We will need to be able to measure the sustainability of the pigs we produce based on our own inputs and the inputs of the feed that we feed. Get to know your crop farmers.

Our industry is growing. There are a lot of pigs coming to market in the next year. We talk about our fears of a market disruption due to disease or President Trump. Our producers will overproduce all by themselves, and that will lead to negative margins.

NPPC is dancing trying to keep up with all the possible issues that could happen. They need to in this world. They are there for us.

The Pork Board is trying to position for the future. They have very good leadership.

These are exciting times! 



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By: Mary Kelpinski

MPPA CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
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“A Plan for the Future”

Every farmer knows that winter is a good time to plan for the year ahead. Michigan Pork Producers Association also took advantage of that time of year to hold a Strategic Planning session to help the organization plan for the next five years. It has been a number of years since MPPA last engaged in the strategic planning process. Much has changed in that time, and it was important that we, as a board, invest time to reassess and redefine our priorities.

In January, the MPPA Board, and invited guests, sat down for two days to discuss the association’s strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to help develop a road map for the future. With the help of Bill Winkelman, Vice President Producer and Industry Relations at the National Pork Board, the team quickly determined the direction the association should take.

After two days of deep thought and discussion, the following was developed:

Vison Statement:

The Michigan Pork Producers Association is a voice for family faming. We are committed to pork promotion and consumer

“ As I have heard, and said many times before, the only thing that is constant is change. As I start my 30th year working for MPPA, this could not be truer! MPPA continues to respond to change to remain a relevant voice for the pork industry in Michigan and the nation. ”

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collaboration through ensuring that safe and high-quality pork is produced in a sustainable and viable manner.

Mission Statement:

The Michigan Pork Producers Association is comprised of family farmers, committed to producing and promoting consumer access to an enjoyable and healthy pork eating experience.

The following goals were determined to be the main focus for the Michigan Pork Producers Association for the next five years. Each goal is supported by a series of objectives that are **SMART** – **S**pecific, **M**easurable, **A**chievable, **R**elevant/**R**ealistic and **T**ime bound.

Goal 1: Actively engage all producers in the awareness and preparation to participate in the U. S. Secure Pork Plan by the end of 2019.

Goal 2: Be relevant to all producers in the industry demonstrating value with 100% contract grower participation by 2024.

Goal 3: Be a proactive and reactive source of Michigan pork industry information with an increase in social media reach and traditional media of 10% per year.

Goal 4: We support the integrity of the Right to Farm act and its ability to defend the livestock industry. We will take an active role in encouraging odor research

Vision Statement:

The Michigan Pork Producers Association is a voice for family farming. We are committed to pork promotion and consumer collaboration through ensuring that safe and high-quality pork is produced in a sustainable and viable manner.

to enhance siting opportunities.

Goal 5: Develop the Michigan Pork Producer image which raises consumer awareness and confidence in our product our organization and our farms.

As we prepare the plan of work for 2019, we will keep these goals in mind and work toward achieving them in the timeframe laid out.

Developing a Strategic Plan was just the start of the board's

workload this year. The board also discussed reviewing the Bylaws and making updates as needed to ensure they are still relevant to the pork industry in Michigan.

As I have heard, and said many times before, the only thing that is constant is change. As I start my 30th year working for MPPA this could not be more true! MPPA continues to respond to change to remain a relevant voice for the pork industry in Michigan and the nation.

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Did the Changes to VFD Regulations Affect Your Farm?

Land grant universities are looking to gain information on the impacts of VFD regulation through an electronic survey.

Starting January 1st, 2017 the distribution of antibiotics in animal agriculture went through a major overhaul. These changes affected livestock farmers of all sizes and farms needed to incorporate changes to help them adapt to the new rules and regulations. Focusing on the one-health concept of combating antibiotic resistance, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) put into effect regulations that helped promote the judicious use of humanly medically important antibiotics. These changes include eliminating the growth promotion use of human medically important antibiotics and expanding the list of feed-grade antibiotics classified as Veterinary Feed Directive (VFD) drugs. Historically, a majority of feed-grade antibiotics used in or on animal feeds have been available to producers over-the-counter, without approval from a veterinarian, now the FDA has moved all human medically important feed-grade antibiotics to the VFD drug process. This in turn has limited the types and times antibiotics can be fed in the feed to animals, along with requiring approval from the farm's veterinarian, which is a major change for some livestock farms.

Understanding how these changes have affected livestock production is a goal of Michigan State University Extension and other land grant universities in the United States. These universities have developed an electronic survey that poses questions regarding the financial and management impacts of VFD regulations. Questions regarding herd and flock health, changes to production practices, health/veterinary costs, total antibiotic use on the farm and the need for further education or programming on any topic regarding the VFD regulation are included in the survey.

Farmers, of any size, that raise food production animals are being asked to respond to this nationwide survey regarding the implementation of VFD regulation. This online survey is completely anonymous and can be accessed through the following link: https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eY83E3DiiingljD.

Producers can also respond to the online survey using the QR code, which they can scan with a QR Code reader application on their phone, that takes them directly to the electronic survey.

If farmers do not wish to communicate electronically they can receive a paper survey by contacting MSU Extension educator Beth Ferry by phone at 269-876-2745, email at franzeli@msu.edu or by mail at 1737 Hillandale Road Benton Harbor, MI 49022. The information compiled from the survey responses will help us better understand the effect of VFD regulations for livestock producers and assist with targeting educational and programming needs of farmers. 🐷



Pork Industry Honors Tom Baas with the Distinguished Service Award

The National Pork Board recently honored Tom Baas as the recipient of its Distinguished Service Award during the National Pork Industry Forum in Kansas City. Baas is a former animal science professor at Iowa State University.

At the pork industry's annual business meeting each year, the award is presented to an outstanding leader to recognize his or her lifelong contribution to the pork industry.

"Tom has provided extraordinary leadership to the pork industry," said National Pork Board President Terry O'Neel, a pork producer from Friend, Nebraska. "Through the years, he worked tirelessly for the advancement of the pork industry and mentored numerous students at Iowa State University."

Baas grew up in Kossuth County, Iowa, graduating high school in West Bend. He earned his bachelor's degree in animal science and later his master's and Ph.D. all from Iowa State University. Baas worked in various aspects of the pork industry, including with the Duroc Swine Registry and on his own farm raising pigs, before he became a mainstay at Iowa State University as an animal science professor and advisor.

His practical experience prepared Baas for working with students and helped shape his approach to education. The real-world experience proved beneficial to those who learned from Baas, both inside and outside of the classroom.

Baas' keen foresight for a brighter future for the pork industry played out in many pursuits. He believed



Tom Baas

a higher quality pork product was possible and was instrumental in implementing the use of ultrasound to study marbling in pork and live animals so data could be used in genetic improvement programs.

The National Pork Board and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) also presented Dick Isler, former state executive of the Ohio Pork



Dick Isler

Council with the Paulson-Whitmore State Executive Award. The award was developed cooperatively by the Pork Board and NPPC and recognizes the outstanding leadership and commitment of state pork executives. It was named after two top leaders – Don Paulson, past Minnesota state pork executive, and Rex Whitmore, past Wisconsin state pork executive.



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2018 Michigan Pork Symposium Presentations Summaries

Michigan State University Extension Pork Work Group compiled summaries of presentations

they were able to attend at the Michigan Professional Pork Producers Symposium, held Thursday Feb 22, 2018. *Summarized By: Erica Rogers, Dave Thompson, Beth Ferry, and*

Madonna Benjamin

Getting Work Done Through Others. Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Larry Firkins, University of Illinois – Employee Management: Firkins shared with us the importance of communicating expectations with employees. By making sure that those you work with understand what the end goal is and what your vision of the job or project is, you will be more successful in communicating the expectations of the job, and completing the work that needs to be done. Dr. Firkins discussed techniques for managers to use, not only engaging their employees, but also in setting successful expectations and enhancing retention of key people. He also described communication between generations that may look different depending on the situation

Pig Start Up:

Brady McNeal (DNA Genetics) provided an excellent overview on pig start-up procedures, focusing on the importance of genetics and sow care to production of high birth weight and high performance animals. Each 0.1 lb. at birth translates to 1.5 lb. at finishing. Key performance objectives at weaning (day 21) are 14 piglets weighing an average of 14 lbs. In the Pillen System, the greatest positive impact on early piglet health has been achieved by use of detergents in barn cleaning procedures, which has reduced nursery mortality by 33%.

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2018 Michigan Pork Symposium Presentations Summaries Continued....

Iowa) provided a very systematic and thorough “checklist” of cleaning and maintenance procedures to ensure barn cleanliness, efficiency and safety. He emphasized the importance of investing time up front to clean and sanitize barns; a single speck of feces can contaminate an entire barn with PEDV. Before bringing in new animals, it’s critical for barn surfaces to dry thoroughly following disinfection, as the drying process is critical to the actions of most disinfectants. In terms of resources, typically 3 men working together for 11 hours are used to clean a 2,500 head finisher barn at change-out.

Day 1 Pig Care:

Ashley Johnson (Zoetis) described the importance of day-1 pig care. In the U.S., 20% of pigs born are lost before weaning, and >50% of pre-weaning mortality occurs days 1 and 2. The best farms in the world are achieving 4-7% preweaning mortality; with 24-hour assisted-farrowing coverage. Maintaining a clean, warm and dry/draft-free environment is critical to the young piglet. It is also critical to monitor colostrum (main source of maternal antibodies, and critical to early piglet health), and early suckling to prevent starve-outs. Day 1 Pig care for newborn piglets will decrease those early piglet mortalities leading to more efficient production and a higher end dollar for producers.

Sow Housing:

Hyatt Forbose (Gestal) provided an informative review of group sow housing options, including small pens, free stall, large pens and ESF systems. Square footage recommendations were discussed, along with barn and pen layouts. Examples of retrofitted barn set ups were also shown, demonstrating positive and negative outcomes of the systems. He also showed data where sow mortality and productivity were similar between stalls and group housing. Hyatt noted that conversion to GSH is an opportunity to “right” size the sow herd to the producer’s goal. For example, batch farrowing can be considered and technology of ESF is an advantage to hire and attract young people.



Pictured above, Larry Firkins addresses the opening audience at the 2018 Michigan Pork Symposium.


Managing the Unexpected Outbreak:

Dr. Daniel Hendrickson (IVM) discussed various different diseases that affect swine production in the mid-west. Biosecurity methods to increase herd health were also discussed. He included suggestions for treatments and approaches to managing the different diseases.

Packer Audits:

Beth Ferry (MSU Extension). Once again, Beth has used humor and analogies to explain to the audience, the expectations and role of the producer and farm employee within the Common Swine Industry Audit (CSIA). Changes to the 2018 CSIA were reviewed with the audience. The areas that producers are finding the most challenging within the audit were also summarized and discussed.

Caring for the Gilt Through Her First Litter:

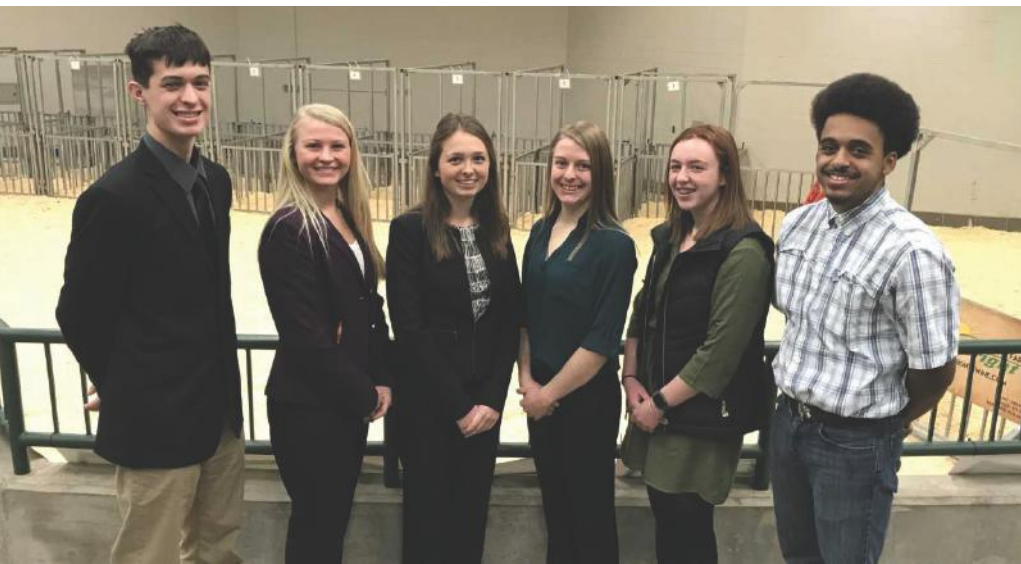
Stacey Voight and Rich Deaton (PIC/Birchwood) –Stacey and Rich focused on successful first parturition for the first time gilt aiding in a decrease in early mortality and a higher production rate and farm profitability. They noted that rear leg scoring in gilts is as important as teat and vulva scoring. They also noted factors affecting body condition scoring and supported the use of the sow caliper, when used correctly, as it provides a quantitative score when compared to visual body condition scoring. 

MPPA Awards Scholarships to Michigan Youth

An outstanding group of students came out on January 27th at the 2018 Green and White Education Fair and Show to contend for MPPA's Pork Industry scholarships. The students were interviewed by a panel made up of Mary Kelpinski, Michigan Pork Producers Association Chief Executive Officer, and industry representative Jackie Bass with Hog Slat. After the interview, the participants gave a presentation in front of the judges and other Green and White attendees. The judges had a tough decision to make and awarded three scholarships in total. The winners included:

Kelsy Bloomer- 1st place

Kelsy Bloomer is the daughter of Steve and Danielle Bloomer of Hudson and is currently attending Michigan State University. Kelsy has been involved with her local 4-H club for many years and is currently involved with the MSU Block and Bridle Club. She also works at the MSU Swine Farm. After graduating, Kelsy hopes to work in the production livestock industry.



Scholarship participants included Tanner Traflet; Iosco County, Payton Hines; Branch County, Emily Kittendorf; Monroe County, Kelsy Bloomer; Lenawee County, Laken Polega; Huron County and Malik McCorkle; Jackson County.

Emily Kittendorf - Tied for 2nd place

Emily Kittendorf, daughter of Kevin and Nancy Kittendorf, is a student at Michigan State University pursuing a degree in Animal Sciences and International Agriculture. She grew up in the Monroe County 4-H program and has shown swine at county, state, and national expositions for many years. Her activity in the industry has given her the opportunity to lead workshops in her district and attend clinics throughout the Midwest. At Michigan State, she has delved into policy related agriculture content and is looking forward to a future career working for the United States Department of Agriculture auditing swine farms.

Payton Hines - Tied for 2nd place

Payton Hines, daughter of Brian and Donna Hines, resides on a small hog farm in Quincy, Michigan. Payton has been active in swine shows and livestock judging contests across the country. She is a senior at Quincy High School and plans to attend Lakeland Community College in the fall in Mattoon, Illinois. After two years at Lakeland, Payton plans to transfer to a four-year University and attain a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Sales and Marketing. She plans to pursue a Master's Degree in Agricultural Economics and pursue a career in the swine industry. 🐷

2018 MYLSF Scholarship Application deadline May 15

Since 2000, the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) has awarded \$491,000 in scholarships and educational awards to outstanding youth who have exhibited at the premier livestock events in the state of Michigan.

New in 2018, a select number of applicants may be offered an opportunity to be interviewed for a \$5,000 scholarship prior to the Sale-Abration. The MYLSF scholarship committee will choose the top scholarship applicants in June to come back for an interview prior to the Sale-Abration.

To be eligible for either the MYLSF general scholarship or the statewide scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Michigan and a graduating high school senior or a high school

graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying.

For the MYLSF scholarship, the applicant must be a youth exhibitor at the Michigan Livestock Expo, the Michigan Dairy Expo or the former Michigan State Fair, for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the statewide scholarship, an applicant must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, or statewide exhibition for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application.

Applications and qualification requirements for the MYLSF and the statewide scholarship can be obtained at <http://www.michigan.gov/mda-mylsf>. Applications must be postmarked no later than 5 p.m. on May 15, 2018. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Haarer at 517-284-5642 or Ernie Birchmeier at 517-679-5335. 🐮

Agriculture Leaders: Tariffs on steel and aluminum could harm ag export markets

The Agricultural Leaders of Michigan (ALM) recently cautioned that new tariffs announced last week by the Trump administration on steel and aluminum, alongside uncertainty about the future of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), have created additional headwinds in an agricultural economy that's already in a downturn.

"We can't afford unforced errors on trade," said Dave Armstrong, president and CEO of GreenStone Farm Credit Services. "Whether we're talking about the steel tariffs recently announced, rhetoric directed against our trade partners, or threats to withdraw from NAFTA, none of that is good for business or good for rural economic prosperity."

Mary Kelpinski, CEO of the Michigan Pork Producers Association, said the U.S. pork industry exported almost \$6.5 billion worth of product last year – the second-highest total ever, representing 26 percent of U.S. pork production.

"Here in Michigan, 51 percent of our pork exports move across the border to Canada, and global exports are the fastest-growing aspect of our business," she said.

According to data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service (ERS), Michigan agricultural exports total nearly \$3 billion annually and support nearly 20,000 Michigan jobs.

"Trade remains one of the big issues on everyone's mind in the dairy industry, because we export products like nonfat dry milk to markets around the world, accounting for nearly \$249 million in dairy exports and boosting Michigan's economy by nearly \$500 million annually," said Ken Nobis, president of the Michigan Milk Producers Association. "We're worried that the rhetoric coming out of Washington is extremely anti-trade, and could result in worse circumstances for dairy farmers."

"We produce more than we can consume in the U.S., so for agriculture to be successful we have to trade and we have to have export customers," said Jim Byrum, president of the Michigan Agri-Business Association. "Other countries grow what we grow here, and they're anxious to find new export opportunities. Michigan agriculture needs certainty to maintain our export markets and continue to sell products abroad." 🐮



Information for an Industry on the Move

March 2018

Vol. 23 No.1

In This Issue...

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Preventing Spread at Shows

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Cruise Ship

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This newsletter is edited by:

Dr. Madonna Benjamin, MSU Extension Swine
Veterinarian, 517-614-8875,
gemus@msu.edu
& Emily Schmitt MPPA, Program Director

Investigating Influenza: Preventing Spread of IAV-S at Swine Shows

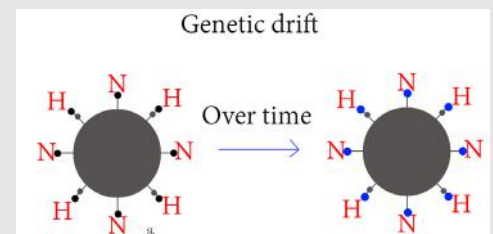
Sarah LaTrendesse, College of Veterinary
Medicine 2019, Michigan State University

Swine influenza, otherwise known as IAV-S (Influenza A virus-swine) or H1N1, has been a growing concern over the past several years and for good reason. The CDC estimates that 61 million people were infected with H1N1 in 2009 alone and as many as 575,000 people have died from H1N1 worldwide since its initial appearance in 2009. What makes this virus so infectious, and how can it's spread be limited?

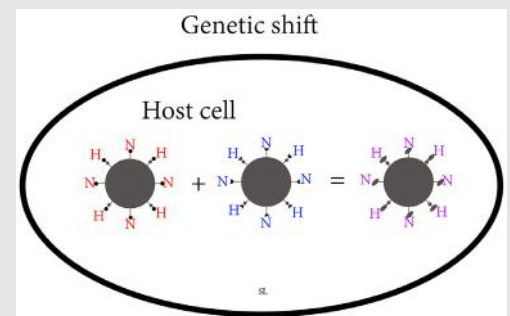
What even is a virus? Viruses are disease-causing agents that use the host's own cellular machinery to replicate and spread within the body and to the world beyond. Viruses generally damage host cells when they exit infected cells, leading to the symptoms seen or felt during viral infections.

You may notice that each year the influenza vaccine is different. This is because there are multiple strains of influenza and new strains are frequently formed. New strains result from changes to the genetic information of influenza viruses, and these changes occur through two primary mechanisms, genetic drift and shift. Genetic drift refers to very small changes in the genetic makeup of a virus that lead to limited alterations in the appearance of influenza virus. When a virus undergoes genetic shift, however, large changes are made to the DNA sequence of a virus and results in considerable alterations in the appearance of a virus.

Genetic drift results from much milder changes in influenza genetic material and lead to limited changes in the H and N of an influenza strain.



Genetic shift refers to transfer of large pieces of genetic material between two distinct strains of influenza virus, leading to new strains of influenza with H and N that are different from either of the original strain



Genetic shift leads to formation of viruses that can cause considerable harm to humans and animals due to rearrangement of two viral surface structures, referred to as hemagglutinin and neuraminidase (aka H and N). These pegs allow influenza viruses to attach to host cells and are what white blood cells, the bodies defense, recognize when an individual becomes infected with a form of influenza they have met previously. However, influenza can become unrecognizable to white blood cells when it rearranges its H and N through genetic shift, leading to disease and possibly even death in susceptible individuals.

What does it take for two unique influenza viruses to meet up undergo genetic shift? Proximity. Case in point - youth swine shows provide excellent opportunities for H1N1 and possibly other strains of influenza to be transmitted to people from swine or vice versa. Influenza, in general, is spread through two primary mechanisms. The first mechanism being transmission through aerosolized droplets that are released when pigs or people breath, cough, etc, and the second being when people or pigs come into contact with nasal secretions from either species.

Many individuals attending or participating in swine exhibitions are unaware that they are putting themselves and others at risk. A large Michigan swine show took place recently. The show was very well assembled with many outwardly healthy hogs participating. However, a large number of the exhibitors could be seen eating and drinking in the hog pens or very near (<10 feet away) hog pens. Not only that, but there were multiple areas set up along or in the alleyways where people were cooking



food in crockpots or had large trays of food. This may not seem problematic to the average individual, but these were high traffic areas which were visited by multiple people that had been handling hogs, increasing the possibility of these locations serving as reservoirs for H1N1 and other diseases.

The above diagram below shows 10 of the behaviors or actions which can lead to increased spread of influenza (and other diseases) between people and pigs at shows. It should be noted that all of the listed observations were seen at the show mentioned above.

In the graphic above, behaviors and observations which promote spread of influenza between humans and swine. 1: Shavings on the ground from pigs and people moving in and out of pens. 2: Slow cookers. 3: Containers with cut fruit. 4: Bags of chips, pretzels, and other easy to grab snack items that can be eaten as people move to and from pens. 5: Boxes of donuts, muffins, or pastries. 6: Bottles of pop or water being consumed by exhibitors while in pig pens. 7: Individuals carrying buckets in and out of pens would occasionally stop and grab a food item on their way to or from pens. 8: Coolers of food or beverages. 9: Consumption of finger foods in alleyways. 10: Pigs moving up and down alleyways next to people consuming food/beverages.

Some aspects of influenza cannot be controlled or prevented against,

such as genetic alterations leading to new influenza viruses. However, there are measures that can be taken to limit the spread of influenza and help prevent formation of previously unseen influenza strains. Don't attend swine shows if you think you might be sick with influenza. Don't eat or drink near swine and be sure to wash your hands before and after interacting with pigs and before consuming food or beverages. These steps may be simple and easily overlooked but are vital in limiting the spread of the disease which has infected millions.

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Biocontainment and a Cruise Ship – Oh the Irony!

By: Madonna Gemus, MSU Swine Veterinarian, gemus@msu.edu

I was most fortunate to have the opportunity to join several friends on a vacation at the end of January. The thought of several days in the sun and warmth far far away from the cold and blustery Michigan weather was something I had been looking forward to for several months. My friends and I decided to take a cruise for many reasons - the promise of great food, good entertainment, ease of transport, and plenty of off-ship activities should we choose to participate, to name only a few.

It's important to understand that as a swine vet it's quite possible that I may notice some things that others may not. The first thing I became aware of immediately upon boarding the ship was that probably over half of the 4,000 individuals on board could be classified as geriatric. The second thing I learned was that essentially once the gang ramp is lifted, with the exception of the entertainers, we were all trapped.....there were no new entrants, and nobody was leaving the ship. After hearing a few coughs and sniffles indicating the potential for influenza or other respiratory virus on board, knowing that norovirus (a nasty GI bug) can spread like wildfire on cruise ships, and having a sense that a large percentage of my co-inhabitants were likely susceptible to contracting any type of virus simply due to their age, I was interested to know whether the cruise ship had established practices that aimed to minimize spread from person to person. Do you see how my mind works? To me, this scenario isn't much different than trying to prevent the transfer (biocontainment) of a respiratory or GI virus in swine facilities.

A few years ago, when PEDv first affected our industry, I began working with Melissa Millerick-May – an industrial hygienist/exposure scientist whose research is focused on minimizing human and animal exposures to environmental contaminants (including viruses and bacteria) with an aim to prevent the development of disease. In speaking with her, she frequently talks about how small changes in behavior (think management routines) often at little-to-no cost can make a huge impact in terms of preventing illness, often resulting in the end in significant cost savings. She describes the most difficult task as trying to convince or 'train' a person to change a particular practice or way of working in a way that stops the 'spread' of contaminant, but she notes that once the change is made, the individual finds it to have been relatively easy.



In the 1960's, Dr. Maxwell Maltz reported that it only takes 21 days of changing a behavior to form a new 'habit'. The actual 'number of days' has been debated over the years, but I can tell you from my experience on the cruise, that when it comes to preventing the spread of pathogen amongst passengers, the staff whipped-us into ship-shape within a very short period of time. How did they do this?



1. Eliminating spread via control of food consumption: For the most part, what and where we ate was a tightly controlled operation, preventing the possibility of bacterial contamination of food as well as cross-contamination of food from outside pathogen sources. Food consumption was contained within designated dining areas. There were no take-away containers available with the exception of paper cups for beverages. All plates and cutlery were 'real', and the presentation of food was beautiful such that guests felt it was a 'privilege' to be afforded such a nice dining experience.

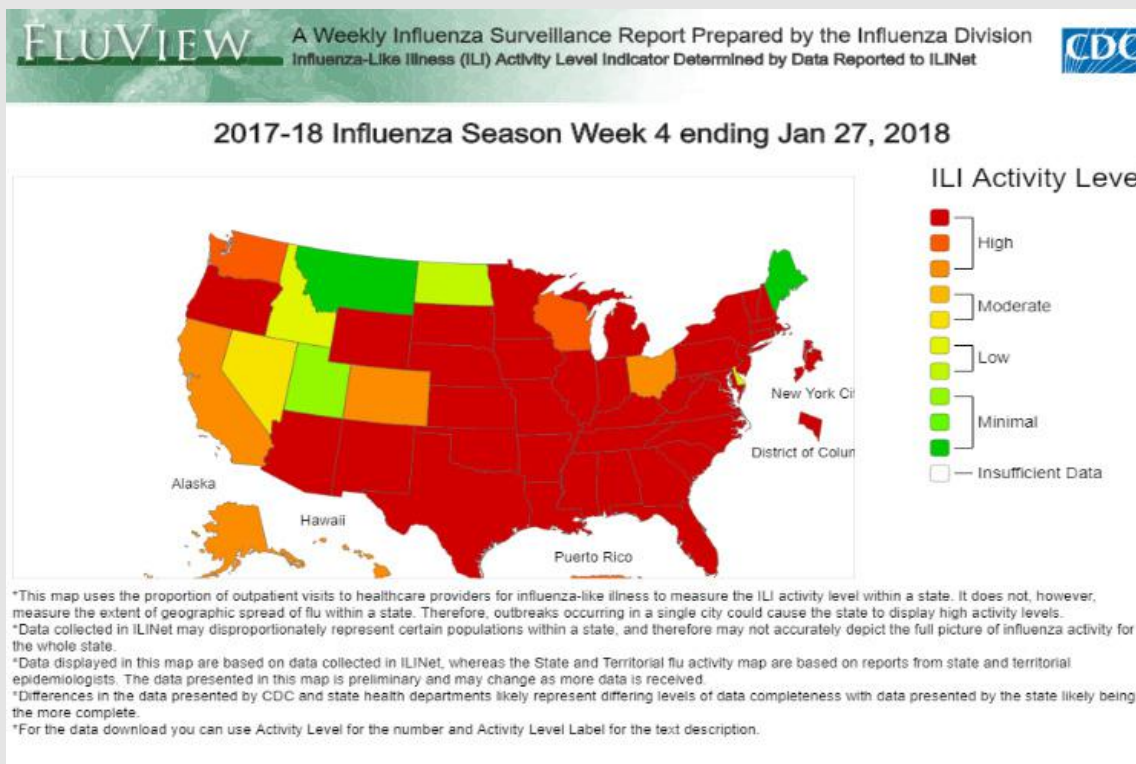
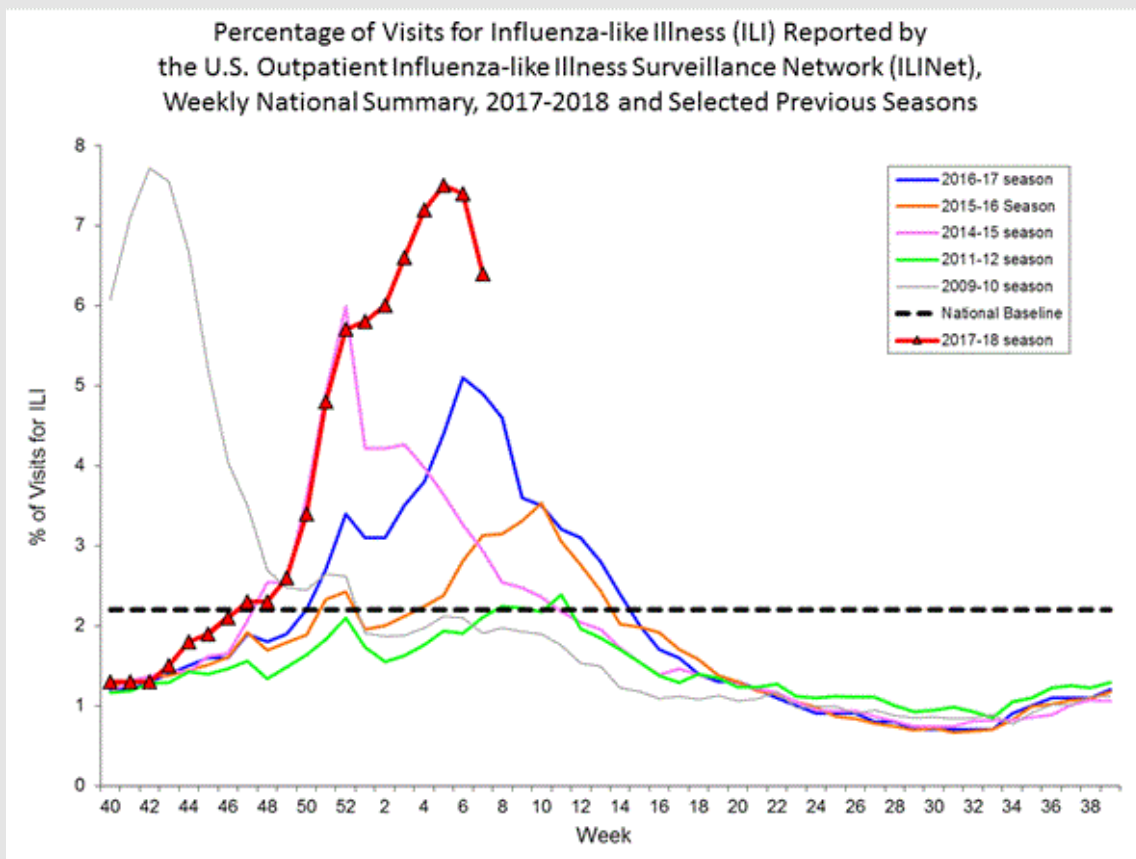
2. Controlling pathogen spread: Bacteria and viruses are often transferred from person to person or person to 'item' by contamination of the hands. Considering this, there was essentially an 'enforced' disinfection protocol on-board the ship. Prior to entering the dining rooms, salons, fitness room and even the elevators, there were hand disinfectant (Purell) stations, that dispensed copious amounts of antiseptic on to each guest's hands. Very quickly, we became aware that if we wanted to eat, we had

to disinfect our hands first. There were 2 lines formed for entry into the dining hall with a Purell station located at the head of each line. If you did not use the Purell, there was a person who ran over to you and squirted some in your hand. To avoid the insult of being chased down by a Purell Enforcer, people adopted the Pavlovian 'habit' of using the dispensers each and every time they came into view of a Purell station.

Perhaps due to these behavior changes, my co-inhabitants and I remained healthy. I did not hear coughing or sneezing, nor did I witness the nausea associated with GI bugs – other than perhaps some upright and jerky movements in the disco.

The rest of the United States were not so fortunate. The 2017-2018 season has seen the highest levels of influenza like illness (ILI) cases since 2009. (Shown at right). In the same week that we were enjoying balmy breezes and drinking Lemon Drops (yummy!), the ILI activity for most states was ranked high.

The point behind this story ... I have been converted to the Melissa Millerick-May (M3) way of thinking ... that efforts should be focused on controlling pathogen “at the source”. With Melissa’s knowledge, the creation and adoption of exposure control methods and with just a few changes in human behavior, we can bio-contain virus and bacteria before they spread.



Please join me in boarding the 'Love Boat' of pathogen control. I think you will find it helpful in not only preserving your own health, but also protecting the health of your herds. Want to know more about this approach? Contact me at gemus@msu.edu.

INFLUENZA AND YOU

By: James Averill, DVM, PhD, Michigan State Veterinarian

We have all heard about influenza A virus, otherwise known as the flu, and many of us have first-hand experience with the coughing, fever, chills, and body aches that come with it. 2017-2018 has been a particularly bad year for the flu, with many being sidelined from work or school for days after getting diagnosed with influenza. And while experts think the season has peaked and the infection rate will start to come down soon, the epidemic could last many more weeks or months, possibly even into the summer months.

Why is this important?

Influenza A is a virus that infects not only people, but also pigs and birds. Each species, whether people, pigs, or birds, typically has their own subtype of Influenza A virus that commonly infects and easily spreads within their own species. Humans have their own subtype that commonly circulates amongst people and pigs have their own subtype that commonly spreads between pigs. Occasionally, a pig or person is sick with the flu and the virus can jump between species. This is especially important at events where people and pigs come together, like at county fairs. The higher the incidence of circulating flu, the more likely there will be transfer between species. Influenza subtypes that infect a new species usually results in severe illness, especially in people, sometimes resulting in hospitalization, or even death. It's crucial that precautions are taken at exhibitions and fairs to minimize the potential for transfer of virus between pigs and people.

So what can be done to minimize risk?

The best way to minimize risk is to vaccinate pigs, reduce stress, increase biosecurity, and minimize contact between pigs and people.

These precautions start months before fair time. Vaccination of show pigs with an appropriate Influenza vaccine well in advance of exhibitions can reduce the chance that they may become ill with influenza during fair. Most flu vaccines for pigs require two or more injections and must be completed at least a month in advance of exhibition. Additionally, there are withdrawal times, usually 30 days after vaccination, before pigs are allowed to go to market. It's important to work with your veterinarian and follow label instructions.


Reducing stress in show pigs is not an easy task. Exhibition in general is a stressful event for pigs. The pigs

are taken from their familiar surroundings, shipped on a trailer, and housed in a hot barn with a lot of other pigs and hundreds of strangers wandering through looking at them. Research has shown that minimizing the time pigs are in these conditions to 72 hours or less reduces the number of pigs that break with influenza infection at the fair. This in turn reduces the chance that people will get flu from pigs when visiting the swine barn.

It is a decision for each fair board to make, however finding ways to limit pigs' time at the fair to three days will decrease rates of illness. One option is to stagger shows so breeding pigs are on the fairgrounds for the first three days, followed by a day for cleaning and disinfection of the swine barn, and then terminal pig shows for the last half of the fair. Every fair is different, and many fairs have found creative solutions that help exhibitors, the public and the pigs have a valuable and healthy experience.

Additionally, transporting pigs to the fair and showing them during cooler evening or early morning hours can reduce stress. Remember to always keep pigs well hydrated and cool, using box fans and frequent water spritzes. Minimizing stress keeps them healthier.

Lastly, biosecurity at the fair can not be emphasized enough. No matter how well show pigs are managed and how much their stress is minimized, it is possible that one pig in the fair will none-the-less break with a respiratory illness. Practicing good biosecurity will help reduce the spread of that illness to other pigs at the fair and result in less chance of exposure to the public. Cleaning and disinfecting weigh-in scales and sorting boards between loads at check in and nightly disinfection of wash stations will go a long way to minimizing spread of any illness in the barn. Keeping the public six feet or more from pens, limiting the public's barn access to a few hours of the day, and prohibiting them from eating or drinking in the barn are all good risk-mitigating practices. Lastly, hand sanitizers throughout the barn, and hand wash stations at its entrance and exit are essential.

Fair time is a special time of the year for everyone and a tradition valued by many. Good weather, good food, time with family and friends, and hours of independence and growth for exhibitors. By following these practices, we can make sure everyone stays healthy and fairs continue to be a place where the public can learn more about agriculture. 

All comments and suggestions should be directed to the:

MSU Pork Team

Dale Rozeboom: Extension Specialist
(517) 355-8398, rozeboom@msu.edu

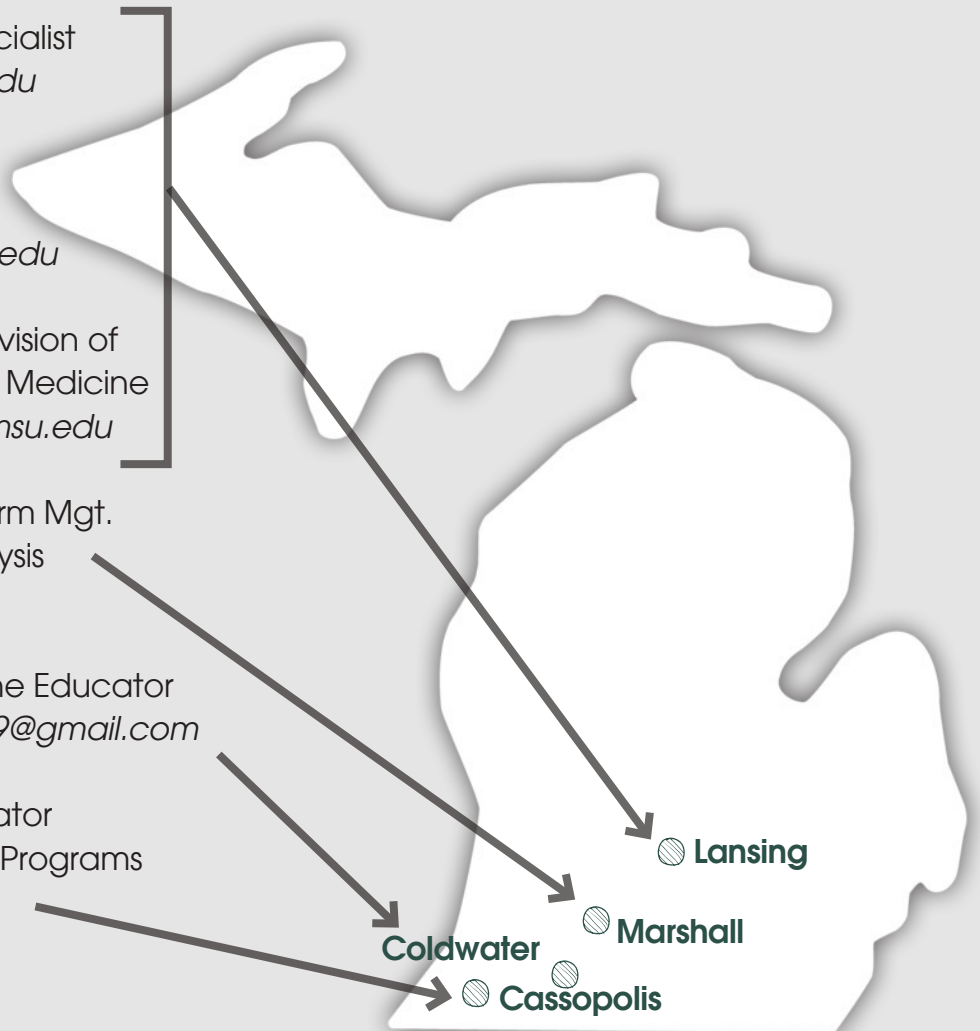
Madonna Benjamin:
Extension Swine Vet
(517) 614-8875, gemus@cvm.msu.edu

Melissa Millerick-May: MSU, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
(517) 432-0707, melissa.may@hc.msu.edu

Roger Betz: Southwest District Farm Mgt.
Finance, Cash Flow, Business Analysis
(269) 781-0784, betz@msu.edu

Dave Thompson: Extension Swine Educator
(269) 832-8403, davethompson729@gmail.com

Beth Ferry: Southwest Pork Educator
Management, Quality Assurance Programs
(269) 445-4438, franzeli@msu.edu



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MICHIGAN STATE

U N I V E R S I T Y

Extension



Capital Update

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

CONGRESS PASSES, PRESIDENT SIGNS OMNIBUS SPENDING BILL WITH NPPC-SUPPORTED PROVISIONS

A \$1.3 trillion federal spending bill was passed by Congress recently. The bill provides solutions for several priority issues for which NPPC and other agriculture groups have persistently worked for adoption. It includes a Section 199A fix to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that will restore free-market competition and ensure a level playing field for U.S. grain markets. Currently, Section 199A grants farmers a larger tax deduction if they sell their agricultural products to cooperatives, leaving independently-owned buyers at a disadvantage. The spending bill also provides a permanent exemption for farmers from reporting air emissions from manure under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation & Liability Act (CERCLA) and grants livestock haulers an exemption from the Electronic-Logging Device (ELD) rule until Sept. 30, 2018.

PRESIDENT TRUMP ANNOUNCES PLANS TO IMPOSE TARIFFS ON CHINESE IMPORTS; CHINA RESPONDS WITH RETALIATION PLANS

President Trump recently announced plans to levy tariffs of approximately \$60 billion on yet-to-be determined Chinese imports. Based on Section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 – which allows the chief executive to “take all appropriate action, including retaliation, to eliminate any act, policy or practice of a foreign government that violates an international trade agreement or is unjustified, unreasonable or discriminatory and that burdens or restricts U.S. commerce” – the tariffs follow a U.S. Trade Representative investigation that concluded that U.S. companies have lost billions of dollars from being forced by China to disclose intellectual property and to

transfer technology. China responded later in the day with plans to levy tariffs on a range of U.S. products, including a 25 percent duty on pork. NPPC, which, along with other sectors of U.S. agriculture, has expressed major concern about the risk of retaliation against food and agriculture exports to China, issued the following statement. China is the number two export market for U.S. pork as measured by volume and number three based on value.

The National Pork Producers Council warned that possible Chinese tariffs on U.S. pork could have a significant negative impact on rural America. China has indicated it will impose the duties in response to U.S. tariffs and restrictions – announced recently – being placed on a host of Chinese goods.

“We sell a lot of pork to China, so higher tariffs on our exports going there will harm our producers and undermine the rural economy,” said NPPC President Jim Heimerl, a pork producer from Johnstown, Ohio. “No one wins in these tit-for-tat trade disputes, least of all the farmers and the consumers.”

Last year, the U.S. pork industry exported \$1.1 billion of product to China, making that country the No. 3 value market for U.S. pork.

Many economists, including Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes, have cautioned that tariffs on U.S. agricultural products could disrupt exports to China. Lost sales would have severe economic consequences for America’s farmers, who shipped nearly \$20 billion of goods to the Asian nation in 2017.

The U.S. restrictions on Chinese imports come after an inquiry by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) into China’s practices related to technology transfer, licensing and intellectual property rights.

USTR’s Section 301 – of the 1974 Trade Act – investigation determined that U.S. companies have lost

billions of dollars from being forced by China to disclose intellectual property and to transfer technology.

“When it comes to trade, we expect all countries to follow international rules and to trade fairly,” Heimerl said. “We also expect all countries to resolve trade disputes in a way that doesn’t harm businesses, farmers and consumers.”

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES STEEL AND ALUMINUM TARIFF EXEMPTIONS; PROVIDES UPDATE ON KORUS RENEGOTIATION

Testifying before the Senate Finance Committee, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer announced exemptions for Australia, Argentina, the European Union and South Korea from the implementation of President Trump’s proposed steel and aluminum tariffs. These countries join Mexico and Canada on the list of nations currently exempted, with conditions, from tariffs of 25 percent on steel imports and 10 percent on aluminum imports. Recently, at a hearing conducted by the House Ways and Means Committee, Ambassador Lighthizer said the administration plans to finalize its steel and aluminum tariff exemption process by the end of April. He also said South Korea – the fifth largest export market for U.S. pork – may become permanently exempt from the tariffs, pending the successful adoption of amendments to the U.S.-South Korea free trade agreement (KORUS), noting that he expected this negotiation to be completed soon. Appearing before the Ways and Means Committee, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross said the administration is mindful of the concerns over potential retaliatory measures that will be taken against U.S. agriculture goods based on U.S. steel and aluminum tariffs.

FDA WILL USE ENFORCEMENT DISCRETION FOR LIVE ANIMAL IMPORTS

Recently the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, at

the request of NPPC and other groups, released guidance on its intent to use enforcement discretion and not apply the Food Safety Modernization Act’s (FSMA) Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) to importers of live animals. The FSVP – issued by the FDA in November 2015 – requires food importers to ensure that foreign suppliers are held to the same food safety standards as those in FSMA. Though the rule did exempt the importation of meat products subject to inspection by USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service, it did not exempt the importation of live animals intended for food. This would have imposed costly requirements for importers of live food animals, despite the fact that inspection of most live animals imported for food use, including pigs, falls under the jurisdiction of the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service. The FDA – referencing the USDA’s predominant role in overseeing the inspection of live animals intended for food use – will now exercise enforcement discretion and not apply the requirements of the FSVP to any pigs imported for slaughter, feeding, breeding or exhibition purposes.

USDA PROPOSES PORK SLAUGHTER RULE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture issued its proposed Modernization of Swine Slaughter Inspection rule, which would make available to all pork packing plants the 20-year-old Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP)-based Inspection Models Project (HIMP). That pilot program enables USDA’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) to better focus its resources to ensure safe products are entering the food supply. The program currently is in place at 20 broiler processing facilities, five hog and five turkey plants. Under HIMP, packing plants could take greater responsibility for carcass inspection, with FSIS employees ensuring the effectiveness of the activities as well as focusing on other food-safety verification tasks. NPPC strongly supports the rule, which also will expedite the incorporation of new food-safety technologies in packing plants.



Pork Checkoff

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

NATIONAL PORK BOARD COLLABORATION CONTINUES TO MULTIPLY CHECKOFF VALUE FOR FARM-LEVEL RESEARCH

The National Pork Board has announced a new collaboration with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR), a nonprofit established in the 2014 Farm Bill, to support a competitive research program to improve pig health, productivity and well-being. The end goal is to improve pig survival during all stages of production. The joint venture has \$2 million of grant funds available to potential investigators.

As U.S. pork producers strive to produce more pork in a sustainable way, animal care, pig health, well-being and productivity are all critical pieces of production. This grant program is designed to focus research, education and training in these key areas of pork production to help producers achieve their goals in a responsible way.

“As animal caretakers, America’s pig farmers strive to give their animals the best opportunity to reach marketable weight,” said Dustin Kendall, a swine nutritionist with Prestage Farms in Clinton, North Carolina and chair of the National Pork Board’s Animal Science Committee. “Unfortunately, data from the Pork Checkoff’s Industry Productivity Analysis suggests the trends are negative in this area. Focusing Checkoff funds in this underserved research area will allow us to find solutions that significantly benefit all of our producer stakeholders.”

The grant funding is anticipated to be awarded to one scientifically diverse group of researchers willing to pool talent and resources to make a significant, immediate impact on pig survival. Potential research areas may include health, genetics, nutrition, facility design, management, monitoring, economics and welfare.

“The most meaningful agricultural research is designed

in partnership with stakeholders,” said Sally Rockey, executive director of the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research. “The Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research is pleased to join the National Pork Board to support this important initiative to address swine mortality rates on farms across the United States.” In addition to research, successful applicants are expected to conduct outreach to industry stakeholders and train graduate and veterinary students involved as assistants on the project. Applicants are required to submit a clearly defined outreach plan with specific objectives for disseminating research results to the scientific community as well as to pork producers and their staff.

“Investing Checkoff funds in production research makes a real difference at the farm level,” said Chris Hostetler, director of animal science at the National Pork Board. “In fact, every dollar invested in production research returns \$83 in industry-wide benefit according to a third-party audit by Cornell University. This collaboration with FFAR is just one of the ways producer dollars can be leveraged to magnify the return on investment.”

Potential applicants should contact Chris Hostetler at chostetler@pork.org. Applications are due May 15, 2018.

2018 PIG FARMERS OF TOMORROW NAMED

The National Pork Board announced that Adam Krause from South Dakota and Emma Lasco and Christine Snowden, both from Iowa, have been named the 2018 Pig Farmers of Tomorrow. They were recognized at the 2018 National Pork Industry Forum in Kansas City.

“It is important for the Pork Checkoff to recognize the future leaders of the pork industry,” said National Pork Board President Terry O’Neel, a pork producer from Friend, Nebraska. “We are excited for these young farmers to share their unique stories with consumers.”

The award recognizes farm leaders, ages 18-29, who intend to make pig farming their life's work and who are committed to raising pigs using the pork industry's We CareSM ethical principles. The winners will speak at Pork Checkoff events and provide content on #RealPigFarming, which is the pork industry's social media program.

Krause is the fourth generation on his family farm near Clear Lake, South Dakota. He owns a pig nursery barn and grows corn, soybean and wheat.

"I'm excited to share my story with the public," Krause said. "As farmers, we must share with consumers what we do on the farm every day to provide the best care for our pigs."

Lasco is a territory manager for Smithfield Foods Midwest Production in Roland, Iowa. She assists growers with implementing Smithfield's industry-leading animal care standards on their farms.

"It is important for people in the pork industry to speak up so that our story gets told correctly," Lasco said. "We are committed to caring for animals daily and are passionate about keeping them safe, comfortable and healthy. At the end of the day, the care that we provide animals translates into safe and wholesome products for consumers."

Snowden is an assistant farrowing manager for AMVC, located in Audubon, Iowa. She works with other employees to care for piglets from birth until they are weaned.

"Working in the pork industry is a rewarding career," Snowden said. "Not only do you get to work with animals every day, but you get a sense of pride by helping to provide pork for consumers here in the United States."

THE SCIENCE OF GENE EDITING TAKES CENTER STAGE AT PORK INDUSTRY FORUM

Science, technology and global health author and journalist Michael Specter opened the annual pork industry forum March 1, offering his insights on gene editing to the more than 350 pig farmers and pork industry professionals

on site in Kansas City.

Specter, who writes for The New Yorker and is currently working on a book about the breakthrough technology of gene editing, served as keynote speaker. He then led a conversation with a renowned panel of pork industry experts who each shared their perspective on the role of this emerging technology.

"Gene editing is a potentially revolutionary tool that will improve the lives of humans in clear and tangible ways," Specter said. "And we may well see the first widely accepted benefits in animals and plants. There is a clear opportunity for the agriculture industry to lead the way."

In its simplest definition, gene editing technology allows for precise changes to be made to the DNA of living cells, which holds the potential to eradicate diseases, transform agriculture and enable massive leaps forward in environmental and life science. Specter and the panel's presentation in Kansas City offered a single forum for those with a stake in pork production to share ideas on its application to the global pork industry. The panel of experts, facilitated by Specter, included:

- Charlie Arnot, CEO of Look East and an industry leader on food and agriculture issues, offered insight into consumer social acceptance of gene editing.
- Dan Kovich, a veterinarian and director of science and technology with the National Pork Producers Council, discussed the current regulatory environment for this emerging technology.
- Kevin Wells, on the animal science faculty at the University of Missouri's college of agriculture, food and natural resources, highlighted the scientific benefits associated with gene editing.
- Bradley Wolter, president of The Maschoffs LLC, and a pork producer in Illinois, reviewed gene editing's potential on-farm application.

"We have to start now by generating social acceptance of gene editing," Arnot said. "That means overcoming the public's scientific illiteracy by opening a dialogue to build both acceptance and support. This will allow us to move forward as a society."

Pork Producers celebrate Ag Day at the Capitol

Farmers from across the state joined the leaders of agricultural commodity organizations in Lansing March 13 to celebrate Michigan's food and agricultural successes over the last 100 years while highlighting their vision for future growth of the industry during the annual Michigan Food and Agriculture Day at the Capitol. This year's Food and Ag Day event featured numerous commodity organizations representing everything from pork to cherries to Christmas trees to potatoes and more.

At far right, Michigan Pork Producers Association board member Dennis DeYoung, Plainwell, stands with his State Representative Mary Whiteford. Dennis also gave out ham-wrapped asparagus to attendees at the Capitol and talked with guests as well as legislators and staff about the pork industry. At right, Dr. James Averill, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development State Veterinarian enjoys a pork sample.



Iowa Pig Farmer Appointed America's Pig Farmer of the Year

The National Pork Board has named Leon Sheets, a pig farmer from Ionia, Iowa, as America's Pig Farmer of the Year[®] for the remainder of 2017-18 program year. The previous winner, Leslie McCuiston, stepped down after taking a new position in the agricultural industry where she will not directly work with pigs, which is an ongoing requirement for the role.

"With the unexpected change, the National Pork Board reached out to our America's Pig Farmer of the year judging panel," said Terry O'Neel, a pig farmer from Friend, Nebraska, and president of the National Pork Board. "The panel unanimously voted to elevate Sheets, a finalist from last fall, with the move adopted and supported by all members of

the National Pork Board."

For McCuiston's part, she said, "First and foremost I would like to congratulate Leon and thank him for graciously stepping into the role of America's Pig Farmer of the Year. He is a great representative of what pig farmers do every day. Although it's bittersweet for me, on a personal level, one must evaluate professional opportunities as they are presented. I am excited to continue working with pig farmers and veterinarians in my new role."

Raising pigs has been a life-long passion for Sheets, who started farming 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 grows corn, soybeans, hay and cover crops.

"Working with pigs has been a rewarding profession," Sheets said. "Every morning I wake up to new challenges, along with knowing what to expect when I head to the barns," said Sheets. "Living on a farm is more of a lifestyle than simply a job. I look forward to sharing my passion and experience with others."

The annual award recognizes a pig farmer who excels at raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles and who connects with today's consumers about how pork is produced. Leon will serve in the role until a new America's Pig Farmer of the Year is announced in October 2018. 



2018 MSU GREEN AND WHITE

On January 26-28, more than 200 youth participated with more than 300 pigs taking part in the 2018 Green and White Education Fair and Show. The show kicked off Friday evening with a showmanship clinic and showmanship classes.

Saturday featured a variety of classes and competitions including a breeds division for registered hogs. Other classes included futurity, showmanship and market classes. Participants of all ages participated in educational competitions like Skillathon and an Extemporaneous Speaking Contest. This allows participants to not only showcase their animal expertise, but also all of their accumulated swine knowledge.

An additional show was added on Sunday.

MPPA would like to thank all of the volunteers who helped make the day a success and look forward to seeing you all next year! 🐷



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We're Listening

Dear MPPA,

On behalf of the Michigan State University community, I thank the Michigan Pork Producers Association for the donation for the Great Lakes Leadership Academy Program Endowment Fund.

We are grateful for your support of our efforts. These funds will be allocated according to your designation; and the university will be strengthened because of your generous contribution.

Lou Anna K. Simon,

Past President, Michigan State University

Dear MPPA,

Thank you for your support and sponsoring the 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Workshop. Without your support, some youth would not be able to attend these sessions. Throughout this workshop, I have learned a lot about biosecurity, swine food/health management, record keeping, showmanship and market quality tips when showing. Thank you again for your support. Without it, I would not be able to gain this knowledge and learn about what I love!

Nadine Page,

Mecosta County

Dear MPPA,

Many thanks to you for awarding me the Distinguished Service Award! The award is very meaningful to me. Thanks for the award and for all the work you put in to make the pork expo day a great event!

Dr. Jim Kober

2018 MPPA Distinguished Service Award Recipient,
Holland, Michigan

Dear MPPA,

Thank you so much for helping us attend the 4-H Veterinary Science Workshop at the Kettunen Center. I have been going to this program for five years and I always learn something new. I love the hands-on activities, and the opportunities I have to ask questions. I am already looking forward to next year. Thanks again!


Izzy Maguffee

Barry County



Public Notice by MPPA and the National Pork Board

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2019 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 13, 2018 in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of Michigan Pork Producers Association in the GreenStone Farm Credit Services Building at 3515 West Road, Room 112, East Lansing, MI 48823. All Michigan pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information, contact Michigan Pork Producers Association, 3515 West Road, Suite B, East Lansing, MI 48823, 517-853-3782. 



Calendar of Events

June:

6-8 World Pork Expo

Des Moines, IA

13 MPPA Board Meeting

East Lansing, Mich.

15-16 Spartan Classic

East Lansing, Mich.

17 Spartan Jackpot

East Lansing, Mich.

July:

12-15 Michigan Livestock Expo

East Lansing, Mich.

Oct.:

16 Taste of Elegance

Michigan Restaurant Show

Novi, Mich.

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Helping elect friends of the Michigan pork industry.

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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.

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PEACH-GLAZED PORK CHOPS

PREP TIME: 5 mins

COOK TIME: 20 mins

TOTAL TIME: 25 mins

Foil packets make grilling almost fool-proof. These two-ingredient Peach-Glazed Pork Chops have the perfect grilled summer flavor!

Serves 6-8

INGREDIENTS

6-8 pork chops, $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch thick

16-ounce jar peach preserves

INSTRUCTIONS: Grill pork chops over high heat for 1-2 minutes on each side, just until seared.

Place chops on a 24-inch (or longer) length of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Spoon preserves over chops. Wrap in foil, forming a packet.

Grill over medium-high heat another 10-15 minutes until chops are cooked through, to a minimum internal temperature of 145 degrees F measured with a meat thermometer.

