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Meetings Focused on Ag, Local Zoning Conflicts



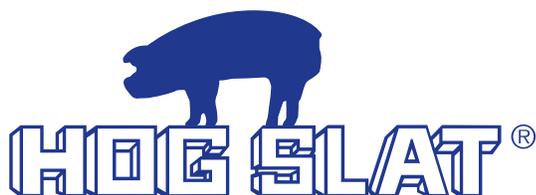
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SPOTLIGHT

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On the cover: New MPPA board member Rick Sietsema and family at the Clemens Food Group Pork Processing Plant open house in Coldwater, MI.

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By: Emily Schmitt

MPPA PROGRAM
DIRECTOR

Meet New Board Member: Rick Sietsema

Michigan Pork Producers Association would like to welcome one its newest board members, Rick Sietsema. Rick is the Chief Financial Officer for his family's agricultural operations. With offices located in Allendale, Michigan, the Sietsema family has two feed mills with a fleet of commodities and feed delivery trucks. The family has swine farrowing operations in both Michigan and Ontario, Canada and finishes 700,000 market hogs each year. Sietsema farms also finishes 1.4 million turkeys annually.



Agriculture has been a long history for the Sietsema family, dating back to the 1940s.

“My grandparents had a dairy where I spent summers helping feed cattle, bale hay and cultivate crops,” Rick said. “When my dad started a turkey farm, we had morning chores before school and evening chores after school.”

The Sietsema farming operation has changed and expanded over the years, but with the same goal in mind.

“We are committed to producing the safest, highest quality food available to consumers locally and worldwide, and continuing to be positive examples in all our agribusiness activities,” Rick said. “We participate in many different voluntary certification programs (MAEAP, Pure Michigan Agriculture, National Pork Producers Council, Pork Quality Assurance and Transport Quality Assurance) to ensure we are using the most up-to-date practices to meet consumer demands and produce safe food.”

“We have seen more and more regulations and associated costs that require a production system to grow in order to offset these costs and have appropriate team members to address them,” Rick added. “While margins continue to get thinner and thinner, producers are required to get themselves closer to consumers through various avenues, be it directly marketing locally or tightened relationships vertically with suppliers and packers.”

As the agricultural industry continues to change, Rick hopes to turn



Pictured above, new MPPA board member Rick Sietsema and his family at the opening of one of their operations.



Pictured above, new MPPA board member Rick Sietsema (front row, second from right) at the ground-breaking ceremony for the Clemens Food Group Pork Processing Plant in Coldwater, MI in 2015.

obstacles into opportunities.

“Consolidation of the industry is challenging, yet it will happen with or without us, so get on board,” he said. “Another challenge is keeping up with the trends in consumer preferences, many times driven by sales promotions as opposed to an informed consumer.”

Rick has always had a passion for agriculture, but his favorite part of his job is working with the people in the industry.

“Those not associated with farming will never know our common desire and the efforts put forth toward stewardship of our resources and livestock,” he said.

As the family’s agricultural ventures have expanded, family has always been at the center of it all.

“Agriculture is in our family’s

roots,” Rick said. “Everyone in pork production will know my father Harley. He’s the epicenter of our business’s success and growth over the past 40+ years. I’ve been married 34 years to my wife, Dalayne, and we have three children. Our daughter Kristi works for us in Human Resources and contract production relations. Our son, Eric, works for us in Information Technology and systems development. My brother, Jamy, is lead management of our cropping and excavation teams. My sister, Tina, works as Payroll management and in communications.”

Rick and Dalayne have another daughter, Kelsey, who works as a police officer on the Grand Valley State University department.

Along with being a member of Michigan Pork Producers

Association, Rick is active in Farm Bureau, Michigan and National Poultry and Turkey Associations, American Feed Industry Association, his local church, International Bowhunters Organization and Safari Club International.

“Industry issues can only be addressed as a team effort,” Rick said about why it is important to be active in these organizations. “Any one individual can have input, but not nearly the same impact as a larger group of organized associates.”

When Rick is not busy with his expansive operation, he can be found enjoying the great outdoors.

“I shoot competition archery and bow hunt many different big game species from deer to Brown Bear,” he said. 🐻

“Seasonal Updates”



By: Bob Dykhuis
MPPA PRESIDENT

I am writing this during the weekend before Christmas. It is the quiet before the storm in our family. I traveled to two national meetings in the last couple of weeks. My musings will be a taking stock in the interesting information I picked up in the meetings or the hallways. It is all important.

The stock market seems to have caught what the ag commodities market has. There are signs that the world economy is slowing down and that may cause our economy to slow. This slowing may lead to credit default issues in some countries and may also lead to unrest that may disrupt the production of some of our competitor countries. We are fortunate to have a stable, safe, reliable government and institutions that give us a real competitive advantage when other countries become unstable. We have a lot of product that we produce and are trying to buy market share with low prices. National Pork Board data would suggest that our domestic market is consuming four to five percent more pork this year. THAT IS AMAZING PEOPLE!!!! That would compare to an increase of sixteen to twenty percent in exports because exports are only twenty to twenty five percent of production. We look to exports for delivery, but our home market is saving us right now. Can this continue? In the past we reduced the sow herd by eight to ten percent over a period of two years to bring the market back to decent profitability. It appears to be better this time. If we could increase exports it will help pull us through.

There are issues with production that may be disease but are more of a syndrome that makes existing disease or production worse. Is it PRRS, or Circo, or labor or the breeding stock companies screwing things up. Negative margins make producers uneasy and if you can't find a target then everything is a target.

The leadership of the Pork industry is engaged in preventing and minimizing the results of a foreign animal disease (FAD) introduction. Today it is African Swine Fever. We had a lot of involvement with producers, USDA and State Departments of Agriculture during the Pseudorabies Program. That was a generation ago that we cleaned that up. We need to strengthen those relationships so we do not have to start over during a crisis. The Secure Pork Supply Plan will be very important to producers in the future. Learn about it (securepork.org) and get on board when you can. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Jim Kober at Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development as the swine veterinarian. He is a relevant hog vet and understands the needs of the industry. He is trying to be proactive in preparing to deal with an outbreak of FAD. We need to work with him so he can support us when things turn ugly. Relationships are important in adversity.

Our modern pork industry was largely built by Baby Boomers. We are in a transition time. Some families are working on it, some are thinking about it, and some are going to bury the farm with them. This work is the toughest thing I have ever done. I know others feel the same way. We need to keep at that too.

It has been a good winter so far! Thanks. 

Registration Now Open for the Pork Management Conference

The National Pork Board will host its annual Pork Management Conference, April 16-19, in Nashville, Tennessee. At the annual conference, a diverse set of experts from across the country will address business trends and challenges facing the U.S. pork industry. Through presentations, breakout sessions and networking, attendees will gain important insight into the pork industry and its challenges along with learning more about financial management practices to improve

the performance and efficiency of pig farming.

“The Pork Management Conference continues to be an important event for pork producers,” said Emily Erickson, chair of the Pork Checkoff’s Producer and State Services Committee and a pig farmer from Jackson, Minnesota. “It is exciting to have a great line up of guest presenters and industry experts who will provide valuable knowledge and insight for our producers and other attendees.”

In addition to the general sessions

on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, two concurrent afternoon sessions are planned for Thursday. Topics will include benchmarking, disaster recovery, risk management, research and development, tax credits, finding and keeping talented workers, accounting, and tax updates.

Registration is \$425 per person through March 22 and \$475 after that. No refunds will be made after March 29. A registration form and a detailed list of events are available at pork.org/pmc. 



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Brent Wilson
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By: Mary Kelpinski

MPPA CHIEF
EXECUTIVE
OFFICER

“Take home great information from the Michigan Pork Symposium”

It's hard to believe that winter is half over and spring is just around the corner. This time of year always means meeting-season for many of the agricultural organizations in Michigan. Michigan Pork Producers Association is no different, as we are hosting our annual Pork Symposium February 20, 2019 at the Lansing Center.

With African Swine Fever (ASF) hitting China and the thought of it making its way across our borders, this year we thought it would be important to focus on animal and herd health. We have a variety of speakers talking about herd health plans, the importance of ventilation, vaccination programs and of course, African Swine Fever.

While ASF does not affect human health, it is a great threat to swine health. In response to the current situation in China and other countries, the National Pork Board has been working closely with the National Pork Producers Council, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians and the Swine Health Information Center to monitor the situation and collaborate with the USDA. The organizations are working collaboratively to gather intelligence, engage subject matter experts, assess risk and determine appropriate actions moving forward to address the issue.

As a state, we feel that this symposium is a great opportunity to help increase awareness among our producers about how to help prevent the spread of disease and keep our animals safe. The event allows producers and industry representatives to gather to discuss the current state of the pork industry in Michigan. We hope you take advantage of the information that our speakers have to offer and implement increased biosecurity practices on your farm. We also hope you utilize the opportunity to prepare a Secure Pork Supply Plan in case of a foreign animal disease outbreak in the United States.

For more information on the symposium, visit mipork.org/michigan-pork-conference/. 

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Two Million Servings Strong: Hams Across America Tackles Food Insecurity

More than half a million pounds of pork comprising, nearly 2.2 million servings, were distributed in 2018 through the Hams Across America program.

“As pig farmers, our We CareSM ethical principles are the core of who we are as farmers, and it is important for us to not only talk about them but to live them out every day,” said Steve Rommereim, president of the National Pork Board and a pig farmer from Alcester, South Dakota. “Hams Across America allows myself and other farmers to live the We Care ethical principles and share our love of the product that we produce.”

The program that ran from “Giving Tuesday,” Nov. 27, through the Christmas holiday, was dedicated to helping overcome the challenge of food insecurity. In 2018 in the United States, Hams Across America was supported by a record number of participants, with more than 120 individuals and businesses contributing time, resources, and pork to the nationwide effort organized and managed by the National Pork Board, the National Pork Producers Council, state pork associations, and U.S. pig farmers.

In its third year, the pork industry responded strongly to the Hams Across America call to action. Smithfield Foods and Prairie Fresh[®] Pork participated as major contributors to the program, showcasing and exemplifying the We

Care ethical principle of contributing to a better way of life in communities around the nation. The principles are an integral part of how today’s pig farmers work, and Hams Across America is a great way to showcase farmers’ service ethic while providing pork for their communities.

The 2018 Hams Across America program also saw a sharp upturn in the number of participants, that

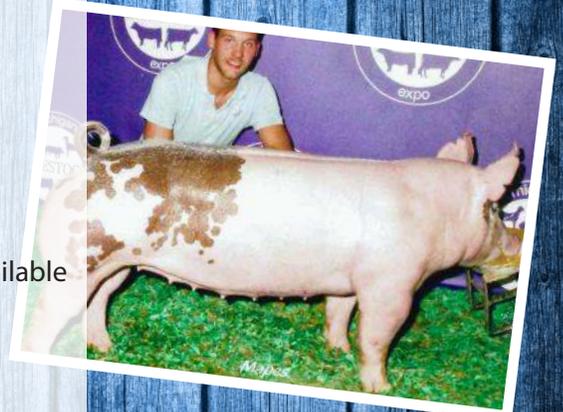
helped to bolster donations. Farmers and many others encouraged a pay-it-forward initiative by sharing their personal stories on social media using #RealPigFarming and #HamsAcrossAmerica, creating a presence on social media. In all, more than 400 public social media mentions featured #HamsAcrossAmerica or #WeCareGiveAHam. 🇺🇸



The Michigan Pork Producers Association accepted the challenge from Illinois Pork Producers Association and donated hams this holiday season. The board of directors challenged Colorado Pork Producers Council to also give a ham.

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2019 Michigan Pork Symposium

Wednesday, February 20, 2019
The Lansing Center, 333 E. Michigan Ave,
Lansing, MI

8:30 a.m. Registration

PRESENTATIONS

8:50 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

9:00 a.m. **Keynote** - Scott Dee, Director of Pipestone Applied Research
"Can the US remain free of African Swine Fever Virus?"

10:00-10:45 a.m. **Sow Housing, Small Farm and Grow/Finish Breakout Sessions** (breakout sessions agenda on page 2)

11:00-11:45 a.m. **Sow Housing, Small Farm and Grow/Finish Breakout Sessions**

BANQUET LUNCH

12:00 **Buffet Lunch**
Awards Program
Guest Speaker, Sponsored by National Pork Board

PRESENTATIONS

2:00-2:45 p.m. **Sow Housing, Small Farm and Grow/Finish Breakout Sessions**

3:00-3:45 p.m. **Sow Housing, Small Farm and Grow/Finish Breakout Sessions**

SPONSOR TRADESHOW

4:00-7:00 p.m. **Sponsor Tradeshow** - Talk with sponsors and industry representatives, meet researchers and learn about new research projects in the industry, enjoy appetizers and talk with the day's speakers.

The registration form for the 2019 Pork Symposium can be found on page 12 or visit mipork.org/news-events/michigan-pork-conference.



Sow Housing Breakout Sessions

	Room 101 Breakout Session	Room 103 Breakout Session
10:00 a.m.	Low Dose Insemination	Transition Housing
11:00 a.m.	People Management	Sow Longevity
2:00 p.m.	Day 1 Pig Care	African Swine Fever
3:00 p.m.	Caring for the Gilt through her First Litter	Breeding and Farrowing

Grow/Finish Breakout Sessions

	Room 201 Breakout Session	Room 202 Breakout Session
10:00 a.m.	Ventilation (Negative & Positive Impacts)	Pig Start-Up/Post-Weaning
11:00 a.m.	Packer Audits	Handling Health Challenges
2:00 p.m.	Pig Start-Up	Managing the Unexpected Outbreak
3:00 p.m.	Maximizing the Value of Manure	African Swine Fever

Small Farm Breakout Sessions

	Room 204 Breakout Session	Room 205 Breakout Session
10:00 a.m.	Record Keeping	Handling Semen/Breeding
11:00 a.m.	Pig Identification	Show Pig Marketing
2:00 p.m.	Herd Health Plan	Small Farm Ventilation
3:00 p.m.	Vaccination Protocols	Herd Health Plan

2019 Michigan Pork Symposium Registration

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For more information contact: Emily Schmitt (517) 853-3782 schmitt@mipork.org

Call to Eat Less Meat Dubious, Irresponsible

The EAT-Lancet report issued recently calling for drastic cuts in meat, dairy and egg consumption to promote a healthier diet and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) is based on dubious science and is irresponsible, said the National Pork Producers Council. While two of the report's concerns are sustainability and undernutrition, its radical recommendations would be counterproductive to both.

There is ample scientific evidence supporting the nutritive value of meat, including pork, which has critical vitamins and minerals, such as B12, Heme iron, zinc and potassium. These often are lacking in many diets, particularly in developing countries.

As for sustainability, the U.S. animal agriculture sector is among the most environmentally friendly in the world. A 2018 study from the University of Arkansas found that over the past 55-plus years, U.S. pork producers have cut their land use by nearly 76 percent, water use by more than 25 percent and energy use by 7 percent; their carbon footprint today is almost 8 percent less than it was in 1960. The environmental improvements were achieved while the production of pork more than doubled, increasing to 25 billion pounds in 2017 from about 11 billion in 1960.

In fact, in its November 2006 environmental report *Livestock's Long Shadow*, the U.N.'s Food and Agricultural Organization pointed to the U.S. livestock sector as a

model of sustainability. While the same report found livestock agriculture worldwide responsible for 18 percent of GHGs – later revised to 14 percent – U.S. agriculture accounts for less than 4 percent, with pork production being about one-third of 1 percent, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Additionally, about half of all livestock GHG emissions resulted from worldwide deforestation, an activity that doesn't take place in the United States

“Modern U.S. livestock agriculture is a tremendous example of how the world can produce the nutritious, safe food people need while contributing less GHGs per calorie of food,” said NPPC President Jim Heimerl, a pork producer from Ohio. “The U.N. has said there are ‘limitations to emissions reductions in the agriculture sector particularly because of ... providing food for a global population that is expected to continue to grow’ and that ‘it would



be reasonable to expect emissions reductions in terms of improvements in efficiency rather than absolute reductions in GHG emissions.’

“To address sustainability and undernourishment,” Heimerl added, “maybe the report’s authors should call on the European Union to drop its Draconian ‘precautionary principle’ that all-but prevents the use of new technologies and modern production practices. It’s those kinds of restrictions that are forcing farmers around the world to forego using scientifically proved technologies that produce more food and in a more environmentally friendly way.” 

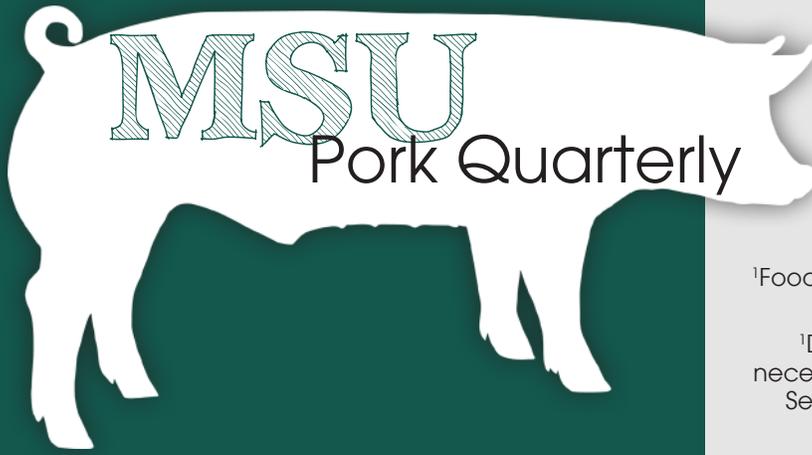


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Information for an Industry on the Move

January 2019

Vol. 24 No.1

In This Issue...

Transport of Market Hogs in Winter Months



This newsletter is edited by:

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Transport of Market Hogs in Winter Months

Scott A. Kramer¹ and Madonna Gemus²

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Agriculture.

¹Disclaimer: The views expressed in this article do not
necessarily represent the views of the Food Safety Inspection
Service, the US Department of Agriculture of the United
States.

²Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine
Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences, East Lansing,
MI 48823

This bulletin is presented as the companion
submission to “Transport of Market Hogs in Spring
and Summer Months” as presented in the spring Pork
Quarterly, June 2018. McGlone et al. articulately state
that ethical and economical transport of finishing pigs
is an important aspect of swine production and welfare
(1). Transportation is a known stressor for swine and the
winter months offer particular challenges which may
have a negative impact on pig welfare and subsequently
meat quality prompting transporters to take responsible
actions to protect their cargo (1-3).

Domestic pigs are sparsely covered in a bristly
hair coat and are potentially vulnerable to extreme
weather conditions. Pigs “do well” in a relatively narrow
thermoneutral zone ranging from approximately 60°F
to 80°F (4). Within a well-insulated environment pigs
can maintain a stable body temperature (101° -102.2°F).
Below that zone or lower critical limit, pigs will need to
extend extra energy to maintain their body temperature
(4). During cold weather, metal floor temperatures can
be as cold as -20°C (-4°F). In spite of industry bedding
recommendations, there was no evidence in this study
to suggest that bedding depth had a measurable effect
on the thermal comfort of the pigs (5), especially if
the bedding is wet or frozen. Considering that during
transport pigs may be exposed to temperatures as
low as -5 degrees F; failure to maintain an appropriate
thermal environment range during transport may result
in compromised welfare and lower pork quality (6-8)
Fitzgerald et al state that the percentage of total losses
per trailer was greater during winter compared to
mild weather and those losses were mainly a result of
fatigued pigs, possibly attributed to shivering (1,9).

A closer inspection of the related issues of best

practices in both handling and transport in winter are both advisable and commendable. Winter month factors include: proper bedding, space allowance/loading density, frostbite, consideration of weather conditions, transport duration, fitness for transport, and low stress handling methods.

Frostbite:

Frostbite is perhaps one of the greatest concerns for pigs transported in cold weather (10,12). Frostbite is an injury caused by freezing of the skin and underlying tissues (12). Pigs arriving at abattoirs with frostbitten skin run the risk of condemnation by USDA inspectors or may result in a lower value carcass due to excessive trim losses by establishment personnel (13). Looking at the range of frostbite severity; frostnip is a form of frostbite injury that doesn't cause permanent skin damage but may be extremely painful (Images 1,2) (12). Personal observations suggest that frostnip, a milder form of frostbite, is observed most upon arrival at the abattoir. This observation does not exclude the fact that more severe stages of frostbite may also be observed.



Image 2 Frostbite in a Market Hog: An example of frostbite (frostnip) in a market hog is shown above. The extreme reddening and damaged skin is apparent on the ham and shoulder in this image.

on the National Pork Board's web-page (pork.org) in English and Spanish (9). The manual contains valuable information regarding transportation in extreme weather conditions presented in Chapter 4 of the manual. The manual provides both a Recommended Truck Set-Up Procedure based on air temperatures and a National Weather Service Wind Chill Chart provided graphically allowing the user to understand proper bedding and safe transport conditions for swine in cold weather (Figure 1) (8,9).

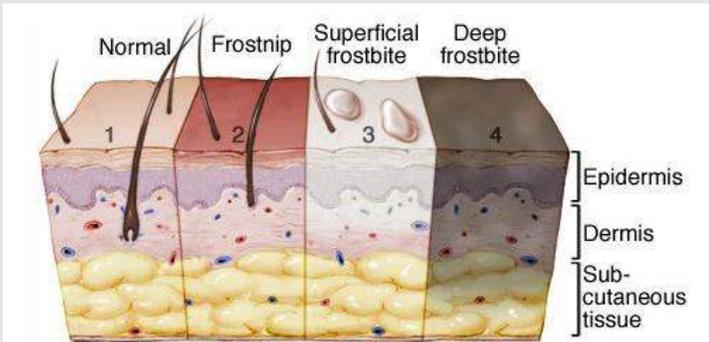


Image 1 Stages of Frostbite: Four stages of frostbite are presented ranging in severity from normal unaffected skin to deep frostbite which are caused by exposure of skin to extreme cold temperatures (12).

Bedding/Trailer Maintenance/Weather

To reiterate; the National Pork Board's Transport Quality Assurance™ (TQA™) program is recognized as the swine industry's best practices for handling and transportation. The program was designed to help swine producers, transporters, and handlers understand the best practices for not only handling, moving and transporting pigs but also in understanding the impacts their actions may have on pig welfare and pork quality (14). The latest version of the TQA™ program is available

Recommended Truck Setup Procedures Based on Air Temperatures (Market Pigs)		
Estimated Air Temperature	Bedding* (minimum recommended bags/trailer)	Side-Slats (% closed)
≤ 10°F	Heavy (6 bags)	90-95%
11-20°F	Heavy (4-6 bags)	75-90%
21-30°F	Heavy (4-6 bags)	50-75%
31-40°F	Medium (3-4 bags)	50-75%
41-50°F	Medium (3-4 bags)	25-50%
51-60°F	Medium (3-4 bags)	0-25%
61-90°F	Medium (3-4 bags)	0%
> 90°F	Light (1-2 bags)	0%

*Bedding refers to a 50-pound bale of wood shavings.

TQA

Figure 1: Recommended Truck Setup Procedures Based on Air Temperatures

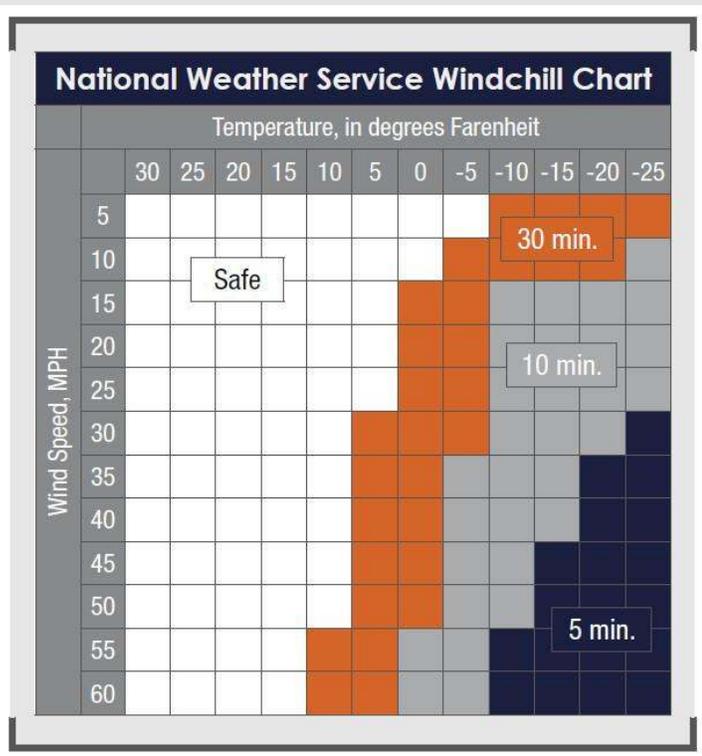


Figure 2: National Weather Service Windchill Chart

Recommendations for Adverse Weather Conditions

The Recommended Truck Set-Up Procedure Based on Air Temperatures and the National Weather Service Wind Chill Chart can be found in the current TQA™ manual v.6 (13). In an attempt to keep pigs warm and to prevent unnecessary injury to extreme temperatures (frost bite), deep (heavy) bedding with either straw or shavings in a dry trailer is required when the temperature is below 32°F, and straw is recommended for extra warmth when the temperature drops to 10°F(4).

- Figure 1 as referenced from the TQA™ manual v.6 associates air temperature with bedding and slat closure percent to provide appropriate care for pigs in transport. Figure 1 states that pigs transported in cold temperatures less than 22°F should be heavily bedded with clean, dry, fresh woodchips to prevent the pigs from coming into direct contact with cold metal. In extreme conditions it may be advisable to line the trailer compartments with wood or a rubber membrane to avoid the pigs from coming into contact with the cold metal (10,15,16).

- Figure 2 plots temperature vs wind speed. Extreme cold and wind chills are hazardous to pigs in transport. Figure 2 allows the transporter to understand

their impact on hogs in cold weather conditions by demonstrating how quickly frost bite can occur under severe condition (5, 10 or 30 minutes) if appropriate actions are not taken (13). This information should be taken into account when using boards or plugs on a trailer (13). Clearly, a colder temperature (-25°F) and higher wind speed (55 mph) is less ideal which would result in frost bite in 5 minutes as compared to a higher temperature (30°F) and a lesser wind speed (55 mph) and no risk of frost bite.

Space Allowances

Over stocking livestock trailers increases stress and death loss of pigs (7,17). Recommended truck space allowances are presented in Table 1 (18). The “ideal” transport space per pig is still uncertain and, logically, varies with the ambient temperature. Research suggests, however, that transport losses are minimized between 55 and 58 lb./sq. ft (19). The TQA manual suggests loading fewer pigs/load in cold weather (14). The type of trailer used to transport pigs may also influence pig losses as the environment of distinct compartments may be more susceptible to extreme weather conditions (20,21) (Image 3). You may consider pre-sorting pigs, weighing and stocking individual pens in the barn the day prior to loading so that each pen represents a truck compartment on the day of loading. This will dramatically reduce stress of both employees and pigs on the day of loading and may reduce transport losses by 66 percent (22-24).

Market Swine		Winter (cold weather)	
Weight Kg	Lbs.	m ²	ft ²
45	100	0.22	2.4
91	200	0.32	3.5
114	250	0.40	4.3
136	300	0.46	5.0
182	400	0.61	6.6

Table 1: Recommended Space Allowances on Trucks In Winter

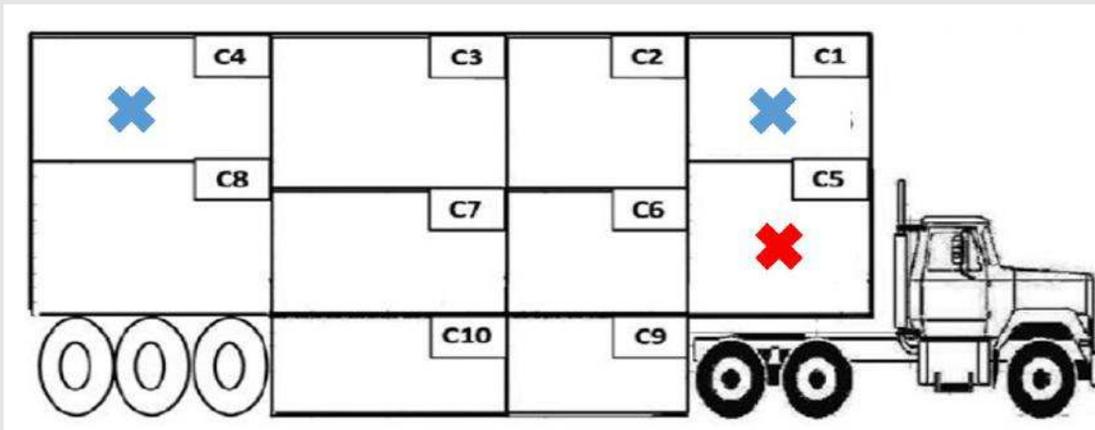


Image 3: Understanding the Impact of Livestock Trailer Compartments

The Federation of Animal Science Societies (FASS) has published a table of Recommended Space Allowances on Trucks for variable weight and season (18). The table provides an easy method calculating the stocking density of a particular compartment as a function of pigs/square foot or meter.

The type of trailer and weather conditions may affect pig welfare. Somnavilla (2017) reported that during the winter, the temperature in compartments C1 and C4 were lowest as compared to other compartments. Compartment C5 was found to be the warmest in winter (21).

Scheduling and Transportation

Transporters should prepare trailers for current or impending adverse weather conditions using appropriate bedding, slats and perhaps lining compartments with wood or a rubber liner in more extreme conditions to maintain pig welfare and reduce the incidence of transport losses.

Stopping the trailer while transporting pigs should be avoided if possible, as proper ventilation is best maintained while the vehicle is in motion however; if stopping is necessary, adjustments to ventilation may need to be made just before moving or when the vehicle stops to control condensation (11,14). Drivers may also consider direction of prevailing winds and parking between 2 freight trailers at the truck stop to shield the animals from the cross-wind (3).

Fitness for Transport/Low Stress handling

While it is the trained and competent transporter's responsibility to protect pigs during all weather conditions, responsible producers should not load pigs unfit for transport (12). The fitness of pigs intended

for transport should be assessed prior to loading (23). It is critical to have alternative management options to manage pigs unfit for transport. Pigs which are compromised or unfit for transport should not be loaded and either treated or humanely euthanized. Dead and non-ambulatory disabled pigs at the packing plants cost the U.S. swine industry approximately 46

million dollars annually and negatively affect pig welfare and public perception (21).

As stated previously, transportation and cold temperatures are, individually, challenging stressors for pigs and their combined impact...even greater. Pigs should be moved using low-stress handling methods minimizing fear and physical force. Nancy Lidster of DNL Farms Ltd. states that for pigs to feel safe, they need to be aware of their surroundings, be given time and space to move, be able to get release from pressures, and stay with other pigs (25). Attention to low stress handling is just one more factor in improving pig welfare and pork quality in transport of pigs in the winter months.

Side Notes on Transport of Weaned Pigs:

Recommendations on transport of weaned pigs are not as well documented as those for market weight pigs. Zhao et al. (2016) reported that transport mortality for weaned pigs is approximately 0.0333 percent (26,27).

Weaned pigs are more able to tolerate heat than cold which is attributable to their poor thermoregulatory capacity due to a lack of brown adipose tissue (28,29). Recommended truck space allowances are presented in Table 2.

Transported weaned pigs may

Weight Kg	Small Pigs		
	Lbs.	m ²	ft ²
4.54	10	0.06	0.70
9.07	20	0.084	0.90
13.60	30	0.093	1.00
22.70	50	0.139	1.50
31.20	70	0.167	1.80
36.30	80	0.177	1.90
40.80	90	0.195	2.10

Table 2: Recommended Space Allowances for Small Pigs

benefit from slightly less space in cold weather and just a bit more space in warm weather (Figure 1). Suggested truck space allowances for weaned pigs are 0.06 m²/pig or 0.07 m²/pig, particularly in summer (18,28).

As previously mentioned, deep bedding with either straw or wood shavings is required when the temperature is below 32°F (0°C) and straw is recommended for extra warmth when the temperature drops to 10°F (-12°C) (4). When the outdoor temperature is below 20°F (-6°C) the trailer should be 96 percent boarded (30). During extreme cold, the trailer may also be lined with wood or a rubber membrane to prevent the pigs from contacting cold metal sides (10,15,16).

Ensuring the safety and welfare of pigs in transport during the winter months is our duty as responsible swine producers and is essential in maintaining animal welfare and preventing unnecessary losses. Strategies to manage the environment in the trailer are not surprisingly, multi-factorial and may include frostbite, proper bedding, trailer maintenance, consideration of weather conditions, time of day for transport, space allowance/loading density, transport duration, fitness for transport, handling methods, and trailer management. Thoughtful consideration of the strategies presented may improve pig welfare, pork quality and have a positive financial impact for producers.

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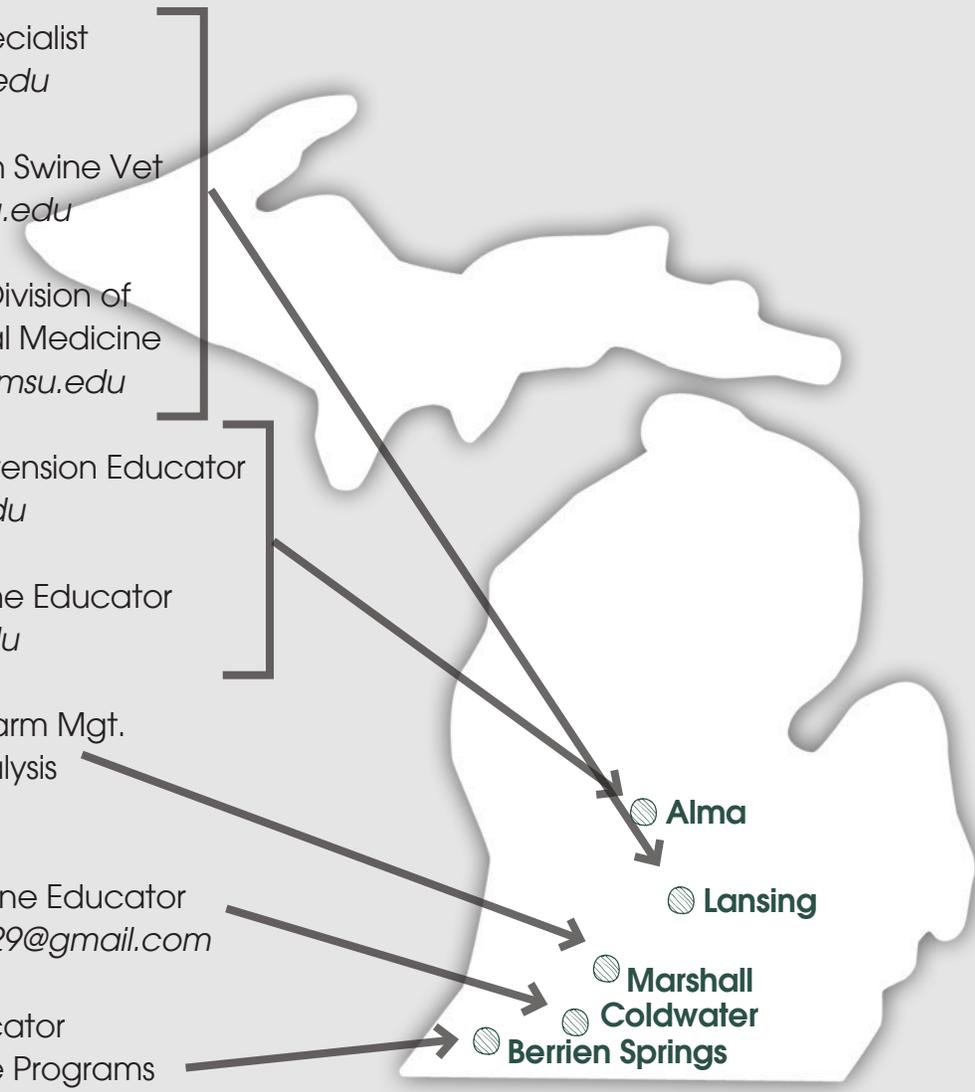
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Capital Update

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

NPPC STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF TRICHINAE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM FOR PORK EXPORTS

The Trump administration recently announced that it will initiate trade negotiations with the European Union, Japan and the United Kingdom. NPPC has been pushing for a free trade agreement with Japan as its top offensive trade priority. It was U.S. pork's largest export market by value in 2017 and is set to implement free trade agreements with the European Union and with ten other nations through the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement next year, threatening U.S. market share. NPPC is delighted the administration is demanding that the EU meaningfully include agriculture in trade talks with the United States. NPPC expects an aggressive posture from the administration with both the EU and the UK and will only support a deal that eliminates both tariffs and non-tariff barriers on pork in both the EU and the UK. This trade news builds on positive trade momentum represented by revised trade agreements with Mexico, Canada and South Korea that preserve zero-tariff access for U.S. pork. NPPC continues to press the Trump administration to resolve trade disputes with China and Mexico.

USDA AND FDA NEAR FINAL AGREEMENT ON REGULATION OF LAB-PRODUCED CULTURED PROTEIN

According to public comments by Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue, the USDA and FDA are close to signing a memorandum of understanding regarding regulatory authority of laboratory-produced cultured protein. The agencies have agreed to joint regulatory

oversight with the USDA maintaining authority for inspection and labelling of cultured protein products. NPPC supports the regulatory structure and advocated aggressively through senior-level outreach to Trump administration officials and Congress for USDA inspection and labelling authority.

USDA AWARDS AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROMOTION PROGRAM FUNDING

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) awarded \$200 million to 57 organizations under the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program (ATP). The ATP is the third element of the USDA's trade mitigation program to assist farmers negatively affected by trade retaliation against the United States. Applications for this program were accepted from Sept. 4 to Nov. 2. The applications were evaluated according to his criteria: potential growth in the export's target market, direct injury from retaliatory tariffs and the likelihood that the project will have a short-term impact on agricultural exports. Other segments of the trade mitigation package included the Market Facilitation Program, providing payments to farmers, including pork producers, and the food purchase and distribution program. U.S. pork was the largest beneficiary of the purchase program.

USTR HOLDS HEARING ON PROPOSED U.S.-UK TRADE AGREEMENT

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) recently hosted a hearing to inform U.S. interests and negotiating positions for the pending trade talks between the United States and the United Kingdom.

Testifying on behalf of NPPC was Craig Thorn, formerly with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agriculture Service. The hearing is a part of the public notice and comment process following USTR's notification to Congress of the Trump administration's intent to enter trade negotiations with the U.K. NPPC supports U.S. negotiation of a free trade agreement with the U.K. but only if it eliminates tariff and non-tariff barriers on U.S. pork exports.

CPTPP TO ADMIT NEW NATIONS; NPPC URGES TRADE TALKS WITH JAPAN

Members of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for the Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) recently agreed to guidelines for admitting new members, prompting calls for the United States to rejoin the pact. The CPTPP makes a U.S. trade agreement with Japan even more critical because U.S. pork is at risk of losing market share in one of its largest markets. The CPTPP has been ratified by Australia, Canada, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore and Vietnam, with Brunei, Chile, Malaysia and Peru expected to finalize their participation soon. Additionally, the European Union's position in Japan has been strengthened through its new trade agreement with the island nation.

GROUPS URGE ADMINISTRATION TO LIFT METALS TARIFFS

A diverse, ad hoc coalition of more than 45 groups representing many sectors of the U.S. economy joined the National Pork Producers Council in calling for an end to U.S. tariffs on Canadian and Mexican aluminum and steel imports so that America can take advantage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA).

The Trump administration on June 1, 2018, imposed

a 25 percent tariff on steel and a 10 percent duty on aluminum imports from Canada and Mexico. Both countries subsequently retaliated against a host of U.S. products.

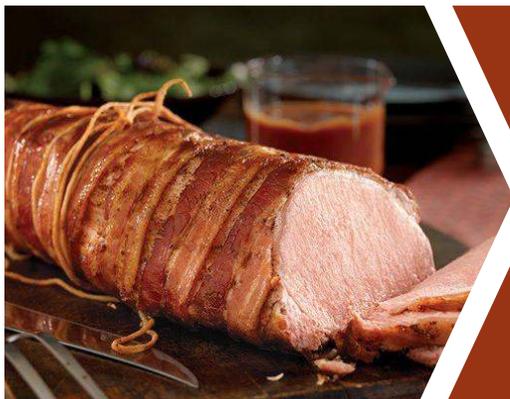
In a letter sent recently to Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, the business and agricultural organizations urged the administration to lift the metals tariffs so that Canada and Mexico will rescind their duties on U.S. goods. The groups want the metals dispute resolved soon so they can turn their undivided attention to generating congressional support for the USMCA, negotiations on which were concluded last fall.

"For many producers," said the groups in their letter, "the damage from the reciprocal trade actions in the steel and aluminum dispute far outweighs any benefit that may accrue to them from the USMCA. We urge the administration to work with the Canadians and Mexicans on a prompt resolution of the metals issue."

Said NPPC President Jim Heimerl, a pork producer from Ohio, "The metals tariffs are undermining the ability of the private sector to lobby for passage of the USMCA deal. For many sectors, the duties are a hair-on-fire issue that is draining resources that otherwise would be focused on passage of the USMCA."

Farmers and food companies have been particularly hard hit by the Canadian and Mexican retaliation. Mexico's 20 percent punitive tariff on U.S. pork, for example, has inflicted severe financial harm on America's pork producers. According to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes, the Mexican tariff is costing producers \$12 per animal, meaning industrywide losses of \$1.5 billion annually.

The metals tariffs also are hurting U.S. manufacturers that depend on steel and aluminum imports, increasing costs for American industrial and consumer goods.



Pork Checkoff

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

NATIONAL PORK INDUSTRY FORUM TO BE HELD MARCH 6-8, 2019

Producer delegates from across the United States will gather in Orlando, March 6-8, for the annual National Pork Industry Forum. The 15 producers who serve as members of the National Pork Board and Pork Checkoff staff leadership will hear directly from Pork Act delegates appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

The theme for the annual meeting of the Pork Act delegate body is *Moving at the Speed of Business*. The U.S. pork industry is on a path to reshape itself as a problem solver to meet and exceed the challenges it faces in a dynamic food production environment. Toward that end, the entire industry must be nimble and flexible, as well as to be able to quickly adapt to change.

Each year the delegates confer, vote on resolutions and advisements and provide valuable direction on the important issues facing pork producers and the industry. Delegates will learn about the work underway to grow consumer demand for pork domestically and worldwide, as well as the plans to share pork producers' story of sustainability through adhering to the We Care® ethical principles.

"In today's production environment, we must have a shared focus on sustainability and innovation," said Steve Rommerein, president of the National Pork Board and a pig farmer from Alcester, South Dakota. "We are committed to the We Care® ethical principles. Those values – put on paper more than a decade ago – continue to drive the work of pork producers every day on their farms as well as our work at Pork Forum."

At the meeting, Pork Act delegates will rank 10 candidates for the National Pork Board and submit the list to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture for approval. The candidates, in alphabetical order, are:

Pat Albright – Michigan

Bill Kessler – Missouri

Larry Liepold – Minnesota

Bill Luckey – Nebraska

Gene Noem – Iowa

Russ Nugent – Arkansas

Alicia Pedemonti – New Hampshire

Michael Skahill – Virginia

Dave Struthers – Iowa

Stephen Williamson – North Carolina

Representing Michigan at forum are Pat Albright; Coldwater, Bob Dykhuis; Holland, Brian Pridgeon; Montgomery and Fred Walcott; Allendale as alternate.

Prior to the annual meeting, members of the National Pork Board also will convene their March board of directors meeting. The agenda will include updates on 2019 plans to enhance pork demand, increase market opportunities, improve pork production practices and invest in research priorities.

Included on the 2019 Pork Forum agenda will be opportunities for pork producers to become certified in the pork industry's Pork Quality Assurance® Plus program, as well as learn more about other pork industry programs. The full agenda is available at www.porkindustryforum.com.

NEW NATIONAL SWINE DISEASE COUNCIL WILL HELP COMBAT FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE

In 2013, when pork producers faced an outbreak of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus, or PEDV, the U.S. pork industry put a renewed emphasis on farm biosecurity.

Today, the U.S. pork industry has aligned its efforts to reduce the risks from foreign animal disease (FAD) by creating the National Swine Disease Council (NSDC).

The council is comprised of key industry leaders from six distinct areas of swine science expertise. NSDC leadership includes representatives from the National Pork Board, the National Pork Producers Council, the North American Meat Institute, the Swine Health Information Center, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as well as state animal health officials.

“The biggest risk we face is any foreign animal disease entering the U.S.,” said Paul Sundberg, executive director, Swine Health Information Center. “As an industry, we have decades of response experience and are well prepared for any number of swine-specific diseases, however a new or emerging disease can threaten animal health and welfare, as well as public health. While it is virtually impossible to prevent every disease from entering the U.S., the formation of this council will allow us to respond even more quickly thereby mitigating risk to herd health through fast action and response.”

A newly emerging disease can also disrupt U.S. pork exports and commerce, negatively impacting pork producers and their businesses. The combined expertise of the participating organizations will center on rapid response to diseases that threaten the U.S. pork industry.

“The National Pork Board is well positioned to respond having invested producer dollars over the past 30 years to establish research priorities and response protocols,” said Dave Pyburn, Pork Checkoff senior vice president of science and technology. “In the end, it comes down to producer awareness and education, which is our area of expertise. We have outstanding programs in place and pig farmers are committed to on-farm biosecurity procedures.” Additionally, 90 percent of farms have a Premises Identification Number, according to a November 2018 producer survey.

Starting with the formation of the council and identification of member participants, the producers and their organizations will turn their focus toward providing

recommendations in collaboration with state and federal animal health officials, and other industry stakeholders, to respond to emerging swine diseases. Any disease could potentially threaten herd health and negatively affect the U.S. pork industry. This focus specifically includes:

- Recommending policies for emerging and foreign animal diseases and collaborating with animal health officials, regulatory agencies, and stakeholders to increase understanding of disease and quick response; and, most importantly,
- Promoting acceptance of recommended actions throughout the U.S. pork industry.

The council will rely on subject matter experts to advise and inform on every aspect of disease management. That may include forming short- and long-term project teams to make, review, and implement appropriate recommendations.

“There has already been a significant amount of work done to identify and assess foreign animal disease outbreaks and non-regulatory disease outbreaks in the U.S.,” said Harry Snelson, American Association of Swine Veterinarians. “But we can always improve coordination in assessing and responding. The NSDC will facilitate that strategy.”

Rapid and effective response to disease outbreaks is the council’s top priority. Understanding what diseases exist in the world and keeping them out of the country continues to be the most important task in terms of risk management as those diseases pose a significant threat to U.S. pork production.

“Each of the six organizations has deep experience working together, and we each look forward to even more collaboration in the years ahead,” said Liz Wagstrom, Chief Veterinarian, National Pork Producers Council. “The end game for each of us is to improve disease detection, assessment, containment and eradication. Only then can we rest knowing that the nation’s pork supply is secure, the animal agriculture and food production industry is stable, and public health is protected.”

Meeting series focused on ag, local zoning conflicts

A new Michigan State University (MSU) Extension program — Cultivating Local Farm Economies: Planning, Zoning, and Farm Preservation through Diversification — will be presented this spring in four locations across Michigan to educate both farmers and local government officials.

Sponsored by Michigan Farm Bureau, the meetings are intended to address potential local zoning conflicts for farm operations interested in pursuing new economic opportunities, such as agri-tourism, renewable energy project, and on-farm retail and processing value-add ventures, according to Matt Kapp, government relations specialist for the Michigan Farm Bureau.

“With the current farm economic challenges, many farmers, like any wise business owner, are attempting to identify and evaluate new business opportunities beyond basic commodity production,” Kapp explained.

“Those new opportunities will be unique to each farm operation, whether that means an expansion of a retail farm market, the addition of an on-farm agritourism venue for hosting weddings or other public events, (or) the leases for solar or wind-turbine renewable energy projects,” he said.

While Michigan farmers may have ample entrepreneurial pursuits, there is also ample opportunity for conflict with local units of government and zoning.

“Like it or not, many local units of government write a majority of rules that either allow, restrict or don’t allow these economic opportunities throughout a given jurisdiction,” Kapp said. “There are countless stories of Michigan farmers pursuing one or more diversification opportunities, only to receive cease and desist notices from local zoning administrators or face a costly court battle.” Local government officials, farmers and other interested community members are invited to join MSU Extension educators and community partners to learn about the trends in Michigan’s value-added processing, agritourism, and renewable energy markets, and how to tailor local regulations that allow for on-farm diversification while addressing health, safety, and public welfare concerns.

The program will address:

- Why farms are looking to diversify their operations
- The unique perspective of local township officials
- The scope of agricultural protections under the Right to Farm Act
- Local ordinance language and recommendations
- Taxes and other financial considerations

- Insurance recommendations
- Examples from the field
- Facilitated discussion

The day-long program will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the following locations:

- **Chatham — Monday, March 18;**
- **Traverse City — Tuesday, March 19;**
- **Ann Arbor — Thursday, March 21;**
- **Grand Rapids — Tuesday, March 26.**

The cost to attend the program is \$20 and includes materials and lunch. The program is sponsored by the Michigan Farm Bureau. More information and registration is available at https://events.anr.msu.edu/Cultivating_Local_Farm_Economies

According to Kapp, many of those producers assume ventures such as agrotourism, renewable energy and on-farm value-added processing are simply an extension of their pre-existing cropping operation.

“But from local government’s point of view, processing of farm products is not covered by Michigan’s Right to Farm Act, with conflict often arising over noise, odor, traffic and other nuisance concerns,” he said. 

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NPPC Urges \$3.5 Billion Chinese Pork Purchase

With Chinese officials in Washington to discuss trade relations, the National Pork Producers Council recently urged the United States and China to quickly resolve their trade differences and asked the Asian nation to make a minimum \$3.5 billion purchase of U.S. pork over the next five years.

China is the largest consumer of pork in the world, making it a top market for U.S. pork exports over the past several years. (The U.S. pork industry in 2017 shipped \$1.1 billion of product there, making it the No. 3 export destination for U.S. pork.) Pork is said to represent about 15 percent of the Consumer Price Index in China and could single-handedly make a huge dent in the U.S.-China trade imbalance.

“China has been a tremendous market for U.S. pork and, absent numerous trade barriers, probably would be our No. 1 export market,” said NPPC President Jim Heimerl, a pork producer from Ohio. “But, never mind China’s preexisting barriers on U.S. pork, the 50 percent punitive tariffs on U.S. pork have slowed our exports to a trickle. We call on the Chinese to begin immediate purchases of U.S. pork of at least 350,000 tons each year from the United States for the next five years.”

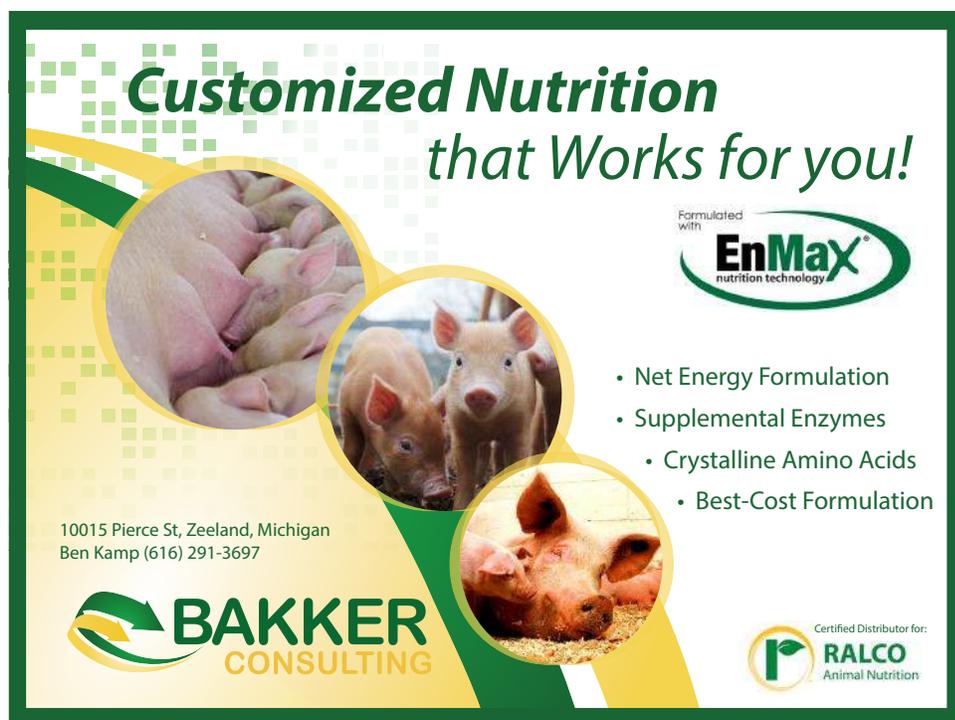
U.S. pork producers now face tariffs of 62 percent on exports to China, which in early April 2018

imposed a 25 percent tariff in response to U.S. tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum and in June added another 25 percent duty in retaliation for the U.S. tariffs levied on a host of Chinese goods because of China’s treatment of U.S. intellectual property and forced transfers of American technology. China already had a 12 percent tariff on U.S. pork, and the country has a 13 percent value-added tax on most agricultural imports. In addition, a collection of other non-tariff barriers has chronically suppressed U.S. pork exports to China over the years.

Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes calculates that because of the 50 percent punitive tariffs, U.S. pork producers have lost \$8 per hog, or more than \$1 billion on an annualized basis. (Producers

have lost an additional \$12 per hog, collectively \$1.5 billion in the industry, because of Mexico’s punitive 20 percent tariffs in retaliation for U.S. metals tariffs.) Hayes says that if China purchases at least 350,000 tons of U.S. pork each year for five years, the total deal would be worth approximately \$3.5 billion in sales. According to Hayes, that would put a significant dent in the U.S.-China trade imbalance and create 5,250 new jobs in the United States. He notes that the timing for the purchases is good since China needs to import more pork to mitigate the impact of African Swine Fever on the Chinese pig herd.

The news media has reported that in an effort to end the trade dispute, China has offered to buy \$1 trillion of U.S. goods over the next six years. 



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- \$40.00 Associate Member: Person or companies associated with the pork industry.
- \$100.00 Gold Associate Member: Person or companies associated with the pork industry.
- \$5.00 Student Member: Individuals under 21 years of age. Student members do not have voting privileges.
- \$250.00 Gold Industry Member Contributor: A Gold Industry Contributor provides additional support for MPPA programs requiring the use of unrestricted (non-checkoff) funds.

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

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.

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New Pork Board Research Reveals How Americans Are Eating Tonight

The National Pork Board released the first report from its ambitious and comprehensive Insight to Action research program. The report, *Dinner at Home in America*, examines the contextual occasions in which Americans are eating dinner in the home. The research identifies areas of growth opportunity for pork, serving up a bold new challenge to the pork industry: innovate or risk losing relevance with today's – and more importantly tomorrow's – consumer.

“People live, shop and eat differently today. The pork industry has tremendous momentum with consumers, and that can be leveraged further through innovation in product development, bringing contemporary eating solutions to consumers,” said Jarrod Sutton, vice president of Domestic Marketing for the National Pork Board. “This research helps us intimately understand the needs and constraints that influence consumer dining choices, and provides a clear path for industry innovation that is rooted in data.”

A First-Ever Research Approach for the Industry

Dinner at Home in America is the first of several reports the National Pork Board will publish in 2019 as part of the Insight to Action research program. The research approach, which combines 10,000 interviews with demographic and spending data to provide a comprehensive look at how U.S. consumers eat, is a first-ever for the meat industry.

Altogether, the National Pork Board uncovered nine unique dining occasions, or needs states, happening in homes on any given night of the week, ranging from solo dining to celebrating with extended family. During the course of any week, the same person can experience multiple eating occasions as their needs throughout the week change.

Sutton emphasizes this research is groundbreaking because it goes further to answer questions around what people eat and why.

“We are looking at who is at the dinner table, but we move beyond that to pinpoint the varied dinner occasions occurring every night,” he said. “With these insights, the industry can better understand the needs, behaviors and influences for each dining occasion. Most importantly, the research identifies opportunities for the industry to adapt and innovate.”

“Through its extensive research and analysis, the National Pork Board has curated provocative insights that the U.S. pork industry can act upon to best position pork to consumers,” said Steve Rommereim, National Pork Board president and a pig farmer from Alcester, South Dakota. “This is data that everyone at every step of the pork supply chain can use to better meet consumer needs and grow their business.”

Actionable Insights to Drive Innovation

The *Dinner at Home in America* report provides the food industry

a veritable roadmap for product innovation and positioning. The research identifies opportunities to respond to changing consumer behaviors and drive category growth in three areas:

- **Health:** Educate consumers more effectively about the known health benefits, nutrient density and protein content of fresh and packaged pork cuts.
- **Simplicity and Ease:** Innovate packaging and cuts to keep pace with evolving consumer needs and demand for convenience best illustrated through portion size, precooked or pre-seasoned options, and cooking and temperature directions.
- **Versatility:** Create meal solutions with pork as a key ingredient, moving beyond the old school thought of pork as a center-of-the-plate option only. Consumers seek diversity in their protein choice – from tacos to sandwiches and pasta to casseroles.

“These insights have influenced a new marketing strategy for the Pork Checkoff designed to address key perceptions about our product: tasty, healthy, easy, safe, and sustainable,” Sutton said. “The foundation for all of this work is research and data first.”

For more information on the National Pork Board's Insight to Action research, *Dinner at Home in America* research, or to download the full report, visit pork.org/marketing.

Nominations Open for 2019 America's Pig Farmer of the Year Award

The National Pork Board is accepting nominations for its 2019 America's Pig Farmer of the YearSM award through Sunday, March 10, at americaspigfarmer.com. The award recognizes a U.S. pork producer who demonstrates excellence in raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles and by sharing his or her story with the public.

"Like most pig farmers, I'm most comfortable in the barn," said Patrick Bane, a pig farmer from Illinois and America's Pig Farmer of the Year. "However, my passion for pig farming is why I decided to be involved in this program. It allows me to help more people understand the story of modern agriculture."

Bane has participated in several events since being named America's Pig Farmer of the Year in October.

A panel of third-party judges will help determine the final award recipient, with the winner announced during national pork month this October. The public also can play a role in selecting the 2019 winner by viewing short clips of the finalists on their farms at americaspigfarmer.com, and voting for their favorite through the Pork Checkoff's social media outlets.

Anyone can nominate a U.S. pork producer or themselves at americaspigfarmer.com/nominate. Candidates must be at least 30 years old as of Jan. 1, 2019. Complete rules of the award program are on the site as well, along with answers to frequently asked questions. 



Calendar of Events

Feb.:

20 Michigan Pork Symposium

Lansing, Mich.

21 MPPA Board Meeting

Lansing, Mich.

March:

7-8 Pork Forum

Orlando, FL

13 Ag Day at the Capitol

Lansing, Mich.

21 MAEAP 5000th Verification Celebration

Lansing, Mich.

April:

23 Health Champions Meeting

Escanaba, Mich.

13 Health Champions Meeting

St. Ignace, Mich.

We're Listening

Dear MPPA,

We greatly appreciate all the support you have given to help make our 2018 Rural Education Day a success! Third graders were given a fun-filled day to learn about agriculture. Without the support from donors, volunteers and committed people like you, it would not be possible. Thank you!

Huron County Project RED Committee

Dear MPPA,

Thank you for your generous donation towards our meats judging team. We have been practicing since December of 2017, and we are really excited to compete at both the 4-H and FFA national competition. Thanks again! We really appreciate it!

Branch County Meats Evaluation Team: Emily Rissman, Isaac Tappenden, Carson Rose and Shelby Souva

Dear MPPA,

Thank you for your donation for our annual Quality of Life Scholarship Golf Outing honoring Gene Thompson. The Quality of Life Group consists of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Environmental Quality and Natural Resources.

Thanks to your donation and others, we were able to raise over \$9,200 this year. We used these funds to award 15 scholarships in 2018 to current Quality of Life employees continuing their education or children enrolled in a full-time education program whose parents work for one of these agencies.

Jeff Haarer, Quality of Life Golf Outing Committee

Dear MPPA,

I would like to say thank you for your support of the Iosco County Fair's Rural Education Day. It was a huge success for our area. We had many hands-on activities promoting agriculture. We appreciate all of the support from the Michigan commodity organizations. Thank you!

Kelly Ruckle, Ag Day Superintendent, Iosco County Fair Secretary



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Collard green and ham hock egg rolls

Pair this recipe with barbecue ribs and curried coleslaw. This recipe was prepared for the Taste of Elegance Competition hosted by Michigan Pork Producers Association at the Michigan Restaurant Show by Jimmy Lee Hill, Executive Chef at Saffron Café in Lakeland Correctional Facility. Chef Hill earned the People's Choice Award for his creations.

INGREDIENTS

1 cup Prepared collard greens

1/2 cup Ham hock meat

1/4 teaspoon Red pepper flakes

1 package Egg roll wrappers

1/2 cup Vegetable oil (for frying)

INSTRUCTIONS: Place prepared collard greens into a bowl and set aside. Stir pulled ham hock meat, red pepper flakes, salt and pepper to taste. Mix into the collard greens.

Lay egg roll wrappers on a flat surface in the shape of a diamond. Place a large spoonful of the collard green mixture in the center. Fold the bottom corner and opposing sides over the collard green mixture; roll up wrapper toward the top corner. Repeat with remaining egg roll wrappers and meat mixture.

Heat oil in a deep-fryer or a large saucepan. Place a few egg rolls in the hot oil, seam side down. Fry, turning occasionally, until golden brown (2-3 minutes). Repeat with remaining rolls.

