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On the cover: Michigan Pork Producers Association board member Ryan Hunter prepares to cut pork loins to grill and serve at the City Rescue Mission of Lansing.

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MPPA Celebrates National Pork Month by Serving Dinner at City Rescue Mission in Lansing

By: Emily Schmitt

MPPA PROGRAM DIRECTOR

Pictured at right, MPPA CEO Mary Kelpinski, MPPA Board Member Ryan Hunter of Vicksburg, MI, his daughter, Kyla and MPPA Program Director Emily Schmitt gather at the City Rescue Mission of Lansing to serve dinner.

In celebration of October being National Pork Month, Michigan Pork Producers Association partnered with several other Michigan agricultural commodity organizations to provide dinner for those in need at the City Rescue Mission of Lansing Oct. 28.

The delicious aroma of grilling pork loin filled the streets of downtown Lansing as the pork association staff grilled dinner from the National Pork We CareSM trailer on Michigan Avenue. MPPA staff also had the opportunity to serve dinner at the men's shelter, distributing nearly 100 meals there. More than 50 meals were also delivered to the women's shelter to be served by volunteers.

Men, women and children were served pork loin sandwiches, which were donated by MPPA. The meals also included buns, potato chips, apples, milk and salads which were donated by the Michigan Wheat Program, Michigan Potato Industry Commission, Michigan Apple Committee and United Dairy Industry of Michigan.

October originally became known as National Pork Month because it marked the time of year when hogs were traditionally harvested. Today, it serves as a time to celebrate and thank pig farmers and share their stories with consumers.

To find out more about pig farming, visit realpigfarming.com. For more information on the City Rescue Mission of Lansing, visit www.bearescuer.org.



Michigan Pork Producers Association



Pictured above, the National Pork We CareSM trailer sits on Michigan Avenue in downtown Lansing. At left, Mary, Kyla, Ryan and Emily stand near the pork trailer before grilling pork loins for the City Rescue Mission of Lansing. At bottom left, National Pork Board staff member Glen Roest grills pork loins for dinner. ,



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“Happy to see 2020 come to a close”



By: Pat Albright
MPPA PRESIDENT

Hello all. As always, I hope this issue finds all of you, your families, and farms safe and healthy. And again, I will time stamp this article. I am writing this on November 1st. Ten months of the year 2020 are behind us. In our area the harvest has been moving along at a good pace. Hog prices have been much higher than most of us expected they would be at this point in the year. While 2020 has brought its share of surprises and disappointments, the move higher in pork prices this fall has been a very welcome one. Much like hog prices, commodity prices in general have not followed the usual fall decline. While all of us may view this development differently, my opinion is that it has been an overall positive development for those in the agriculture business.

By the time you read this, election day will be behind us. I hope, and pray, that by the time you read this, we know what the outcome is! While I am not very good at predictions, I do know one thing for sure...

Regardless of the outcome, the men and women of American agriculture, particularly those of us involved in producing pork, will rise early November 4th and each day after, and continue our work, producing a safe and nutritious product. Just as we do everyday.

And while you are doing that, know your organization is here for you. MPPA works with politicians, bureaucrats, and activist groups that affect your livelihood to educate and show them what you do everyday to feed the world. I want to take this opportunity to thank Mary and Emily for “holding down the fort” during these past months. They are working everyday to promote our product, and to advocate on our behalf.

Soon, the holiday season will be upon us. While we all have had plenty of disappointment to deal with this year, I hope all of you are able to in at least some way, spend some time with those that are important to you, and relish those relationships. 🐷

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MPPA Cancels 2021 Pork Expo

Michigan Pork Producers Association regrets to announce that the 2021 Michigan Pork Expo has been cancelled.

Due to complications from the COVID-19 pandemic, the MPPA board of directors has decided to cancel the 2021 show, which is usually held at the Lansing Center in February. The expo usually

offers a tradeshow and education seminars designed for pig farmers and pork industry stakeholders. We apologize for the inconvenience and hope you can join us in February 2022 for our next pork expo! 🐷

Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship

The National Pork Producers Council is pleased to announce the 2021 Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship is now accepting applications.

The scholarship program was introduced in 1990 by CME Group, Inc. and NPPC to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the CME Live Hog futures. Four \$2,500 scholarships were created to reward students who intended to pursue a career in the pork industry with hopes they emerge as pork industry leaders themselves someday.

The scholarship was renamed in 2006 to honor the passing of NPPC Board of Director Lois Britt. Britt, a lifetime supporter of agriculture, spent 34 years with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, finishing out her career for 15 years with Murphy-Brown LLC (Smithfield) doing Public and Government Relations. She was inducted into the NPPC Pork Industry Hall of Fame, the N.C. Pork Council Hall of Fame, and awarded the N.C. 4-H

Lifetime Achievement Award as some of her many achievements.

With the marking of the 50th anniversary of the Live Hog futures in 2015, the number of scholarships awarded annually was raised from four to five. In 2017, the National Pork Industry Foundation became another sponsor of the Lois Britt Scholarship so we could double the scholarships from five

to ten \$2,500 scholarships.

Ten \$2,500 scholarships are awarded to students annually who intend to pursue a career in the pork industry with hopes that they may emerge as future pork industry leaders themselves.

Details can be found online at <http://nppc.org/programs/scholarships/>. Applications are due Jan. 4, 2021. 🐷

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“Lessons Learned”



By: Mary Kelpinski

MPPA CHIEF
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think everyone would agree, we have had enough of 2020. COVID-19 has made life difficult for everyone especially pork producers. Plant closures in the spring and reductions in the food service industry have made it hard to secure a profit for pigs going to market.

As gut wrenching as COVID-19 has been, let me try to shine some light on positives that have come out of this troubling time.

COVID-19 caused disruptions in pork processing due to workers being concerned about catching the virus and disruptions at home. When processing plants started to reduce capacity or close completely, some farmers found themselves with too many pigs and no place to market them. I was amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of producers in Michigan. The farmers I talked to were all able to slow their pigs down by switching diets or find additional barn space to accommodate hogs until the plants could take them.

Fortunately, this supply chain interruption was a result of COVID-19 and not a foreign animal disease (FAD). If the U.S. broke with a FAD, we would likely be unable to export our product. With over 25 percent of the pork we raise currently headed to other countries, that would be a lot of pork for us to consume.

For the past several years, we have been encouraging producers to develop a Secure Pork Plan. We have held several meetings and participated in drills trying to prepare for the worst. COVID-19 has really helped us to make progress on

“ Plant closures in the spring and reductions in the food service industry have made it hard to secure a profit for pigs going to market. ”

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several areas of that plan.

We realized very quickly that USDA Veterinary Services were not prepared with much equipment to help in case of an emergency. Not only were they short on supplies, they were also short on recommendations. There was not a lot of research on the pork side to help with mass depopulation.

The National Pork Board made that research a priority and has worked with state associations and universities to develop equipment and guidelines that will be available if needed.

We also realized we needed more research on disposal sites. Since this was not a FAD, there were additional sites that could be used, such as landfills and large central compositing sites. In the case of a FAD, animals would not be able to be transported off the farm for disposal. Research is currently being done on the environmental impact of different disposal types.

We also do not have a good way to identify farms. If this had been a FAD, all farms would have to be identified and control zones established to contain and eliminate the disease. We are working with MSU Extension on developing a database to help locate farms and have a central site for contact information.

The National Pork Board has worked to develop **AgView**, a software program that will not only identify farms but also provide near

real-time disease status to help facilitate disease trace-back and pig movement among its users.

With enough voluntary participants, it will help the pork industry rapidly contain or regionalize a FAD outbreak to restore safe pork exports and get business back as close to normal as possible more quickly.








AgView will be available to producers in November. To learn more about this no-cost program visit pork.org/agview/.

Another positive that I quickly realize during this whole event is our ability to work together as a state. I was impressed how quickly we were able to get the right people together to work on finding solutions. I worked with MSU Extension; the Michigan

Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy; and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to name a few. We spent many hours discussing different options for producers and some of the challenges they might face.

I think Michigan has survived better than some other states. We were fortunate to have a large processing plant in the state that was able to stay open and continue to process hogs. We are also fortunate for all the small processors the worked extra hours to help with backed up hogs.

Normal is a distant memory but hopefully we have seen the worst of COVID-19 and 2021 will be a much calmer year. 🐷

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MPPA now offers Virtual Swine Farm Tours

Michigan Pork Producers Association has partnered with Michigan State University to offer virtual swine farm tours to classrooms and other groups interested in learning about pork production.

MSU Swine Farm Manager Kevin Turner hosts the virtual farm tours from the MSU Swine Teaching and Research Farm on campus in East Lansing. He presents the tours through Zoom, which allows groups or individuals to watch and interact with him, asking questions throughout the tour.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has caused organizations to think innovatively when it comes to social distancing and holding in-person events, preventing the spread of disease is nothing new for the pork industry. Pig farmers have been using biosecurity practices for many years to help prevent the introduction and transmission of potential diseases into a swine herd.

It is often difficult for visitors to enter swine farms because of the biosecurity measures the industry has established. Biosecurity protocols could be as simple as having staff and visitors wash hands, boots and equipment before entering a barn or as intense as showering before entering and prior to leaving the barn.

Kevin said the virtual tours are a useful method to showcase the industry since it is often difficult to coordinate visitors just to enter the barns.

“I believe in transparency in our industry,” he said. “But as we have brought animals into confinement for their health and wellbeing, that reduces our ability for transparency. The virtual farm tours are a great way to educate people about where food comes and the process of raising pigs.”

While the virtual tours negate the need for visitors to follow biosecurity measures, they also open up tours to guests that might not live anywhere near pig farms.

“This gives us the ability to broaden our audience,” Kevin said. “We have had legislators on the tour from all over the state without them having to drive to a farm. People from anywhere can watch the tour and it is easier to work into different schedules and with larger groups. We look forward to hosting many more.”

Virtual swine farm tours can be scheduled through Emily Schmitt at MPPA, schmitt@mipork.org or 517-853-3782. 🐷



Pictured above, MSU Swine Farm Manager Kevin Turner performs his daily check on the pigs. The virtual swine farm tours he provides offer viewers the chance to see the pigs at different stages of their lives.

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Mediation: A Tool for Michigan Farmers

The typical Michigan farmer's toolkit contains a jumble of production and management tools. One of those tools for farmers is the Michigan Agricultural Mediation Program (MAMP).

With the MAMP, Michigan farmers have the option of mediating eligible disputes with agricultural lenders, creditors or U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) agencies. Mediation enables the participants to talk informally about the issues and suggest solutions that align with the law and work for all concerned. A trained neutral mediator helps the participants build trust, communicate constructively and focus on the issues. The participants, not the mediator, make the decisions. There is no cost to producers for using the service.


"Mediation is a great way to give everyone their time to be heard. It is a less formal way of discussing and educating," according to Dr. Betsy Dierberger, State Resources Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service, a USDA agency, in East Lansing.

The Farm Service Agency (FSA), another USDA agency, encourages farmers who have received an adverse determination to consider mediation through the MAMP.

"While USDA program provisions are not subject to change through the mediation process per se, sometimes new information about the farm's or farmer's specific circumstances will emerge, which may result in a different outcome," says Ken Schapman, FSA Mediation

Coordinator in East Lansing.

Michigan farmers considering mediation or wishing to learn more can call (800) 616-7863 or visit www.agmediation.org. Mediation is designed to resolve disputes more

quickly and with less stress than formal proceedings such as due process hearings. It helps Michigan farmers get back to growing food and fiber for the residents of Michigan and beyond. 



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Information for an Industry on the Move

November 2020

Vol. 25 No. 3

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- 3 **How did COVID-19 and Industry Disruption Accelerate Michigan's Secure Pork Supply Preparedness?**
- 6 **The New Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program is now live online!**



This newsletter is edited by:

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Students complete summer swine experiences

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The purpose of this article is to highlight MSU students who worked on swine farms this past summer, to share that MSU is committed to helping students arrange summer internships and other work experience opportunities, and to help farms find future employees.

Summer work experiences for MSU students continue to be valued by both students and the employers for whom they work. These experiences may be internship for credit at MSU or they can be summer employment without MSU connection. The two most significant benefits of these work experiences are the knowledge gained by the student about modern pork production and the opportunity of the employer to source a potential future employee.

Arrangements for a summer internship or employment come about in several ways. A student may have worked previously on a farm when in FFA or 4-H. The employer and student may have met 8 to 9 months in advance of the summer (prior fall) at a Career Fair hosted by the student's university. Postings by the employer on an online career service are frequently viewed by students, especially those who begin their search for an internship or summer job just one or two months before summer. A summer work experience could also be the result of a referral by another student or former student. And lastly, the advice of a MSU instructor or academic advisor, in the Animal Science Department or another department, may be the way the student finds that summer internship or job.

In the summer of 2020, we were aware that eleven MSU students held summer positions on different farms in the U.S. Four MSU Animal Science students



registered at MSU for credited swine internships: Hannah Cummings, Pipestone, MN; Tammy Kessel, Kalmbach, OH; Cal Mitchell, Forest Ridge Farms, MI; and Veronica Polniak, H & H, MI. Internships meet the experiential learning requirement of the Animal Science Department at MSU. Zac Hultnik also worked on a swine farm for MSU credit. He completed a four-week independent study for credit with Carthage Veterinary Services, IL. Alli Walker and Claire Vincent followed the advice of instructors at MSU while being recruited by recent MSU graduates and worked this past summer for Swartz Farms Inc., MN. Their experience did not involve credit towards their degrees at MSU. The same was true for five other MSU students who were employed on swine farms for the summer, four with Kalmbach in Ohio and one with H & H near Vicksburg MI.

The list above reflects the variety of ways that summer work experiences can be arranged. This list may be incomplete, as MSU instructors are not always informed by the student and (or) employer of their employment arrangement. The majority of work experiences by MSU students on swine farms this past summer were not credited MSU internships. That is acceptable and maybe better for employers, as they look for alternative ways to source potential employees.

The June 2017 issue of the MSU Pork Quarterly was entirely about labor on the swine farm. Included was an excellent article about internships. Much was written about the benefits of internships for both the student and the employer, about how to develop a successful

internship program on your farm, and about who at MSU can help make connections between students and farms. Regarding those connections, the authors of this article remain very willing to help students and farms arrange internships or summer employment. Feel free to contact us. Dr. Jackie Jacobs is currently the official instructor of the Animal Science Internships course, ANS 493. Contact Dr. Jacobs at jacob175@msu.edu. Lastly, Jill Cords works in the MSU College of Agriculture & Natural Resources as a Career Consultant to assist students and employers. She organizes career fairs and instructs others in how to use an online internship and job posting service called *Handshake*. At that site, students can learn of internship and job postings, and employers can view student resumes. Registration for *Handshake* is at msu.joinhandshake.com. Contact Jill at jcords@msu.edu.

Summer work experiences on swine farms help students gain practical industry experience and become better aware of future career opportunities in pork production. These summer experiences help the swine farms get to know a potential future employee and provide the farm additional labor during summer vacation time or a time focused on a project that has needed to get done. Summer work experiences can be internships, but do not need to be. MSU instructors, academic advisors, career consultants and swine farm employees are committed to helping students and farms obtain the best outcomes from summer work experiences. 🐷

How did COVID-19 and Industry Disruption Accelerate Michigan's Secure Pork Supply Preparedness?

Written by the MSU Extension Pork Team

The year 2020 will go down in the history books, with many farmers remembering this year as one of turmoil, adaptiveness and uncertainty. During the spring months of 2020 (March through May) the pork industry was in an unprecedented situation. Pork processing plants were shut down and processing line capacity dropped by 25 percent as a direct result of employees infected with COVID-19. The limited space at the processing plants caused disruption for all animal protein industries but for the pork industry this was an exceedingly difficult situation, as the pork industry is based on a fixed (barn) space, with a calculated flow of animals entering and exiting barns. Changes in flow take months of planning. When processing plants were closed, and even though farmers in the Midwest slowed pig growth by lowering ration protein (holding diets), the pigs continued to grow in limited space, and subsequently, farmers were scrambling for options. Some farmers had no other option but to euthanize and dispose of barns full of healthy hogs.

As the industry started to wince, Michigan's pork industry farmers, MSU Extension, state government, industry organizations and associated agricultural businesses, gathered current experiences and made strategic preparations for disastrous disruption. Farmer preparation included feeding holding diets and collaboratively working with other Michigan farmers, utilization of the local processors, and reviewing coordinated pigs flow options. In the interim, stakeholders developed parallel partnerships of Secure Pork Planning (SPS) to review current situations such as depopulation, mortality management, and mental well-being of farmers. Gratefully, the slaughter capacity in the United States returned to near normal levels by May 2020.

Through industry disruption, our state saw increased

outreach to veterinarians, development of additional mortality management options, a review of mass disposal methods and increased communication between state government agencies, industry representatives, academia and educators. As a result of the monumental loss of food, and the financial and emotional cost to producers and consumers, Michigan's Secure Pork Supply Planning has accelerated, not due to disease in pigs, but due to a disruption in the market of them.

The framework for Secure Pork Supply in Michigan is being developed by the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) with support from MSU Extension, USDA and Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA). Farmers will also need to develop the framework for Secure Pork Supply plans for their individual operations. This includes taking preparedness steps to address specific requirements that will be in place during a foreign animal disease (FAD) event. Like industry disruption, addressing disease outbreak includes focusing on preparing and training the industry for the steps needed to address situations, environmental impact from increased mortality and economic stability of farming operations.

Outreach to Veterinarians

It is understood that herd veterinarians are essential to the operations of swine industry. They provide needed oversight and direction when responding to health issues, build biosecurity plans and provide input on daily operations. The role of the veterinarian was apparent in guiding their producers through difficult decisions in swine depopulation during the disruption and will be as integral during a major disease outbreak.

To this point; in the devastating event of detection of a FAD such as African Swine Fever (ASF) or Classical

Swine Fever (CSF) in Michigan, it is expected that MDARD would require an accredited veterinarian to inspect a farm biosecurity plan and to provide an affidavit of the farm's enhanced biosecurity plan prior to animal movement from the farm site.

For clarity, an accredited veterinarian is licensed to provide health certificates or affidavits. However, with the exception of swine and poultry veterinarians, there are only a few, among Michigan's 1,700 accredited veterinarians, trained in "enhanced biosecurity", especially when contrasted against the need of more than 2,000 pig farms in Michigan. Therefore, it is vital that all accredited veterinarians, assisting farms to establish their enhanced biosecurity plans, have a fundamental understanding of critical control points to mitigate risk of disease entry, and a method to share expectations with their clients, this when combined will enhance the preparedness and resiliency in the State of Michigan. For these reasons, funding was sought and has been appropriated from the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association's Michigan Animal Health Fund, allowing the MSU Extension team with assistance from USDA and MDARD to develop a comprehensive Michigan enhanced biosecurity training program.

This team, led by Dr. Madonna Benjamin is working to provide interactive educational training such that veterinarians have the opportunity to complete significant training in the areas of enhanced biosecurity, FAD response plans and the process in which affidavits will be signed to support movement of animals in outbreak areas. This type of preparation will allow accredited veterinarians and farmers to have an established biosecurity plan and checklist, prior to a required veterinary on-site inspection. With early implementation of enhanced biosecurity practices, there will be less room for error during an outbreak as the farm operations will be refining practices instead of introducing new ones.

Mortality Management

Anytime an industry situation could result in mass



While the Clemens Food Group pork processing plant in Coldwater, MI did not close down during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic, many other plants like this did close, causing supply chain disruptions across the country..

depopulation of animals, producers need to think through what their disposal options are for specific situations. The accessibility of different approved disposal options in Michigan are dependent on the reason for mass depopulation, with certain disease outbreak situations requiring disposal on-site. With a push from industry disruption, a review of the disposal options in Michigan occurred, with specific "need-to-know" information being summarized for producers, along with the identification of potential pitfalls or holes that the different disposal options could have. This also led to exploration of the availability of carbon sources for composting and the development of a network of suppliers that could be utilized if this were to occur. This work continues with a combined partnership of MDARD, MPPA and MSU Extension continuing the exploration of the different disposal methods.

Also, as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic and supply chain disruptions that were heavily experienced from March-May 2020 was the discussion regarding alternative disposal options. With the potential for mass depopulations being high, options for mortality disposal were being examined closely by state regulators and educators. A newer mortality option that has been researched in other states was brought to the table. Mesophilic static pile composting (MSPC) is a combination of burial and static pile composting that is an easily implemented method for producers, all while looking to protect the environment. More research is needed to see how this option would work in Michigan as not only a potential emergency mortality option, but also a normal/routine mortality management for Michigan producers.

Working together to provide more options for producers Erica Rogers (Lead), Dale Rozeboom, Steve Safferman, Sarah Fronczak, and Sue Reamer (NRCS) have submitted a research proposal and subsequent research study to examine the potential environmental and economic impacts of using MSPC as a viable mortality disposal option for Michigan farms. Outreach regarding this new mortality disposal option will continue with stakeholders (like EGLE and MDARD) regarding research findings and efforts will be made to include MSPC as a potential normal/routine mortality disposal option in BODA.

As the taskforce group continued to review disposal options, they recognized that composting on farms can be done if other, more convenient options are not available or disposal on-site is required. However, in the case of mass disposal, limitations were identified

for this method of disposal. Currently, operations accumulating more than 20,000 pounds annually are required to compost in or on a liner meeting the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 313 standards. Knowing that this would be a sufficient method in the disruption situation or if a FAD outbreak were to occur, a request was made by the Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) to have this requirement waived for this specific emergency. Moving past the state of disruption, this request is still gathering support and has been presented to governmental agencies for review, to help bolster the mass carcass disposal plan for the state.

Summary

COVID-19 and industry disruption has revealed the urgency for preparedness for the pork industry. Whether the cause be disruption because of pandemic situations or an outbreak of a FAD, the results and goals are similarly aligned. Minimizing economic disruption and distress, as a consequence of the pervasive negative effects resulting from an emerging pandemic situation and/or foreign animal disease outbreak, requires strong synergies across a group of first line personnel or 'field partners'. These individuals, including farmers, veterinarians, veterinary students (through on-farm visits), transporters, and butchers serve livestock throughout the food supply chain on a daily basis. It is this group of individuals, along with those working in support of the industry such as, state government, industry representatives and academia, which will need to develop the needed preparedness steps so that our state and its farmers can be best prepared for these types of situations. 🐷

The NEW Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program is now live online!

Michigan State University Extension and Michigan Farm Bureau work together to launch the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program

Erica Rogers, Michigan State University Extension Educator, rogers392@msu.edu,
Charles Gould, Michigan State University Extension Educator, gouldm@msu.edu

Michigan State University Extension (MSUE) and Michigan Farm Bureau (MFB) are pleased to announce that the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program has been officially launched online. This program is for farm owners and employees as well as for-hire manure applicators (firms) in the state of Michigan. The goals of the program are to:

- Prevent manure application problems before they occur.
- Increase nutrient management plan implementation.
- Improve professionalism among manure applicators.
- Demonstrate responsible manure application and
- Increase the base level of manure management knowledge of all employees.

The certification program is comprised of three levels. Each level includes manure application equipment inspection and ongoing education. Farms and firms who complete Level 1 and are insured by Michigan Farm Bureau Insurance qualify for a 5% reduction on the liability and farm personal property sections of their insurance policy.



Manure injection into wheat stubble. (Photo credit: Charles Gould)

Successful completion of Level 2 retains the 5% reduction plus other incentives. Successful completion of Level 3 increases the insurance premium reduction to 10%.

To get started, go to the Michigan Manure Hauler Certification Program website, www.canr.msu.edu/animal-agriculture/Manure-Hauler-Training/. Instructions on how to set up a MSU Desire2Learn account

are found on the front page of the website as well as complete details about the certification program.

It is important to note that if you are currently Livestock Systems verified with the Michigan Agriculture Environmental Assurance Program you have half of Level 2 completed (the other half is the manure application equipment inspection) and approximately 90%

of the Environmental Management Systems Plan for Level 3 completed.

Manure Management Summit

The Manure Management Summit will be held annually for all levels of certification to attend. The summit will cover regulatory updates, scientific and research updates, as well as other related manure management information. Participants will be expected to pass the knowledge check test at the end of the summit to maintain their certification.

Economic Advantage

The insurance industry is willing to offer significant premium discounts to firms and farms with a properly trained workforce and who follow through with program requirements. As an example, the manure applicator association in Wisconsin and the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Extension partnered with the insurance industry to create a market-based incentive program to encourage for-hire manure applicators to participate in a training and certification program. The insurance industry prefers clients who are proactive and are willing to reward those who go above and beyond the basics with significant savings on their insurance premiums. Insurance industry data showed that “claimable incidences” by participating applicators


dropped 80% in the first three years in the program in Wisconsin. Over time, through a proven track record of reduced risk and safer operations, Wisconsin for-hire manure applicators have been able to increase the discounts received through their program.

Benefits of the Program

The most obvious benefit is the insurance premium reduction. Perhaps more importantly however, the certification program demonstrates how animal agriculture is working towards environmental sustainability. The certification program creates a more positive perception of land application of manure as well as giving an element of credibility to manure applicators. Finally, it fulfills a request from Michigan livestock producers for a list of manure applicators who they can trust to apply manure responsibly and appropriately.

Questions about the Certification Program?

MSU Extension: Charles Gould at gouldm@msu.edu or (616) 994-4547 or Erica Rogers at rogers392@msu.edu or (989) 875-5233 Ext. 5296 or Sarah Fronczak at fronczak3@msu.edu or (517) 439-9301 Ext. 315.

Michigan Farm Bureau: Contact Tess Van Gorder (Ag Ecology Department) at tvangor@michfb.com or (517) 323-6711. 

MICHIGAN STATE

U N I V E R S I T Y

Extension

All comments and suggestions should be directed to the:

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(517) 614-8875, gemus@cvm.msu.edu

Melissa Millerick-May: MSU, Division of Occupational and Environmental Medicine
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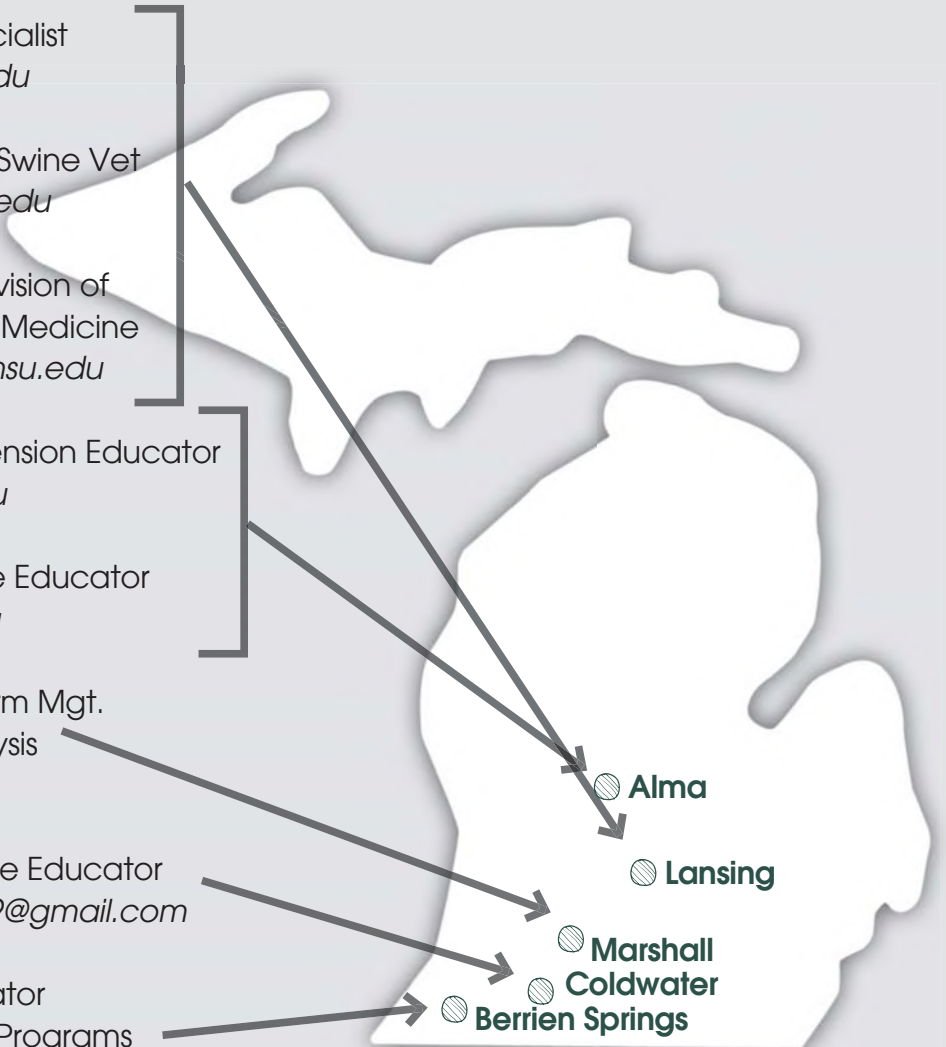
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Capital Update

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

NPPC PETITION LEADS TO U.S. TRADE SANCTIONS AGAINST THAILAND

The U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) recently announced it is suspending \$817 million in trade preferences for Thailand under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program because the country hasn't made sufficient progress providing the United States with "equitable and reasonable market access" for pork products. The decision follows a 2018 petition by the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) asking the USTR to review Thailand's eligibility for the GSP program, one that offers duty-free treatment to certain goods entering the United States.

"For years, Thailand has taken full advantage of special U.S. trade benefits, while imposing a completely unjustified de facto ban on U.S. pork. This is hardly a reciprocal trading relationship," said NPPC President Howard "AV" Roth, a hog farmer from Wauzeka, Wisconsin. "We thank the administration for taking this action and hope it results in fair access to the Thai market for U.S. hog farmers."

The United States is Thailand's number one export market, with almost \$4 billion of products annually sent to America under the GSP. Yet Thailand maintains a de facto ban on U.S. pork imports through high tariffs and several non-tariffs barriers. Thailand does not accept uncooked pork and pork offal from the United States, and it rarely, if ever, grants import licenses for U.S. pork. Even if such permits are granted, Thailand imposes a fee for imported pork equal to about \$220 per metric ton compared with \$7.50 per metric ton for domestically produced pork.

While the United States ships high-quality, safe and

affordable pork to more than 100 countries annually, unjustified restrictions have kept U.S. pork locked out of Thailand's large market.

NPPC OUTLINES U.S. PORK EXPORT BARRIERS

NPPC recently provided comments to the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) on significant barriers that U.S. pork exports face in various countries. "The United States is the top global exporter of pork, shipping nearly 2.6 million metric tons, valued at over \$6.9 billion to more than 100 nations in 2019. Gaining and expanding access to markets around the world is paramount to the continued success of the U.S. pork industry," NPPC wrote in its comments. Among the trade barriers outlined in the comments, Brazil has a de facto ban on U.S. pork that lacks any scientific justification and must be eliminated, U.S. pork exports to China face a 33 percent tariff and India remove its de facto ban on U.S. pork and pork products. USTR is compiling comments as it begins drafting its 2021 National Trade Estimates Report on Foreign Trade Barriers.

U.S., U.K. BEGIN FIFTH ROUND OF TRADE TALKS

The U.S. and the U.K. began recently their fifth round of trade talks in the hopes of soon completing a deal. "We're intensifying negotiations, so we're in a good position to move forward after the U.S. election," British Trade Minister Liz Truss wrote on Twitter. "These things take time...but we are making great headway and we have got 30-some groups negotiating and negotiating bitterly right now," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told the Atlantic Future Forum this week. In October 2018, the Trump administration first announced its intention to negotiate a trade agreement with the U.K. NPPC is supportive of negotiations, provided the agreement eliminates tariff and non-tariff

trade barriers on pork, the U.K. acknowledges meat industry standards as equivalent and they agree to import product from all federally inspected facilities.

NPPC HOSTS LEGISLATIVE ACTION CONFERENCE; COVID RELIEF, FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASE PREVENTION AMONG TOP ISSUES

A COVID-relief package that includes much-needed assistance to hog farmers in crisis and foreign animal disease prevention top the list of five critical issues at the National Pork Producers Council's (NPPC) Legislative Action Conference (LAC). Pork producers from across the country gathered virtually to address these and other issues with lawmakers. Among LAC speakers were House Agriculture Committee Chairman Collin Peterson (D-Minn.), Rep. Ron Kind (D-Wis.), Rep. David Rouzer (R-N.C.), and USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Burke Healey.

"The considerable economic contributions of a highly competitive, innovative U.S. pork production system, as well as the livelihoods of thousands of hog farmers, are at risk without effective solutions to multiple challenges facing our producers," said NPPC President Howard "AV" Roth, a hog farmer from Wauzeka, Wis. "U.S. pork producers are already suffering considerable losses due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and cannot afford another catastrophic blow should African swine fever (ASF) or other foreign animal diseases enter our country."

Germany recently reported its first case of ASF in a wild boar. The swine-only disease continues to spread in parts of Europe and Asia, and the United States needs to remain vigilant to ensure ASF and other animal and plant diseases don't enter the country.

NPPC is urging Congress to fully fund foreign animal

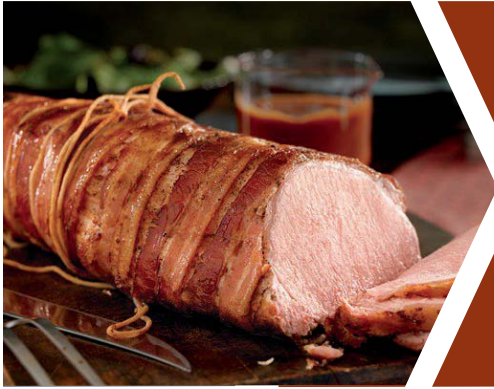
disease prevention programs. U.S. Bureau of Customs and Border Protection agriculture inspections at U.S. ports of entry are funded by Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (AQI) program user fees. Due to the COVID-related economic downturn and significant reductions in travel, collection of these user fees has dropped precipitously.

"Without a prompt resolution, there will be an estimated \$630 million shortfall in AQI funding through the end of fiscal year 2021. It is imperative that this funding shortfall be addressed to protect the U.S. swine herd and all of agriculture from foreign animal and plant diseases," Roth added.

Additionally, NPPC is advocating for a COVID assistance package that includes the following provisions: 1) compensation for euthanized and donated hogs; 2) additional funding for animal health surveillance and laboratories, which have appropriately assisted and shared resources with their public health partners; 3) modification of the Commodity Credit Corporation charter so a pandemic-driven national emergency qualifies for funding; 4) additional funds for direct payments to producers without restriction and; 5) extension of the Paycheck Protection Program with modifications to make it accessible to more producers.

NPPC's members also addressed these priorities with lawmakers during LAC:

- A U.S.-U.K. free trade agreement that eliminates all tariff and non-tariff barriers;
- Moving regulatory oversight of gene editing in animals from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to the U.S. Department of Agriculture; and
- Timely reauthorization of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act, set to expire on Sept. 30.



Pork Checkoff

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

NATIONAL PORK BOARD LAUNCHES REAL PORK

In an environment where shoppers continually question what brands and products they can trust. Where increasingly diverse consumers seek to connect with the familiar flavors of their heritage. And home cooks are weary – both from meal preparation and an inability to travel to other cities, states and countries to experience authentic flavors. The National Pork Board is helping America wake up and get **real**.

Through its new master-brand strategy, the Pork Board invites consumers to experience the authenticity, flavor and ability to bring people together that *Real Pork* provides.

“*Real Pork* not only celebrates the authentic flavors of pork, it encompasses the values and beliefs of the pork industry from farm to fork,” said Angie Krieger, vice president of domestic marketing at the Pork Board. “Our work began on this master-brand strategy before the coronavirus appeared the United States, but the shift in buying and cooking habits the pandemic created certainly accelerated our efforts. Six months in, consumers are weary of meal preparation, they want new experiences and to travel.”

During the pandemic, retail sales of pork have surged as consumers are cooking more at home, purchasing different products than they normally do and experimenting with new recipes. Supported by extensive consumer research, *Real Pork* aims to not only sustain the growth from pandemic purchasing but extend it long term by highlighting pork’s advantages.

Those advantages begin in the barn, so telling the authentic stories of pig farmers and pig farms – and how pork’s sustainability creates a protein consumers

can feel good about feeding their family – will be a critical part of how *Real Pork* comes to life.

The first introduction of *Real Pork* to consumers came this September, and focuses on “Pork as a Passport,” which celebrates pork’s position as a culturally relevant protein around the world. It encourages small adventures for weary quarantine cooks by showcasing delicious pork dishes from next door and across the globe.

Pork as a Passport will help consumers travel through their taste buds via inspiration that will be found in digital, social media, video, and a new landing page at www.pork.org/realpork. A few examples of planned activities include:

- Matching pig farmers with global chefs to connect over pork product
- Highlighting globally-inspired pork recipes with modern photography
- Engaging a family psychologist to provide insight about the importance of family meals
- Sharing information on global recipes and flavors using pork through social media influencers
- Connecting U.S. chefs with international chefs to cook and together, create rich sharable videos for online and social media
- Highlighting pork in the most authentic, real and delicious way possible, through street food in a multicultural effort called Menu Urbano

As activities come to life, they will be posted on the new landing page, www.pork.org/realpork and the National Pork Board Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Pinterest accounts.

NEW REPORT: PORK INDUSTRY MAKES GAINS IN SUSTAINABILITY

As America's pig farmers continue to fight back from the negative impact of COVID-19 and the ups and downs of markets and bad weather, a new study released by the National Pork Board, Production Analysis Summary for U.S. Pork Industry: 2017-2019, shows that America's pig farmers continue to make strides in overall sustainability by being more efficient every day.

The 15-page report, prepared by Minnesota-based MetaFarms and its subsidiary SMS (Swine Management Services), looked at sow, nursery, finish and wean-to-finish data over a three-year period. The results reconfirmed long-term trends of increasing efficiency, which has the additional benefit of reducing production costs – an especially welcome conclusion in 2020.

“One of the greatest benefits of this Pork Checkoff-funded study is the benchmarking ability it offers producers who always want to improve their efficiencies,” said Chris Hostetler, animal science director for the Pork Board. “It's also a great way to show today's consumers that America's pig farms are becoming more efficient all the time and that pork is a sustainable choice when it comes to choosing a protein.”

Brad Eckberg of MetaFarms and Ron Ketchem of SMS, helped analyze much of the data in the study.

“The ability to benchmark allows producers to compare their production numbers to other farms and systems, regardless of what record program they are using, what genetics they have or their farm size,” said Ketchem, a longtime industry number cruncher. He continues to be surprised by the increasing range of production numbers between farms year after year.

“Every year, more variation occurs with new highs and lows being set,” he said. “This shows the impact in genetics and the ability of producers to manage their

farms daily.”

When producers are looking at benchmarking and at ways to improve, Ketchem offers these rules of thumb:

Farrowing rate: A 1% change in farrowing rate equals a 0.34 pig increase or decrease in pigs weaned/mated female/year. Example: A change of 4% in farrowing rate equals an increase or decrease of 1.36 pigs weaned/mated female/year.

Piglet survival: Based on 15 total pigs born per litter, a change of 1% in piglet survival equals a 0.36 increase or decrease in pigs weaned/mated female/year. Example: A change of 4% piglet survival equals an increase or decrease of 1.44 pigs weaned/mated female/year.

Female death loss: A 1% change in female death loss equals a 0.25 pig increase or decrease in pigs weaned/mated female/year. Example: A change of 4% in female death loss equals an increase or decrease of one pig weaned/mated female/year.

Key productivity indexes (KPIs) are used throughout the analysis of sow, nursery, finish and wean-to-finish data to draw attention to specific areas of focus within production stages. The retrospective study, the eighth of its kind funded by the Pork Checkoff since 2011, breaks the KPIs into a month-to-month format to show the effects of seasonality on the data. The findings also identify possible improvements in genetics, nutrition, health, management practices, among other areas.

According to Hostetler, the goal of the study's production analysis is to aid the pork industry in improving profitability, which has to be part of the sustainability equation. “We hope that producers will dig into the specific parts of this study and use it to help improve their own farm businesses,” he said. “If you're happy with your numbers in one area of production, look at another area and see where more progress can be made. It's all about getting a little better every day.”

Visit pork.org/news/new-report-pork-industry-makes-gains-sustainability/ to view the study.

Michigan county preserves acres from development

The Kruihoff family permanently protected 148 acres of their land in Ottawa County.

The Kruihoff family has raised hogs, beef cattle and crops in Kent and Ottawa counties in Michigan for 50 years.

Tim Kruihoff started farming with his father 29 years ago. He is joined by his wife, Christine, and two of their three children also farm full time with them. And now the Kruihoffs have made certain their grandchildren, great-grandchildren and beyond will have that same opportunity.

Tim Kruihoff also serves as a board member for the Michigan Pork Producers Association.

On July 27, they permanently protected 148 acres from development in Wright and Chester townships in Ottawa County.

The Kruihoffs are the third multigenerational farming family to protect their land through Ottawa County's Purchase of Development Rights program. This program uses a combination of state or federal grant funding, private donations and landowner contributions to purchase the development rights to farmland, creating a permanent agricultural conservation easement. The Kruihoff easement brings the total number of acres protected by the PDR program to 238.

"Preserving farmland with Ottawa County ensures land protection and local food security for generations," says Becky Huttenga, Ottawa County economic development coordinator. "And the COVID-19 pandemic has underscored the importance of local food supply chains. In the face of crises, we need our farms."

In August, with the help of a grant from the Michigan Agriculture Preservation Fund, the county added a 168-acre parcel to its list of protected farms. To better visualize the program's expanding collection of protected agricultural land, the county has created a virtual tour at <https://storymaps.arcgis.com>.

Ottawa County's farmland protection program is about more than just permanently protecting acreage. The county's farmland preservation specialists



KRUIHOFF FAMILY: Three generations of the Kruihoff family celebrate protecting 148 acres of their farmland.

strengthen the program by addressing beginner farmer needs, increasing succession planning efforts and employing numerous other programmatic efforts.

These efforts have been noticed, landing Ottawa County on the National Agricultural Land Network's Advisory Committee. The National Agricultural Land Network is an initiative of American Farmland Trust and strives to further strengthen the collective capacity of public agencies, planning entities and land trusts working to protect agricultural land.

"Ottawa County's continued success in farmland preservation is a testament to the strength of its PDR program and understanding the needs of farmers in the county," says Cris Coffin, AFT's National Agricultural Land Network director and senior policy adviser.

This article was originally published by Michigan Farmer. 🐷

2021 Michigan Pork Producers Association Membership Application



Name: _____

Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

Please check one:

- \$40.00 Regular Member: Individuals or firm with over \$30,000.00 gross annual sales from hogs.
- \$100.00 Gold Regular Member: Individuals or firm with over \$30,000.00 gross annual sales from hogs.
- \$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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Check: Please make checks payable to MPPA and mail to 3515 West Road, Suite B, East Lansing, MI 48823

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

Swine industry loses a quiet leader: Paul Matzat

Maynard Hogberg, former chairman of the Michigan State University Animal Science Department, lost a good friend, but he says the swine industry suffered a greater loss when Paul Matzat passed away Aug. 18 after a 13-month battle with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

“His passion was livestock,” Hogberg says, but the Iowa State University Animal Science professor emeritus says Matzat was passionate about so much more than just the animals. An Indiana native, Matzat attended Purdue University where he received both his bachelors and master’s degrees in Animal Science. After returning to the farm upon completion of his master’s, he was convinced by an uncle to look at the entire picture of pig farming, including economics and profitability on top of his interest in nutrition.

“I think that’s when it all came together as an individual who really understood the production and all the disciplines involved, whether it be breeding and genetics and nutrition, reproduction,” Hogberg says. “He understood that whole part, but then also understood how important the economics were and understanding how you’ve got to keep things profitable ... very few people can put all that together and understand the production side, as well as the business side and the economic side. He was one of those individuals that could do that.”

As much of an anomaly of being able to bring all of that understanding into one mind, Hogberg says Matzat also was unusual in the number of jobs he had in his career. Hogberg says most graduates today will have four to seven jobs in their career, as where “Paul had quite a few more than that. ... times when I had talked to him about that, he says, ‘well, I have not applied to those jobs. People just come and seek me out and recruited me.’ And they did it because he had some skillsets and knowledge that they couldn’t find anywhere else.” Of the many jobs that Matzat had in his career, which Hogberg believe number 11, Hogberg highlighted Matzat’s time with Elanco and Kemin Industries.

Hogberg was at Michigan State University when he first met Matzat, hiring him to manage the school’s swine farm. Matzat had also shown interest in pursuing his PhD in swine nutrition, which he achieved during his time at MSU. “It was a win-win,” Hogberg says. “Little did I know at the time that he was going to become one of the best friends I had, of the colleagues and friends I had throughout the whole career.”

As Hogberg continued in his administration career, he valued the friendship and input Matzat could provide of what was going on in the “real world.”

“The more you’re in administration, the more you get away from the day-to-day what’s going on in the industry. So I really



Paul Matzat

started to rely on him to keep me up to speed because he had that background,” Hogberg says. A big move came to get Matzat on the board of directors for the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence as an allied industry representative when the USPCE was formed in 2006. Matzat stayed on the board until last year, resigning after receiving his ALS diagnosis. “He made a major contribution there, as we talked about research priorities, he could tell us who, what, where are the most important research areas that could have an influence on the pork industry,” Hogberg says.

Hogberg says his old friend was a man of faith, and “he lived it, it wasn’t just lip service. You could see it in his day-to-day and everything he did ... in the way he treated people, ethics and values.”

Swine industry loses a quiet leader (continued)

Matzat's smile is also something that Hogberg will miss, "he always had a smile on his face."

And, he kept his sense of humor, even when his own health was failing. Part of one of Matzat's research projects involved cannulating sows' stomachs to see if when sows eat more, would they lose weight during lactation, would they lose less backfat, would they milk more and would they rebreed sooner. The only way to achieve that is to force feed the sows through a cannula into the stomach.

Fast-forward to Matzat being wheel-chair bound, and he emailed Hogberg saying doctors "tell me I will have to have a stomach port in before too long. Isn't that interesting?" Hogberg wasn't surprised that his old friend found humor and the irony in his own dire situation.

Matzat, of Westerville, Ohio, was 65 when he died. He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Barbara (Schwartz); three daughters, Leah (Ian); Lara (Lucas); and Lyssa; three grandchildren; one brother, Eugene; and two sisters, Dolores and Annette. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ewald Matzat and Flora (Kothe) Matzat and his sister, Nancy. His many nieces, nephews and extended family are spread across the Midwest and country.

The funeral service was held Aug. 24 in Johnstown, Ohio.

This article was originally published by the National Hog Farmer. 🐷



Calendar of Events

Dec.:

16 MPPA Board Meeting
GCSI Offices
Lansing, MI

Jan.:

22-24 Green and White Swine Show

Feb.:

24 MPPA Board Meeting

April:

14 Spring Legislative Seminar

MI Pork PAC

Helping elect friends of the Michigan pork industry.

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

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

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

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



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Please make checks payable to: **MI Pork PAC**

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3515 West Road, Suite B,
East Lansing, MI 48823

Working for you...

by urging legislators to enact
responsible legislation
and regulation.

A new online record keeping tool is available for conservation planning

The Computer Assisted Nutrient Management Planning Program (CANMaPP) is a free, online record keeping tool available to help track on-farm conservation practices.

Nutrient management planning for farms is important for both economic and environmental growth and stability. Keeping records of nutrient management practices that you implement on your farm is critical for several reasons. Records allow a farm to balance nutrients with regards to crop requirements and soil nutrient levels. Additionally, they can help make future management decisions by comparing and contrasting practices that have been successful and those that have not been as successful or have failed. This increases your efficiency. Furthermore, good record keeping can aid in giving consumers confidence in the agriculture production practices used to make their food, which is important to your marketing strategy.

Basic record keeping components of nutrient management planning include:

- Soil and manure analyses
- Other sources of contributing nutrients
- Crop rotation and crop yield goals
- Actual yield
- Fertilizer application and method
- Time of year and weather forecasts
- Identification of any sensitive areas

What is CANMaPP?

CANMaPP is a free, online record keeping tool for nutrient management planning developed by the Michigan State University Institute of Water Research. The tool allows users to document, store, review, and update their farms' nutrient management practices. Using the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) 590 Nutrient Management Planning spreadsheet as a base for the application makes it easier for NRCS to verify payments issued for practices funded through NRCS.


How you can use CANMaPP?

First, go to the CANMaPP website and create a user account. The user account only requires an email address ensuring all personal information remains anonymous. Next, set-up a user ID and password; then log back into the CANMaPP homepage and click on "My Dashboard." From there, import or enter your nutrient management data. This can be done with a pre-existing, filled out NRCS 590 spreadsheet to import data, or by downloading a blank NRCS 590 spreadsheet from the CANMaPP website and fill it out. Then, upload that spreadsheet into your CANMaPP account. CANMaPP populates the information into the appropriate fields in the online plan. Once importation is completed, review the online plan to make sure it is accurate.

You are now ready to start benefitting from CANMaPP! A couple of important features that CANMaPP offers are the calendar function and reports function. The calendar function allows the user to enter projected and actual dates of inputs such as manure or fertilizer application, planting, and harvesting of crops. The reports function has the ability to generate reports for current and previous years of nutrient management inputs that have been entered into the system. These reports allow NRCS to streamline the verification and payment process.

Conclusion

Nutrient management planning is important when talking about farming practices from both an economic and environmental standpoint. CANMaPP can help with the recordkeeping portion of nutrient management in a way that is uniform and helps make NRCS nutrient management program payments easier to verify. If you need help using CANMaPP you can watch a recorded training or contact MSU Extension educators Erica Rogers, roger392@msu.edu, or Sarah Fronczak, froncza3@msu.edu.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension. For more information, visit <https://extension.msu.edu>. 

We're Listening

Dear MPPA,

Thank you very much for meeting with the state officer team during our Business and Industry tours. Even though the visit was virtual, we all learned so much and we cannot wait to meet in person soon. Thanks again!

Sarah Albrecht

2020-2021 Michigan FFA State Secretary

Dear MPPA,

Thank you for selecting me to be one of the 2020 Scholarship winners! As I pack my bags to leave for college next week, I can't help but thank the individuals and associations like yours that have helped fund my education. Thank you for investing your time and money into individuals like me! I really appreciate it.

Katrina Tucker,

Hopkins, MI

Dear MPPA,

Thank you so much for your help during our Agricultural Science Camp. We appreciate the time you took to be part of this experience. Your effort and knowledge was very enlightening to all of us.

Southwestern Michigan College Educational Talent Search Staff



An advertisement for Albright Swine Farms. At the top left is the logo with a sun and the text "Albright Swine Farms". Below it is contact information: "Doug: 517-416-5781 Pat: 989-429-5215 965 Flint Rd. Coldwater, MI". To the right, a list of services: "Boars Semen Sales Open Gilts Bred Gilts Feeder Pigs". Below this are two photos of pigs: a black and white pig on the left and a brown pig on the right. At the bottom left, a list of breeds: "Berkshires Durocs Yorkshires Herefords Crossbreds". At the bottom right, it says "Visit our website for more information! www.brightswine.com".

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Apple Cinnamon Pork Chops

INGREDIENTS

- 4 bone-in ribeye (rib) pork chops (about 3/4-inch thick)
- salt
- pepper
- 3 tablespoons butter (divided)
- 2 apples (peeled, cored and thinly sliced)
- 1 white onion (large, halved and thinly sliced)
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar (packed)
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 1 pinch cayenne
- 2/3 cup apple cider
- 1/3 cup heavy cream



INSTRUCTIONS:

Generously season the chops with salt and pepper on both sides. Set aside.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Immediately add the pork chops and cook until brown, about 3 minutes per side. Transfer to a plate and set aside.

Return the skillet to medium-high heat and melt 1 tablespoon of butter. Immediately add the apples and onion and cook, stirring occasionally, until the onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in the brown sugar, cinnamon and cayenne. Stir in the apple cider and cream. Add the pork chops, nestling them into the liquid, and cook until the internal temperature of the pork reaches between 145 degrees F. (medium rare) and 160 degrees F. (medium), 3 to 4 minutes per side.

Serve the chops with the apple mixture spooned on top.