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Michigan's Pork Producers source for information.



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Soybean meal is the gold standard in vegetable protein, so sales are increasing in the global livestock market. However, the U.S. farmers' share of the sale to pig producers has dropped more than 70% since 1990. That's because soybean protein is decreasing, and synthetic amino acid companies offer cheap alternatives.

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***On the cover: Denny Thelen (center) celebrates receiving the MPPA Distinguished Service Award with family at the Michigan Pork Symposium on February 23, 2022. ***

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2022 Michigan Pork Symposium

By: Emily Schmitt

MPPA PROGRAM
DIRECTOR



In February 23, 2022, the Michigan Pork Producers Association hosted the 2022 Michigan Pork Symposium. The symposium focused on day-to-day tools that producers could take back to the farm such as employee management, working with sows and farrowing, issues facing grow-to-finish operations and smaller farm operations. The goal of the symposium was to provide producers with knowledge that will help them provide a growing human population an environmentally-safe, socially-acceptable, low-cost source of meat. The conference also allows producers to get an update on the outlook of the industry.

The Symposium started with a welcome and introductions, followed by a keynote by Dr. Larry Firkins with the University of Illinois, on “Our Search for Significance.” Dr. Patrick Webb with the National Pork Board followed up with a presentation about Foreign Animal Disease and African Swine Fever Preparedness.

Attendees then chose between sessions focusing on sow farm operations, grow/finish and small farm management. The breakout sessions featured topics such as caring for the farrowing sow, farm technology, herd health, people management, African Swine Fever, biosecurity and more.

Attendees were treated to a delicious lunch of pork dishes prepared by the Lansing Center’s culinary staff and National Pork Board Chief Strategy Officer Jarrod Sutton provided a Pork Checkoff update. Dr. Kim Dodd, Director of the Michigan State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, also spoke about what the lab has to offer pork producers. Awards were then presented to Michigan pork producers for their dedication to the industry.



Three individuals were recognized for their excellence in pork production and contributions to the pork industry.

The Distinguished Service Award, Michigan Pork Producers Association’s highest honor, is bestowed on individuals who have made a significant lifetime contribution to the pork industry at both the state and national levels. Receiving the award this year is Denny Thelen.

For many years, Denny has worked for United Producers Inc. and has been involved in helping farmers with packer contracts and shipping hogs throughout the state.

His knowledge of the industry and drive for continued growth and improvement, coupled with his dedication and passion for agriculture, have made him a leader whose opinions are actively sought and valued by his peers. Denny is well-known for his commitment to the industry and

Attendees listen to keynote speakers at the 2022 Michigan Pork Symposium.

excellent service to Michigan's pig farmers.

The Master Pork Producer Award honors those who have demonstrated skills in proficient pork production and taken an active leadership role in the Michigan pork industry. Chosen to receive the award this year is Rick Sietsema from Allendale, Michigan.

Rick began farming with his father, Harley, and they raised turkeys before expanding to pigs. The business continues to be a family affair and has expanded to market 600,000 head each year.

The Swine Herd Manager Award is given annually to an individual who exemplifies superior commitment, knowledge and leadership in their role as a manager of a pork production operation. MPPA awarded the Swine Herd Manager Award to Chris Rozeboom with the Michigan State University Swine Teaching and Research Farm.

Individuals chosen for these honors are nominated by their peers and selected by the MPPA Board of Directors.

In the afternoon of the Symposium, attendees went back into breakout sessions and the day concluded with a sponsor reception. Attendees enjoyed hors d'oeuvres featuring pork while talking with industry representatives and fellow pork producers.

The 2022 Michigan Pork Symposium successfully provided pork farmers from around the state information about their ever-changing industries. Valuable impact is anticipated in the future




Denny Thelen (center) celebrates receiving the MPPA Distinguished Service Award with his family at the Michigan Pork Symposium.



Above, Rick Sietsema celebrates receiving the MPPA Master Pork Producer Award with his father Harley, daughter Kristy Roelofs, wife Dalayne, son Eric and daughter-in-law Lindsey. At right, Chris Rozeboom with the MSU Swine Teaching and Research Farm accepts his Swine Herd Manager Award from his supervisor and MPPA Board Member Kevin Turner.



as farmers use information from the symposium to produce food for the world. This event was also made possible by many significant pork industry sponsors (see page 24). 

“Forum Delegates Adjust Pork Checkoff Rate”



By: Brian Pridgeon
MPPA PRESIDENT

Every year, in the middle of spring planting, I wish there were a way to pause the work in the hog barns so that I might feel less exhaustion. My dad's response to my tired whine is to remind me that I signed up for this life and that this season will soon be over. I hope your crops are off to an excellent start.

Last year, I served on a task force that Mary discussed in a previous issue of the Michigan Pork magazine. The work of the task force was to examine and make recommendations on how the National Pork Board (NPB) and the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) should operate and better serve our industry. During those meetings, which concluded last December, the task force identified several areas of concern that faced our industry (ASF preparedness, labor shortfalls, Prop 12 demands, regulatory burdens, etc.). After identifying the most pressing issues, we were asked to make recommendations on how our national organizations, in conjunction with each state association, could work better to meet the growing demands of safeguarding our industry. The task force issued five recommendations. Four of the recommendations articulated a more efficient joint effort and annual planning that should occur between NPB and NPPC. The fifth recommendation asked for a rate adjustment to both the mandatory checkoff and the Strategic Investment Program (SIP). The SIP is a voluntary contribution that supports NPPC.

At the Pork Forum in March, the delegate body was asked to approve the task force's recommendation. An advisement submitted by Iowa, Ohio, and Illinois outlined a coordinated effort that will occur between NPB and NPPC annually. The advisement that was passed by both organizations recommended the following:

1. Create a joint Producer-Led working group of state leaders (NPB and NPPC) that conducts annual industry planning, prioritizes issues, identifies risks and develops action plans.
2. Invest in shared resources (within the criteria of the separation agreement) to develop and implement a more fully coordinated marketing strategy and communications plan for the industry overall.
3. Form a new joint industry task force in 2022 to ensure the industry is equipped to address issues and opportunities at the state, regional and grassroots level. The task force shall report annually to the voting delegates at Pork Forum.
4. Establish a culture and operational framework that ensures the most efficient and effective use of producer funding.

The advisement passed with unanimous support, and it was clear that

both organizations were eager to begin implementing the plan outlined above.

In regard to the funding adjustment, the delegate body had a healthy debate. There were three clear opinions for how to fund NPB and NPPC:

1. Maintain checkoff at the current rate and increase SIP
2. Lower checkoff by .05/100 wt., increase SIP by .05/100 wt.
3. Lower checkoff by .10/100 wt., increase SIP by .10/100 wt.

The heart of the discussion on funding revolved around how the industry funds its fight against regulatory burdens and anti-farming activism. States that have been the frontline for these fights felt strongly

for a dramatic increase to SIP. However, there was a sense that producers would resist a net increase in dollars collected for both organizations. The delegate body arrived at a compromise and voted 94 percent in favor for the middle ground of a reduction of a nickel to checkoff for a nickel increase to the SIP program.

What I was most pleased with was the discussion for how our national and state organizations can better serve producers and meet the needs of our industry that are pressing and timely. Let us be nimbler to adjust to the ever-shifting challenges facing pig farmers. I encourage you to get involved and, if you are not already, to consider signing up for SIP remittance, if you already contribute, consider whether an adjustment to your SIP is prudent for your farm. As always, feel free to reach out to myself or our staff if you have any questions. 🐷

Cybersecurity Tips for Your Farm Business

Security experts are urging all farmers, including pork producers, to make cybersecurity a top priority for their businesses. This type of criminal activity continues to target America's food industry.

The FBI informed the food and agriculture sector that ransomware actors are more likely to attack. The agency says agricultural cooperatives are of particular concern during critical planting and harvest seasons. These events can disrupt operations, causing economic loss and negatively impacting the food supply chain. The FBI notes ransomware attacks during these seasons happened against grain cooperatives during the fall 2021 harvest and in early 2022.

The federal government's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) offers a

wealth of information about the entire topic of ransomware and how you can protect yourself and your business. However, the basics of cybersecurity only require remembering these four steps of "cyber hygiene":

1. You'll be 99% less likely to get hacked by implementing multifactor authentication on your accounts.
2. Update your software and turn on automatic updates.
3. Think before you click. More than 90% of successful cyberattacks start with a phishing email.
4. Use a password manager to generate and store unique passwords or assign your own strong passwords. 🐷



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By: Mary Kelpinski

MPPA CHIEF
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“Washington D.C. Legislative Action Conference”

Preparing for and preventing foreign animal diseases, addressing an agricultural labor shortage, increasing pork exports and increasing the line-speed at pork processing plants, were some of the top public-policy issues Tim Kruietoff, Kent City; Ed and Eric Reed, Marcellus; and I discussed with our congressional lawmakers recently in Washington D.C. We were joined by nearly 100 producers from across the country during the spring Capitol Hill fly-in of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), — in person for the first time in two years. We were also joined by Jarred Lorenz, H & H Farms Vicksburg, who is participating in the Pork Leadership Institute and Josh Scamlin, NPPC Regional Manager of Producer Services for Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio.

“I believe that the USDA Food Safety Inspection Service announcement recently, allowing the Coldwater plant a “time limited trial” for line speed is a perfect example of why it is so important for producers to be meet with or be in contact with our legislators. This is one of the topics that the Michigan delegation discussed with all the offices that we visited and as a result we can see that DC got something good done in a timely manner,” said Tim Kruietoff. “We as pork producers must take time to meet or contact our legislators because I can guarantee that those that disagree with what we do are meeting and telling a different story than we want to be told. We need to take pride in what we do and defend our way of life.”

“Challenges facing our industry continue to evolve, and we hope our efforts help lawmakers understand why these issues are so important to the livelihoods of producers and the future of our industry,” said Ed Reed. “But we need action now on these matters so producers can continue providing safe, nutritious pork to consumers worldwide. The fly-in allows producers to use their voices and tell their stories to compel representatives to take swift action on these issues.”

Producers urged lawmakers to support additional funding for foreign animal disease prevention and preparedness efforts, particularly around African swine fever (ASF). Last July, ASF was detected in the Western Hemisphere for the first time in more than 40 years. NPPC is requesting funding for fiscal 2023 for additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection agricultural inspectors; for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network,

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Above left, Eric and Ed Reed, Mary Kelpinski, Jarred Lorenz and Tim Kruithoff gather at the US Capitol to meet with legislators to talk about issues affecting the pork industry. Above right, Jarred Lorenz, Mary Kelpinski, Representative Jack Bergman and Josh Scramlin meet during the Spring Legislative Conference in Washington D.C..

of which Michigan State University’s Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is part of and provides disease surveillance and diagnostic support in cases of large-scale animal disease outbreaks; and for additional staff for the USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service’s Veterinary Services.

To address an ongoing labor shortage, we asked Senate and House members to expand the H-2A visa program to year-round agricultural workers without a cap on the number of visas, including packing plant employees. Currently, the visa only allows for temporary, seasonal farm laborers that are not compatible with the pork industry’s year-round labor needs. The pork industry also supports providing a pathway to legal status for foreign-born agricultural workers already in the United States.

“Employment in hog farming has declined in recent years despite growing labor needs and rising wages. As a key economic driver, hog farming is vital to prosperity in rural America and we need Congress to take action on H2-A

visa reform,” explained Reed.

We also shared the importance of trade to the pork industry, urging the Michigan delegation to encourage the Biden administration to join the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). The 11-country CPTPP has almost 500 million consumers and \$13.5 trillion of GDP. The United States was part of a previous agreement, the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), but President Trump withdrew from the TPP before it became

effective. We also requested the administration negotiate a more ambitious Indo-Pacific Economic Framework deal, one that includes agriculture and addresses nontariff barriers to U.S. products, including pork.

The Legislative Action Conference is a program made possible by voluntary Strategic Investment Program funding. Please contact me if you would like to become a contributor and help educate legislators about issues important to pork production. 🐷

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Supreme Court to Hear NPPC Case Against Prop. 12

The U.S. Supreme Court at its Mar. 25 conference agreed to hear a case brought by the National Pork Producers Council and the American Farm Bureau Federation (AFBF) against California's Proposition 12, which bans the sale of pork from hogs born to sows that weren't raised according to the state's "arbitrary" production standards.

"We are extremely pleased that the Supreme Court will consider the constitutionality of Proposition 12, in which California seeks to impose regulations targeting farming practices outside its borders that would stifle interstate and international commerce," said NPPC President Terry Wolters. "NPPC has poured a lot of blood, sweat and tears into preserving the rights of America's pork producers to raise hogs in a way that's best for their animals' well-being and that allows them to continue selling pork to all consumers, both here and internationally."

NPPC has waged a legal battle against the ballot initiative since it was approved in November 2018, arguing at the U.S. district and appellate court levels that Prop. 12 violates the Constitution's Commerce Clause, which grants Congress the power to regulate trade among the states and limits the ability of states to regulate commerce outside their borders.

The high court is taking up the case on appeal from the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, which in July 2021 upheld a lower court ruling against the NPPC-AFBF lawsuit. The appeals court found that despite the organizations plausibly alleging that Prop. 12 "will have dramatic upstream effects and require pervasive changes to the pork industry nationwide," 9th Circuit precedent didn't allow the case to continue. That precedent, however, runs counter to numerous Supreme Court decisions and is in conflict with nearly every other federal circuit court.

NPPC and AFBF in the coming weeks will file their initial brief with the Supreme Court, which could hear oral arguments in the fall and could

render a decision by the end of the year. Prop. 12, which took effect Jan. 1, 2022, prohibits in California the sale of pork from hogs whose mothers were raised in pens — anywhere in the world — that do not comply with the state's highly prescriptive housing standards. It applies to any uncooked pork sold in the state, whether produced there or outside its borders. Nearly all pork currently produced in the United States fails to meet California's arbitrary standards. (Business groups in California recently got a state superior court to delay the effective date of Prop. 12 for 180 days after final implementing regulations are issued.)

"In addition to its unconstitutional extraterritoriality," Wolters said, "Prop. 12 sets arbitrary animal housing standards that lack any scientific, technical or agricultural basis and that will only inflict economic harm on U.S. hog farmers and consumers."

To continue selling pork to the nearly 40 million consumers who live in California, which represents about 15 percent of the U.S. pork market, pork producers would need to switch to alternative sow housing systems. Industry estimates for converting sow barns or building new ones to meet the Prop. 12 standards are in the billions of dollars. Even with farmers bearing most of the costs, consumers in California and across the nation will eventually see higher pork prices.

In addition to its legal efforts, NPPC weighed in on problems with the initial proposal implementing regulations for Prop. 12, including an unworkable annual certification of hog farms' compliance with the initiative's requirements. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, which wrote the regulations, has yet to issue final rules.

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2022 Michigan Pork Producers Association Membership Application



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- \$100.00 Gold Associate Member: Person or companies associated with the pork industry.
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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.

Pork Industry Organizations Continue to Collaborate to Work Toward Preparedness for Foreign Animal Disease Outbreaks

As pork producers deal with challenges common to agriculture such as labor shortages, increasing input costs and common production diseases, they are also keeping a watchful eye on African swine fever (ASF), a devastating disease spreading through China, Eastern European countries and the Dominican Republic. While not currently present in the U.S., this disease remains on the radar of producers for a multitude of reasons.

ASF is a production disease that will devastate a swine herd, resulting in infected animals having extremely high rates of mortality and surviving animals becoming carriers of the infectious disease. Herds that have contracted this disease are fully depopulated. Surrounding potentially susceptible farms are put under high levels of scrutiny to stamp out the disease and control the spread.

As outbreaks occur in other countries, international demand increases for U.S. pork products, adding market value to Michigan-grown pigs. While increased demand generally means increased revenue, it can also cause market price fluctuations that can be difficult for producers to manage, enticing farms to expand to meet export demand. As infected countries recover from the disease, the export markets will likely disappear, causing lower market prices.

The 2021 ASF outbreak in the Dominican Republic brought the disease much closer to home. Producers, processing facilities and associated businesses understand there is no longer an ocean between their industry and this disease. The implications of an outbreak in the U.S. are vast and would result in an immediate shut down of all export markets for the swine industry. Recent research from Iowa State University and Universidad de la Republica, Uruguay, indicates “the costs associated with an ASF outbreak are significant and require risk mitigation and safeguards to protect against the importation of the disease.”

If there is an ASF outbreak, stopping the spread

quickly will be critical. This would allow the industry to regain export markets before downsizing occurs, saving up to \$35 billion in losses. There is also an expectation of an industrywide movement shutdown when the first outbreak case occurs in the U.S., posing numerous challenges from farm to table for the pork industry. If outbreaks of disease do occur, the industry will be imposed with regulations for the movement of all swine, with state departments tasked with balancing decisions that affect disease spread and business continuity.

“Prepare for the worst and hope for the best” is the motto the secure pork supply taskforce is taking as they focus on preparedness for the industry. The combined industry organizations of Michigan State University Extension, MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Michigan Pork Producers Association and the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development are formulating a system that allows for business continuity for Michigan’s pork producers while avoiding supply chain disruption for processing units during the threat of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

The secure pork supply (SPS) taskforce recognizes these challenges for Michigan’s prominent pork industry and has increased their efforts for the state to be fully prepared if an event would occur. The benefit of this combined industry taskforce provides a full perspective of how an outbreak would affect Michigan’s pork industry. Engaging and embracing the co-leadership of MSU Extension – an organization with direct connections to pork producers, a full understanding of Michigan’s diverse pork industry and vast knowledge of disease spread and herd health – has enhanced the efforts of the entire team and made accessible numerous outreach channels and methods supporting these preparedness efforts.

The taskforce has focused on determining enhanced biosecurity practices for farms to implement if regulations are imposed for moving swine across and into the state. The designated system will allow producers to have their enhanced biosecurity plan validated and on file for review if permitted movement is in place. By understanding and



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implementing these enhanced protocols, farms will be better positioned to gain access to movement permits in a timely manner. Engaging in these practices will also help producers protect their herds from disease spread, decreasing the likelihood that their farms will be infected with ASF.

Michigan's diverse pork industry has operations varying in size and type across the state. MSU Extension provides education and resources focusing on foreign animal disease information and identification and improving biosecurity practices by using a multipronged approach to reach Michigan's pork producers. Various efforts include providing written materials and information, engaging in one-on-one discussion with farmers, presenting materials in large group meeting settings and developing virtual training tools that allow farmers and those involved in the industry to access information in a timeframe that meets their individual needs. As additional preparedness steps are determined by the state and secure pork supply taskforce, MSU Extension and MPPA will continue to provide the outreach and education needed by the pork industry to ensure Michigan pork producers are prepared for the challenges associated with a foreign animal disease outbreak.

Reducing the spread of disease means identification must happen rapidly and everyone involved in the care, transportation and processing of pigs needs to know the signs to look for and where to report their observations. ASF is a highly contagious virus that affects both wild and domestic pigs. It can cause high fever, red, blotchy skin or skin lesions, diarrhea, vomiting, coughing, difficulty breathing and even death.

Education and training materials developed by a team of MSU Extension educators and specialists are available to assist with identifying the signs of this disease. Farm laborers and personnel who access farm sites regularly, those involved in transportation of pigs and people working in processing facilities now have access to resources and information that will help them quickly identify and report any suspect animal that they may observe. This effort is crucial to quickly controlling the spread and stamping out the disease if an infection happens in Michigan or other areas of the U.S. For more information on how to identify symptoms of ASF, visit www.canr.msu.edu/resources/industry-collaborations-led-by-msu-extension-focus-on-preparedness-for-michigan-s-animal-agriculture-industry.

It is important to remember that although it is terribly damaging to the swine industry, African Swine Fever is not a risk to human health and pork products are still safe to eat.

The efforts of the secure pork supply taskforce fully enhance the preparedness of Michigan's pork industry. By engaging in educational activities, formulating enhanced biosecurity plans implemented on farms, routinely submitting data to support a high health herd status, and understanding how to quickly identify and report a suspect animal for foreign animal disease, Michigan's pork industry will be fully equipped to respond to a disease outbreak and focused on maintaining the business continuity of the industry while also setting a standard for all animal agriculture production Michigan as they also work toward building secure food supply systems.

This article was originally published by MSU Extension. 

MPPA Serves as Official State Agency for US Swine Health Improvement Plan



The US Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) is in the pilot phases but aims to establish a platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions. Such a working system is needed to support the current and future health assurance needs of the 21st century US pork industry. Michigan Pork Producers Association is serving as the official state agency for the program and is currently working to enroll Michigan's pork producers.

US SHIP is being modelled after the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), a collaborative effort involving industry, state, and federal partners providing standards for certifying the health status of greater than 99 percent of commercial scale poultry and egg operations across the US.

The initial and principal objectives are to develop and implement an African Swine Fever (ASF)-Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Monitored Certification of US pork production operations (farm sites and slaughter facilities) modelled after the NPIP's H5/H7 Avian Influenza Monitored certification of US Commercial Poultry operations.


US SHIP is a USDA Veterinary Services sponsored pilot project being pursued with support of state and industry partners. US SHIP has received endorsements of support by the United States Animal Health Association, American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians, National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, and the North American Meat Institute.

The US SHIP ASF-CSF Monitored certification aims to mitigate risks of disease introduction and provide a practical means for demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease (outside of foreign animal disease control areas) in support of ongoing interstate commerce and a pathway towards the resumption of international trade over the course of a trade impacting disease response and recovery period.

In short, US SHIP will establish a national playbook of technical standards and associated certification recognized across participating states that centers on disease prevention and demonstration of freedom of disease outside of control areas in support of animal health, commerce, and trade.

US SHIP is designed to be applicable across the full-spectrum of US pork industry participants from the small show pig farmer to the large commercial producers and slaughter facilities.

- US SHIP participants are US pork producers and packers (slaughter facilities).
- Participation is at the level of a given premises (geographic location).
- Packers are not required to have 100 percent of their supply chain originating from ASF-CSF Monitored sites to participate in US SHIP.

Please visit usswinehealthimprovementplan.com for more information. Contact MPPA at misecurepork@gmail.com or 517-853-3782 to begin the enrollment process for your farm. 

MPPA Awards Scholarships to Michigan Youth

An outstanding group of students applied for Michigan Pork Producers Association's Pork Industry scholarships. The applications were reviewed by a panel of judges including MPPA Board Members Brian Pridgeon, Montgomery, and Afton Blight, Albion. The committee chose four winners, awarding each scholarships totaling \$3,500. The winners include:

Shannon Rossman

Shannon Rossman is the daughter of Mark & Melanie Rossman and lives in Litchfield, MI. She has shown pigs at her county fair for many years and is a member of the National Junior Swine Association. Shannon is currently working towards obtaining my bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University. Upon graduation, she is looking at pursuing either graduate school or veterinary school. Shannon is also working with MPPA as a Secure Pork Supply Ambassador,

Alexis Wheeler

Alexis Wheeler is the daughter of Alan and Jennifer Wheeler and lives in Adrian, MI. She has raised and shown pigs for many years at her county fair, Michigan Livestock Expo and other jackpot shows. Alexis currently serves as a Secure Pork Supply Ambassador for the Michigan Pork Industry and attends Michigan State University pursuing a degree in Agribusiness Management.

Emily Mead

Emily Mead is the daughter of Richard and Jennifer Bennet and lives in Sturgis, MI. She grew up around pigs on her family's 6000 head wean-to-finish farm and has shown pigs for many years. Emily plans to attend Central Michigan University to obtain a bachelor's degree in science with a focus on animal health and pre-chiropractic medicine. She hopes to obtain a doctorate degree in Animal Chiropractic Medicine and continue the operation of her family's fourth generation swine farm.

Aleah Jaworski

Aleah Jaworski is the daughter of Lyle and Jennifer Jaworski and lives in Dundee, MI. She currently attends Michigan State University. She plans to attend veterinary school and focus on animal reproduction and embryology. Aleah grew up showing and raising hogs on her family farm and currently works at the MSU Swine Farm. She hopes to work in swine genetics in the future. 🐷



Scholarship winners included Shannon Rossman (top left), Alexis Wheeler (top right), Emily Mead (bottom left) and Aleah Jaworski (bottom right). Aleah was presented with the award at the 2022 Michigan Pork Symposium by MPPA board member Brian Pridgeon.



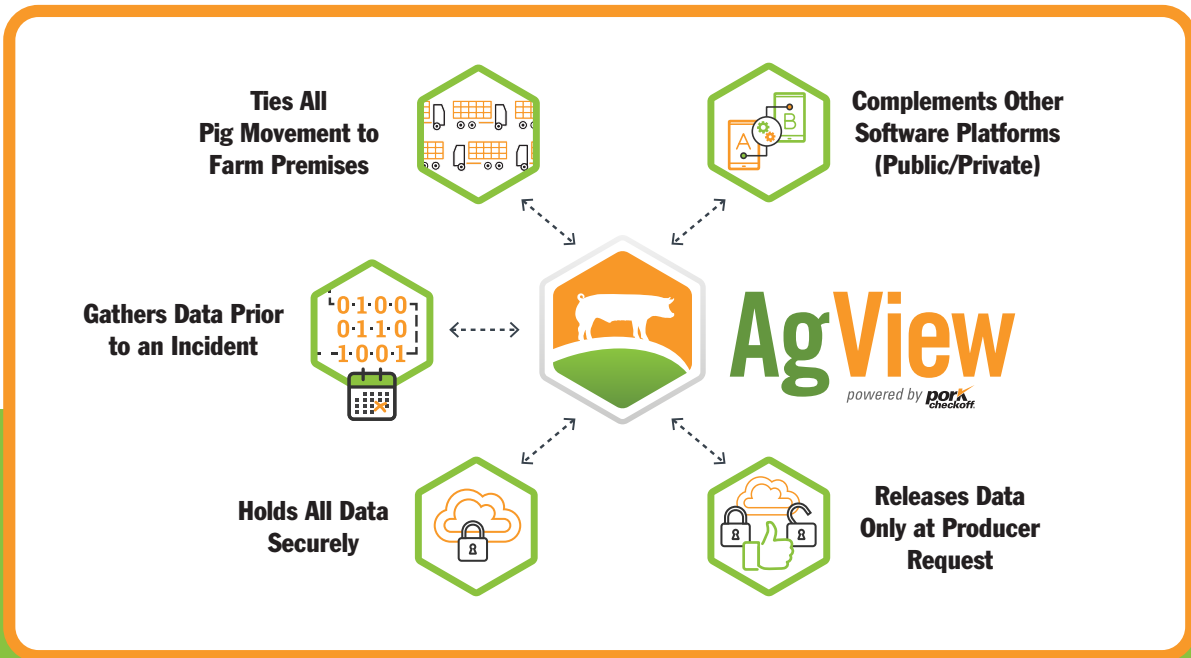
AgView: A New Tool for a Unified, Real-Time Approach for Foreign Animal Disease Response

A rapid, informed response is vital for quickly containing a foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak. While reporting protocols are in place on local and state levels, AgView is a free, opt-in technology solution that helps producers provide disease status updates and pig movement data to state animal health officials in real-time. When producers grant permission to share this data, it can be invaluable to creating a faster response to a suspected or confirmed FAD.

AgView's Value to the Industry

The AgView platform promotes business continuity for America's pig farmers by uniquely making disease traceback and pig movement data available to the USDA and state animal health officials on Day 1 of a foreign animal disease incident.

Important AgView Features



In the event of an African swine fever (ASF) or another FAD outbreak, state veterinarians and other animal health officials will rely on reviewing a massive amount of important data from producers to assist in contact tracing of infected animals/herds. AgView is a permission-based system that is able to rapidly share disease data from producers to animal health officials. Once the data-sharing is approved, AgView can quickly share this vital information, including:



Where the pigs are and the size and types of farms state vets are dealing with



Compliance with the U.S. Secure Pork Supply plan



Magnitude of animal movement, and more importantly, positive traces



Verification of criteria needed for permitting movement



Lab results from ASF or another FAD

African Swine Fever – A Very Real Threat to the U.S. Pork Industry

A foreign animal disease (FAD) outbreak such as African swine fever (ASF) could be a major setback for the U.S. pork industry. The impact would be catastrophic on the whole supply chain – from grain farmers and pig farmers, to packers/processors and retailers – and the industry may not recover quickly.

COVID-19 ravaged the pork industry leading to billions of dollars in losses for America's pig farmers, and the threat of ASF or another FAD could be far worse. According to an April 2020 study completed by economists at Iowa State University¹, the economic impact of a hypothetical ASF outbreak could:



Cost the pork industry more than
\$50 billion over 10 years



Mean a difference of
\$15 billion in losses versus \$50 billion in losses
for the industry in a scenario where ASF is controlled in two years versus 10 years



Equate to
140,000 job losses in the U.S.
in a scenario where it took 10 years to gain control of ASF

Cause hog prices to fall by
47% in the first year of the outbreak
with prices stabilizing to 1.8% lower in the 10-year scenario versus prices starting to climb to baseline levels as soon as pork exports begin to recover in the two-year scenario

Reduce pork production by almost
30% in the 10-year scenario
versus a very small contraction in the industry over the long term in the two-year scenario, pending export access is re-established

Integrating AgView for Producers and State Animal Health Officials

We never know when an outbreak of a FAD will occur, so everyone must be prepared and plan ahead to protect their farms, the pork industry and the agricultural economy. Routine updates on swine disease trends in a producer's area can help manage diseases more effectively. To make this easier for producers and ensure data is up to date, AgView can integrate with many systems that producers are already using. For producers that do manual record keeping, AgView also accepts imports from Excel records. With state-of-the-art features, AgView can complement existing software systems that state veterinarians may be using too. Using real-time information, state veterinarians can improve their disease response and FAD investigations.

To learn more, get a demonstration or see how to participate in the pilot process now, visit pork.org/agview.

Questions?

pork.org/agview | help@agview.com | (800) 767-5675

AgView, powered by
the Pork Checkoff,
is our industry's
Path to Protection.

1. Impacts of African Swine Fever in Iowa and the United States, Hayes, et al., Iowa State Univ., 2020
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Information for an Industry on the Move

June 2022

Vol. 27 No. 2

In This Issue...

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4 Emphasize Nutrient Management to Save on High Fertilizer Prices



ANIMAL AGRICULTURE INITIATIVE

This newsletter is edited by:

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& Emily Schmitt MPPA, Program Director

Laws Prohibiting Garbage Feeding of Pigs: A Useful Tool for Preventing African Swine Fever

Dave Thompson, Michigan State University Extension Educator, thom1637@msu.edu
Dale Rozeboom, Michigan State University Extension Specialist, rozeboom@msu.edu

To prevent the spread of diseases that infect pigs, including African Swine Fever, Michigan and 22 other states forbid the practice of feeding human food waste or garbage to pigs.

Michigan farms may not cook and feed garbage to swine

Michigan’s Public Act 466 of 1988 (as amended; Animal Industry Act MCL 287.717a) defines garbage as “any animal origin products, including those of poultry and fish origin, or other animal material resulting from the handling, processing, preparation, cooking, and consumption of foods. Garbage includes, but is not limited to, any refuse of any type that has been associated with any such material at any time during the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food.” In Michigan, a license to cook and feed garbage to swine will not be issued to anyone. A licensing option for cooking and feeding is provided for in the federal Swine Health Protection Act, which prohibits the feeding of garbage to swine unless the farm is licensed to do so and the garbage has been cooked to 212 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes before feeding. The cooking or treatment is required to kill disease-causing organisms which can infect swine when garbage containing animal by-products originating from infected animals is used as feed.

Currently in the U.S., 23 states, including Michigan, do not grant garbage feeding licensure, prohibiting the feeding garbage to swine. Twenty-eight states (including Puerto Rico) allow it under the requirements of the federal act. Among the top-10 swine producing states, five prohibit garbage feeding while five license it (Fig. 1).

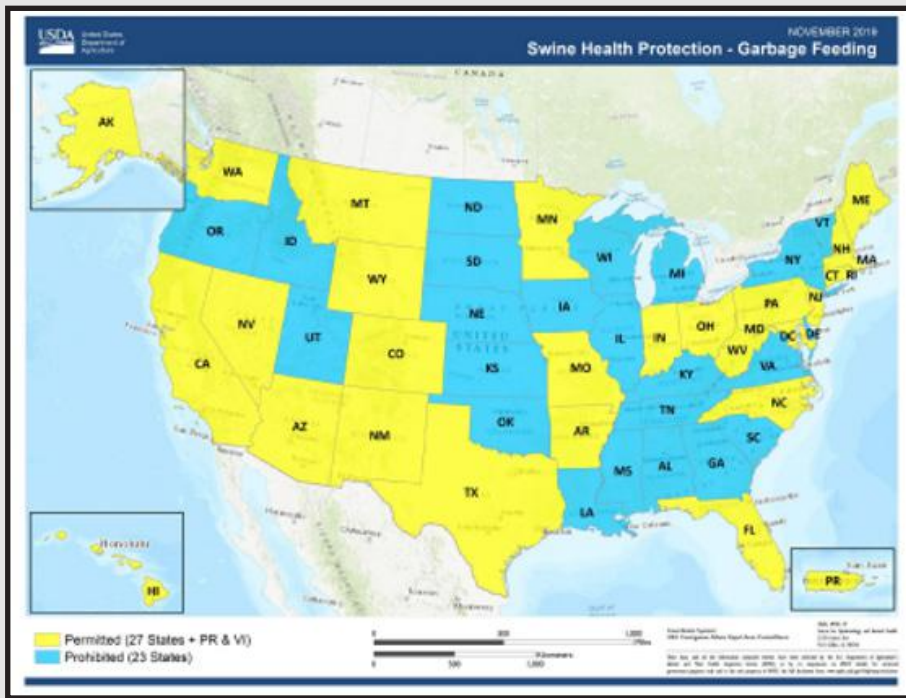


Fig. 1 Adapted from USDA website: *fs-swine-producers-garbage-feeding.pdf* ([usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov)). States shaded blue prohibit garbage feeding to pigs, states shaded yellow allow garbage feeding.

APHIS role in preventing foreign animal diseases in pigs

Among its numerous responsibilities, the USDA's Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) implements and enforces policies designed to protect livestock from highly consequential animal diseases (HCD). In swine, these diseases include Classical Swine Fever (CSF), foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) and African Swine Fever (ASF). Any HCD outbreak in the U.S. could have disastrous consequences to swine health and the pork industry, including immediate loss of access to critical export markets. The Swine Health Protection Act sets forth enforcement through U.S. district courts and describes the civil and criminal penalties for violating it. Importantly, the Act specifies that individual state laws that prohibit feeding of garbage to pigs will be fully recognized and have precedence before the federal act. Thus, again, in states that prohibit garbage feeding to swine, such as Michigan, a license to treat garbage for this purpose under the Act is not available

Garbage feeding and ASF outbreaks in pigs

Garbage feeding in pigs has been linked to outbreaks of ASF and other HCDs throughout the world. A 2007 outbreak of ASF in eastern Europe occurred after wild

boar fed on ASF-contaminated food waste at an international airport; the food waste was traced to pork products (Gogin et al., 2013). In early 2018, an ASF outbreak in Belgium is thought to be caused by discarded waste from a pork product eaten by feral pigs, which spread the disease to commercial pork production facilities there. In August 2018, the first case of ASF was detected in eastern China. Since then, the disease has spread west and south to other parts of SE Asia. Scientists at China's Ministry of Agriculture linked 62% of the initial 21 outbreaks in China to feeding kitchen scraps to pigs (Feedstuffs Report, 2018). A policy forbidding that practice in China was implemented within three months of detecting the initial cases, but the disease was already spreading rapidly by then.

The concept that garbage feeding (and human foods) brings additional risk of disease outbreaks in pork production is supported by numerous studies. Among the more compelling are surveys of food items collected at international airports that accept flights from counties with less strict guidelines in place to prevent export of HCDs. For example, a survey conducted in Australia over a two-week period in late 2019 showed that 202 out of 418 (48%) pork-containing items seized from passengers on flights from countries with active outbreaks of ASF tested positive for ASF (Australian ASF Report, 2020).

The urgency of this issue for U.S. pork producers was raised in late July 2021 when an outbreak of ASF in Dominican Republic pigs was detected. This outbreak represents the first HCD to reach the western hemisphere in over 40 years. The original source of virus causing this outbreak, which occurred along the country's border with Haiti, remains under investigation. However, recognizing that ASF contaminated human food products are a likely source, pork-sniffing dog patrols have been added to Coast Guard teams patrolling waters off Puerto Rico that are common entry points for immigrants from Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Further clarification of Michigan's policy

In Michigan, "bakery wastes, pasteurized eggs,

domestic dairy products, candy wastes, fruits, and vegetables are allowed to be used as feed for swine provided, they are not associated with animal origin products at any time during the handling, preparation, cooking, or consumption of food.” If feeding these products, a feed handling, processing, preparation, cooking, or feeding facility must meet one of the following: 1) have no animal origin products on the site of the premises that prepares animal feed products, 2) have separate handling, processing, preparation, and cooking areas for animal origin products on site of the premises that prepares the animal feed products, or 3) have written procedures in place and followed that ensure the handling, processing, preparation, and cooking areas are thoroughly cleaned and disinfected prior to such areas being used for animal feed products.

Michigan does license and oversee commercial rendering. Rendered animal products (ground and heat-treated to a minimum of 230° Fahrenheit) from commercial licensed facilities are allowed to be used as feed for swine. It is render’s responsibility to keep records and provide verification at the request of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Animal Industry Division and the Animal Feed Safety-Pesticide and Plant Pest Management Division directors and managers that any animal feed products are used for feed for swine were properly processed, identified, and distributed without any contact with other non-rendered animal origin products.

Pork producers’ position on garbage feeding

Most pork producers understand the risks inherent in garbage feeding of pigs far outweigh the benefits, especially during this time of heightened concerns over continuing spread of ASF. States, including Michigan, that don’t permit garbage feeding are taking a proactive step to protect the pork industry. This step is fully supported by the Michigan Pork Producers Association and the National Pork Producers Association, along with USDA, who have included strong recommendations against garbage feeding in their Secure Pork Supply and other FAD prevention educational outreach to farmers.

Steps to reduce the risks of ASF or another FAD on your farm

- Don’t feed table scraps or other food waste to pigs.
- When traveling, don’t bring animal products back into the country.
- Make sure anyone entering your farm who has

recently travelled to regions affected by ASF did not have contact with swine or swine facilities while there. Make sure they are not carrying food products that could accidentally be consumed by pigs on your farm.

- Don’t feed pigs any parts of animals you’ve killed while hunting, but especially feral swine or deer.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect equipment, trucks/ trailers, clothing, and other items that have been exposed to pigs (alive or dead) from other farms.
- Maintain a strict rodent control program.
- Keep all wildlife and pets that consume pork or other animal products away from your pens.
- If you source pigs from a state that permits garbage feeding, make sure you and everyone you know understand the risks inherent in this practice; take steps to ensure that farmers who feed garbage to pigs are treating it properly to destroy potential disease-causing viruses and bacteria.

For More Information

Help is available from the Michigan State University Extension Pork Team if you need assistance or are looking for further guidance regarding this topic.

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Emphasize Nutrient Management to Save on High \$\$ Fertilizer

Sarah Fronczak, Michigan State University Extension Educator, froncza3@msu.edu
Jonathan LaPorte, Michigan State University Extension Swine Vet, laportej@msu.edu

Rising fertilizer prices are leading concerns about farm input prices and their impacts to farm profits. Minimizing costs of production is the first step to retaining farm profits. The keys to minimizing costs are nutrient management planning and understanding nutrient sources.

Nutrient Management Planning

First, take an inventory of what you need. Soil testing will allow you to know what you need and where you need it. Soil sampling is critically important to reducing fertilizer costs. You need to know what you've got to work with before considering any other options.

The soil in your farm fields isn't uniform and your soil testing method should reflect that. If you haven't soil tested in a while you may want to consider grid soil testing in 2 acre blocks. The grids will help identify zones or areas of like soil. After you have established zones in your field, yield zone testing maybe more cost effective.

Next, consider your crop rotation and yield goals. Could one of your fields benefit from a more diverse rotation to build soil health? Consider how reasonable those yield goals are to meet. Are they based on historical trends or wishful thinking? It is always best to focus on a goal that is within your field's potential. Remember, you are basing your cost planning on what yield you want to achieve.

Knowing what fertilizer options you have available is one part of minimizing costs. Having a manure source allows you to match the manure with crop yield goals and only buy commercial fertilizer for the balance the manure doesn't supply. Oversaturation of nutrients can lead to nutrient runoff and leaching. This loss is what nutrient management planning is trying to avoid.

The comparison of fertilizer options is the final part in deciding which options will work best for your farm and its current situation.

Fertilizer Cost Comparison Decision Tool

Last but not least, weigh through options using available decision tools. MSU Extension's latest resource is the Fertilizer Cost Comparison Decision Tool (www.canr.msu.edu/resources/fertilizer-cost-comparison-tool-field-crops). The decision tool provides producers with an ability to consider nutrient needs and fertilizer product costs.


The fertilizer plan starts with your crop's intended yield goal for the field. Yield goals create nutrient removal rates. These rates can be compared against soil test-based recommendations you provide. Farmers looking to manure as a more affordable source of nutrients can have those values added into their fertilizer plan. A nutrient analysis is recommended to ensure a true comparison of savings against commercial fertilizer. Nutrient credits from previously grown legumes can also be added.

For example, consider a 30-pound nitrogen credit from soybeans grown last year. At current nitrogen prices, the decision tool calculates a potential savings of almost \$30 per acre. Using USDA's corn price of \$4.80 per bushel, that's over six bushels of corn! Manure applications can offer costs savings as well. With a charge of \$0.01 per gallon, the decision tool calculates an application of 3,500 gallons of a sample analysis could save an additional \$20 per acre. That's another four bushels of corn added on to the nitrogen credits!

The first thing to know about this decision tool is that it does not replace soil testing or soil-based recommendations. You can reach out to MSU Extension or your crop consultant for help with these. Instead, it offers an opportunity to consider how to meet nutrient needs at the lowest possible cost.

Putting it into Practice

Don't lose those expensive inputs. Applying fertilizers in appropriate conditions is important to retaining their value. Manure should be applied in temperatures cooler than 50°F to reduce the risk of nitrogen loss to volatilization. Saturated and frozen ground increase the risk of runoff and leaching of manure nutrients. Manure should be incorporated within 48 hours of spreading, if compatible with tillage system. Spring applications reduce the risk of loss of nutrients before the plant can use it. Consider side-dress testing and application to reduce nutrient needs further.

When executing your plan precision equipment can help you save money by not applying fertilizer where it doesn't need to go or reducing seed populations in unproductive soils. You may already have some precision equipment, make sure you are using it to its fullest potential. 

Protect Your Pigs!

Find the best way to balance management and medication in your herd - be a part of our **Management Over Medication Swine Study!**



Participation is Easy:

Please take a few minutes to answer our short survey aimed at understanding how swine farmers use antibiotics to manage diseases in their pigs. Your response will help us understand and create Extension content around how farmers prevent or minimize the impacts of swine diseases on their farms, while preserving the usefulness of medically important antimicrobials for use in both animals and people.



Scan this QR code to go to the survey



Don't want to scan the QR code? Use the URL below to take our survey.

https://msu.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3Xg0sysfD6XNII6



Questions?

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MICHIGAN STATE
UNIVERSITY

Extension

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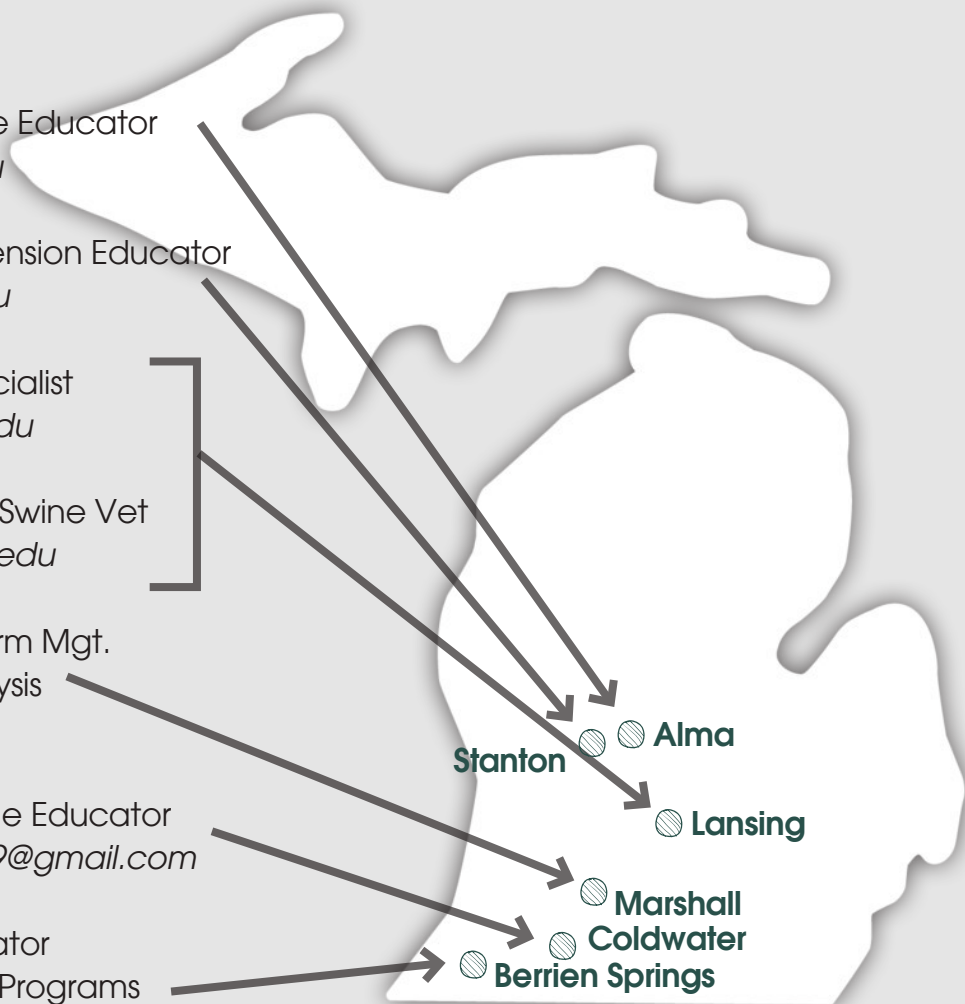
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Capital Update

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

USDA LETS MORE PACKING PLANTS RETURN TO FASTER LINE SPEEDS

USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) recently announced it approved the Clemens Food Group pork packing plant in Coldwater, Michigan, to run faster line speeds under a one-year trial program. The agency now has let four plants operate with faster harvesting line speeds, which could increase packing capacity and alleviate supply issues in the face of strong pork demand. FSIS established the line speeds program last November, after a provision in USDA's 2019 New Swine Inspection System (NSIS) was struck down by a U.S. District Court in March 2021. Nine pork packing plants that had adopted the NSIS — six of which were operating with faster line speeds — were allowed to apply for the program, under which they need to collect data on the effects of the faster speeds on workers and share it with USDA and the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. The information could be used to formulate a new regulation for allowing plants to run faster line speeds. NPPC pulled out the proverbial stops last year to get the plants back to operating faster line speeds and was greatly relieved when USDA announced the one-year program. According to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes, if six plants are in the program, the aggregate impact on U.S. pork harvest capacity will be a 3.6 percent expansion. After one year, that would translate into an increase in live hog prices of 6 percent.

COVID VACCINE REQUIREMENT FOR FOREIGN FARMWORKERS EXTENDED

The Biden administration recently extended the requirement that “non-U.S. travelers,” including temporary foreign-born farmworkers, show a written record from a government health agency of COVID-19 vaccination to enter the United States. The vaccine must be approved by the World Health Organization (WHO). U.S. agricultural groups, including NPPC, have

raised concerns about restrictions on H-2A and TN visa holders who received vaccines not approved by the WHO or the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Russian-manufactured Sputnik vaccine, for example, commonly is used in Mexico but is not WHO- or CDC-approved. That has led to some disruptions in recruiting H-2A and TN visa workers. In February, a bipartisan group of House members asked the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to be flexible in requiring H-2A farmworkers to be vaccinated against COVID-19, including allowing those who are not able to get a vaccine in their home country or had a non-CDC-approved vaccine to enter the United States under the condition that they get vaccinated once they arrive.

FDA REPORT SHOWS LITTLE CHANGE IN ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recently released its latest report on trends in antimicrobial resistance in certain bacteria collected from people, animals and retail meat. The 2019 National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) report showed that 78 percent of human isolates of Salmonella, one of the two leading bacterial causes of foodborne illness in the United States, were not resistant to antibiotics, a trend that has remained consistent for the past 15 years. Although changes to how pork samples are collected make it difficult to determine trends, the report showed no overall increase in resistance in swine-associated samples, according to NPPC, which has been supportive of NARMS as a source of science-based data on antimicrobial resistance.

NPPC ELECTS NEW OFFICERS, BOARD MEMBERS

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) installed new officers and elected members to its board of directors at its annual business meeting — the National Pork Industry Forum.

Terry Wolters of Pipestone, Minnesota, was elevated to president of the organization for 2022-2023. Wolters owns Stoney Creek Farms, which consists of several sow farms, and is a partner in the Pipestone System. He also is a member of Wholystone Farms and is active in the Pipestone County Pork Producers Association, Minnesota Pork Producers Association, South Dakota Pork Producers Council and the Minnesota Farm Bureau. He is chairman of NPPC's Animal Health Food Security Policy Committee.

Wolters takes over from Jen Sorenson, communications director for Iowa Select Farms in West Des Moines, Iowa, who becomes NPPC immediate past president and chairman of the council's trade and nominating committees.

Scott Hays of Monroe City, Missouri, became NPPC president-elect. He is a fifth-generation pork producer and the CEO of Two Mile Pork, LLC. He is chairman of NPPC's Competitive Markets Committee and active on the Missouri Pork Association board and committees, Missouri Corn Growers, Missouri Farm Bureau, Missouri Agricultural Leaders of Tomorrow, Monroe City FFA and Missouri Institute of Cooperatives.

The NPPC board of directors elected Lori Stevermer as vice president. Lori is co-owner of Trail's End Farm in Easton, Minnesota, where she served on the executive board of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association. Stevermer has a history of advocating for the pork industry at the local, state and national levels.

Pat Hord of Ohio and Dwight Mogler of Iowa were elected as new members of the board, and Lori Stevermer of Minnesota and Russ Vering of Nebraska were each reelected to another three-year term. Steve Malakowsky of Wells, Minnesota, with Compeer Financial, was elected to a two-year term as the allied industry representative. They join current directors Craig Andersen of Centerville, South Dakota; Rob Brennehan of Washington, Iowa; Jason Brester of Sioux City, Iowa; Bob Ivey of Goldsboro, North Carolina; Dr. Jeremy Pittman of Waverly, Virginia; Jeb Stevens of Osgood, Indiana; and Duane Stateler of McComb, Ohio.

For NPPC's nominating committee, Curt Zehr of Illinois was reelected, and Bill Knapke of Ohio was elected to the panel. Both will serve two-year terms.

"We have great leadership in Terry, Scott and Lori," said

NPPC CEO Bryan Humphreys. "Along with the board, including our new members, they will represent the interests of pork producers and the organization very well."

DIERKS INDUCTED INTO PORK INDUSTRY HALL OF FAME

For his 40 years serving U.S. pork producers, including 20 years as CEO of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and his dedication and countless contributions to the pork industry, Neil Dierks was inducted into the National Pork Industry Hall of Fame at NPPC's annual business meeting — the National Pork Industry Forum.

Dierks, who retired in December 2021 after 31 years with NPPC, helped develop the organization that was born after the separation agreement that created the National Pork Board. He became the first CEO of the reconstituted NPPC.

Dierks started his career in the pork industry when he joined the Iowa Pork Producers Association in 1981 to manage the Iowa Pork Congress. He went on to head legislative state outreach for the organization. After leading field services and state legislative outreach for the Iowa Corn Growers Association, Dierks joined NPPC in 1990 to manage World Pork Expo. Prior to becoming CEO, he also served as the organization's director of operations, vice president of research and education, and senior vice president of programs.

Six months after NPPC and the industry's checkoff were split into independent organizations, Dierks was recruited from the National Pork Board in 2001 to be CEO of NPPC, which had five employees, and World Pork Expo was its single source of revenue. He guided NPPC's steady growth for the next two decades, expanding sources of revenue and establishing it as a highly effective and influential national advocacy organization critical to the profitable growth of U.S. pork producers. "Neil is a giant in the pork industry. He was there at the beginning — after the separation agreement with the Pork Board — and he guided NPPC through good and not-so-good times over the past 20 years," said outgoing NPPC President Jen Sorenson. "Neil has made countless lasting contributions to the U.S. pork industry and established NPPC as a top-tier advocacy organization and the global voice of the U.S. pork industry. If anyone deserves to be in the industry Hall of Fame, it's Neil Dierks."



Pork Checkoff

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

PORK EXPORTS UP IN MARCH, BUT BELOW LAST YEAR'S RECORD TOTALS

March pork exports were the largest so far this year but were well below the record totals posted in March 2021, according to data released by USDA last week.

“While pork exports were down significantly from last year’s record, we saw some encouraging trends in the March results,” said Dan Halstrom, USMEF president. “U.S. pork commanded a higher price per pound than a year ago, with outstanding demand from Mexico and value growth in key markets such as South Korea and the Dominican Republic.”

Pork exports to Mexico continue to surge. While a large percentage of U.S. pork shipments to Mexico are bone-in hams and other cuts destined for further processing, the U.S. industry has also made gains in Mexico’s retail and foodservice sectors.

ASF VACCINE RESEARCH RAMP UP

The U.S. pork industry is in a race to develop a vaccine for African swine fever (ASF), investing public and private funds to protect domestic herds from the deadly disease. Here are some of the studies we are tracking.

- USDA announced an ASF vaccine candidate passed an important safety test required for regulatory approval as it does not revert to its normal virulence. This moves the vaccine candidate one step closer to commercial availability and testing in Vietnam.

- NPB is investing \$930,000 of Pork Checkoff funds in four different studies that include validating vaccine types, tracking efficacy or effectiveness, and ensuring

viability for commercialization.

- Genvax Technologies received a \$145,000 grant from the Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research to develop a self-amplifying messenger RNA vaccine for ASF. Genvax contributed matching funds for a total investment of \$290,000.

- Purdue University received a \$1 million grant to create a rapid test for ASF. The grant was awarded by the National Animal Health Laboratory Network and the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program.

While this research is underway, U.S. producers can prepare for a potential ASF outbreak by creating an AgView account.

AgView is a pig-contact-tracing platform funded by the Pork Checkoff. It provides herd health and movement data to state and federal animal health officials to help minimize disruption and promote business continuity in case of an ASF outbreak.

BUILD PUBLIC TRUST & PROTECT FREEDOM TO OPERATE

NPB is offering custom On-Farm Sustainability Reports to every pork operation, paid for by Pork Checkoff funds.

A key component to the industry’s established metrics infrastructure is On-Farm Sustainability reports, which provide free, farm-level data to help pork producers establish an individual baseline for social, environmental, and economic sustainability. The industry is focused on doubling the number of farms participating in the reports in the next 12 months.

“We need benchmarks to better track and monitor

progress, and also to make better data-driven decisions for the future of pork production,” said Dale Stevermer, Minnesota pig farmer and participant in the goals and metrics development. “The On-Farm Sustainability Reports provide metrics that can be aggregated to track progress at the industry level, while also giving farmers individualized data that helps them make better decisions for the future of pork production.”

These reports help producers take credit for on-farm work they’re already doing, and they measure and document continuous improvement efforts.

Currently, there are:

- 150+ farms participating
- 195,000+ acres enrolled
- 1.9+ million pigs represented

Request your on-farm sustainability report today by contacting Michigan Pork Producers Association at 517-853-3782 or kelpinski@mipork.org.

SCOTT DEE CHOSEN AS 2022 PORK INDUSTRY DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENT

Scott Dee is passionate about helping producers through applied on-farm research. Several science-based biosecurity protocols used on farms today came from his studies on porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS) virus transmissibility through mechanical, aerosol and feed-based routes. Additionally, corresponding biosecurity protocols were developed, including transport sanitation, air filtration supply entry and feed mitigation.

Dee has had nearly 170 papers published in peer-reviewed journals covering transmission and biosecurity implications of PRRS, African swine fever (ASF) and other severe animal health risks.

Dee’s college experience at Mayo Clinic Institute Hills Research Farm in Rochester, Minnesota was his first exposure to pig herds, the application of animal models for human disease and how pathogens manifest

themselves in animal populations.

In 1983, Dee was accepted to the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine where he specialized in swine microbiology and earned his master’s and doctorate degrees. He is a board-certified veterinary microbiologist.

He worked as a swine practitioner in Morris, Minnesota, for 12 years. After that, he conducted research and was a professor at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine for 12 years. He became the chair of the Veterinary School Admissions Committee, revising the admissions process to develop an application that equally weighted cognitive measures, experiential learning and non-teachable competencies.

Since 2011, he has been the Director of Research for Pipestone Applied Research, researching the viral transport and transmission in feed, feed biosecurity and antimicrobial resistance at the farm level.

Dee is intuitive to test ideas and design projects to solve industry problems. For example, in 2014 when the industry was testing the spread of porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PEDv), he noticed only certain pigs housed in a single barn consuming feed from a specific bin were getting sick. Therefore, he used a paint roller with a long handle to collect dust and particles on the inside walls of the feed bin. As suspected, infectious PEDv was present and transmission through feed consumption was published.

This work with feed translated into impactful research about the spread of foreign animal disease, such as ASF and Foot and Mouth Disease, through feed.

Dee lives in Alexandria, Minnesota with his wife, Lisa, and their two children, Nicholas and Ellen. He is an avid musician who plays bass guitar in The Abiders, along with being a fan of The Beatles.

The pork industry is grateful for his inspiration to others and for his commitment over the years.

Thank you, Dr. Scott Dee, for your many years of service and invaluable contributions to the industry.

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.

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Public Notice by MPPA and the National Pork Board

The Michigan Pork Producers Association (MPPA) and the National Pork Board will hold the election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2023 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body during the association's annual meeting on June 15, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. at the GreenStone Farm Credit Services building, 3515 West Road, East Lansing, MI 48823.

According to MPPA President, Brian Pridgeon, a producer from Montgomery, "The duties of the delegate body include nominating members to serve on the National Pork Board, establishing how much of the Pork Checkoff is returned to state organizations and providing direction on pork promotion, research and consumer and producer education priorities funded by the Pork Checkoff."

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

The 2023 National Pork Industry Forum will be held March 8-10, in Orlando, Florida. 🐷



Calendar of Events

June:

15 MPPA Board Meeting
Lansing, MI

Sept.:

7-8 US SHIP House of Delegates Mtg
Minneapolis, MN

14-16 Fall Legislative Seminar
Washington, D.C.

21 MPPA Board Meeting
Lansing, MI

Dec.:

14 MPPA Board Meeting
Lansing, MI

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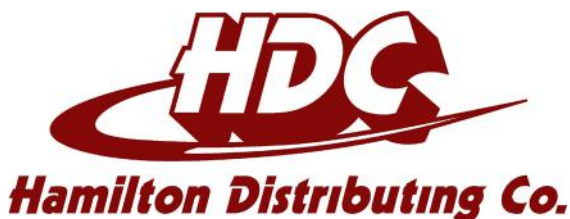
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The commodity checkoff was created under Public Act 232 in 1976. The national checkoff, directed by the United Soybean Board, began in 1991. MSC's board of directors is made up of seven soybean farmers appointed by Michigan's governor. The checkoff is assessed at a rate of 0.5 percent

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Nick DeKryger

Leading Education About Pigs Foundation

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Michelle Lantz

CEO, Greater Lansing Food Bank

Dear MPPA,

On behalf of the IQhub Board of Directors and Staff, thank you very much for your sponsorship. The FFA CDE Boot Camp hosted 375 high school students and advisors from around Michigan. We value and appreciate your support.

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Italian Pork Kabobs with Summer Vegetables

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 1/2 lb. pork loin roast (boneless, trimmed, cut into 1-inch cubes)
- 2 Tbsp. red wine vinegar
- 1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt
- 1/2 tsp. red pepper flakes (or less to taste)
- 1 Tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 tsp. dried basil
- 1 Tbsp. fresh basil
- 1 Tbsp. fresh oregano
- 1 tsp. dried oregano
- 2 cloves garlic (chopped)
- 2 zucchini (small, trimmed and cut crosswise into rounds)
- 2 bell peppers (large, seeded and cut into 1-inch squares)



INSTRUCTIONS:

Prepare outdoor grill for direct medium-hot grilling. For a gas grill, preheat grill on high. Adjust temperature to 400°F. For a charcoal grill, build fire and let burn until coals are covered with white ash. Spread coals and let burn for 15-20 minutes.

Whisk vinegar, 1 teaspoon salt, and hot red pepper together in large bowl. Whisk in oil. Add basil, oregano, and garlic. Add pork loin and toss to coat. Spread zucchini and bell peppers on top of pork, season with remaining 1/2 teaspoon salt, and let stand 5 minutes. Stir to coat with marinade. Do not marinate longer than 15 minutes. Skewer pork, zucchini, and bell peppers, alternating ingredients, onto 6 metal kabob skewers.

Lightly oil cooking grate. Place kabobs on grill and cover grill. Cook, turning occasionally, for about 10-12 minutes or until pork is browned. Let stand for 3 minutes, then serve.