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About the Cover

Curtis Meier of Clarinda has become the first two-time president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association. Read his story on page 21.

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The Iowa Pork Producers Association is an industry inclusive organization whose mission is to provide a unified voice to promote and educate for a sustainable, socially responsible, profitable and globally competitive pork industry.

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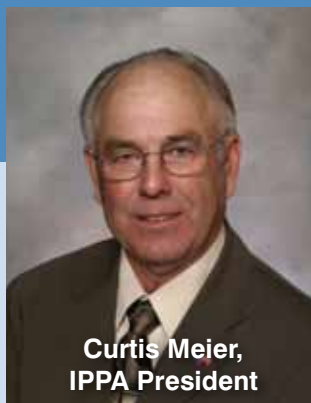
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Randomly Speaking – A message from the president

Dear fellow producers!

Another Pork Congress has come and gone. Thanks to staff and all involved in putting together another Pork Congress.

Pork Congress events kicked off with the annual meeting Tuesday morning. Despite weather challenges that prevented some delegates from attending, a quorum was declared. Delegates acted on four resolutions dealing with electronic submission

and retention of manure management plans, updating USDA Pork Quality Standards, Iowa State University Diagnostic Laboratory improvements, and an IPPA membership review. All four were adopted with little debate and were declared for immediate, effective dates. President Wulfekuhle gave his “State of the Association” address. Delegates also received reports from the Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine, National Pork Board, National Pork Producers Council, and the always upbeat Dr. Steve Meyer.

Two new directors were recognized: Marv Van Den Top, region 1, and Mike Porth, allied. Four retiring directors were thanked and presented with a token gift for their years of service: Paul Skartvedt, Marv Rietema, Derrick Sleezer and Dave Struthers. President Wulfekuhle presented me with a gavel at the end of the meeting. I certainly thank Al for his passion and dedication to the association this past year.

Following the annual meeting, the Iowa Pork Foundation Kickoff Reception and Auction was held. The auction raised a new record amount of funds for scholarships.

The two-day tradeshow opened Wednesday. Once again, weather may have hampered some producers from attending, but the vendors I spoke with felt producer attitudes were upbeat. Thanks to all the vendors for attending.

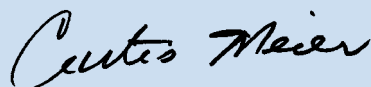
Nine youth came to town this year to compete for Iowa Pork Queen and two ambassador positions. Clare Conley of Cherokee County was crowned Iowa Pork Queen and McKenna Brinning of Washington County and Dylan Riedemann of O’Brien County were selected as Premier Pork Youth Ambassadors. We will be well represented by three outstanding youth leaders.

In addition to selecting the new youth leadership team, 13 individuals and families were recognized as Iowa Master Pork Producers and Partners. It’s great to bring new people into this fraternity each year. The 2016 Master Seedstock, Pork All-American and the Environmental Steward awards also were presented.

My very dear friend and mentor Rich Degner was this year’s board selection for Honorary Master Pork Producer. My friendship with Rich started in 1999 when I was first elected to the board of directors. I can still remember walking through the office doors to attend my first board meeting and thinking what have I gotten myself into? After all of these years, I can say it has been a pleasure meeting and making many great friends, whether they be producers or support people to the industry, or IPPA staff. It has been a humbling experience with great rewards.

With your support, we will make 2017 a great year!

Sincerely yours,



Curtis D. Meier
President

Pork Industry Briefs



Producers bring positive attitude to 2017 Iowa Pork Congress

Pork producers attending the Iowa Pork Producers Association's Iowa Pork Congress in January were generally upbeat about the industry and prospects for a successful 2017.

Hog prices have been climbing and profitability is returning after some tough economic times in 2016.

This year's tradeshow, seminars and other activities were well attended once again with official attendance at 4,437.

Pork Congress received positive news coverage from the media in attendance.

The 2018 Iowa Pork Congress will be held Jan. 24 and 25 in Des Moines.

2017 Swine Day to feature 16 presentations

Iowa pork producers who attend the 6th annual Iowa Swine Day this summer will have 16 different presentations from which to choose.

Iowa State University will hold a plenary session during the morning and three concurrent sessions

in the afternoon. Some of the 16 session topics include:

- Planning for a secure pork supply in the event of a foreign animal disease outbreak (Dr. Jim Roth, ISU)
- The future state of the U.S. pork industry (Mark Greenwood, AgStar Financial Services)
- Gene editing for animal agriculture: Practice and possibilities (Dr. Randy Prather, University of Missouri)
- Can diet be used to improve gut health? What role does drinking water play? (Dr. John Patience, ISU)
- Countering misperceptions about the use of science in meat production (Dr. Joe Schwarcz, McGill University)
- VFD's: What have we learned in their implementation (Dr. Jeff Verzal, Iowa Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship)
- Update on viruses: Seneca, PRRSv, PEDv, etc (Dr. Pablo Pineyro, ISU)
- What is on the horizon for new engineering technologies applied to hog barns (Drs. Jay Harmon, Steve Hoff and Brett Ramirez, ISU)

Swine Day will be held on June 29 beginning at 9 a.m. at the Scheman Building on the Iowa State Campus.

A BBQ will be held for all attendees at the conclusion of the event.

Registration and additional details will be announced as they are finalized.



Producers tell pork story at local meetings

A couple of Iowa pork producers were busy in January telling the pork story at meetings and conventions in Des Moines.

Dave Struthers, past IPPA president from Collins, addressed about 70 science educators from around the nation and world during an Association for Science Teacher Education breakfast on Jan. 12. He also addressed about 60 college professors and others involved in the theatre arts at a dinner during the Region 5 Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival at a local restaurant. Struthers talked about his passion for pork production, current industry practices and the nutritional value of pork during both events and his comments were well-received by each audience.

On Feb. 3, Heather Hora, district 8 director on the Iowa Pork Producers Association Board, spoke at the

Iowa Newspaper Association's Past President's Awards Luncheon. Around 200 Iowa newspaper publishers and executives attended the event. Hora talked about the pork industry and her family's swine enterprise.

The IPPA Public Relations Committee sponsored pork meals at each convention or meeting in exchange for the opportunity to have a producer address the attendees.

IPPA's Carlson receives ISU award

Iowa Pork Producers Association Producer Outreach and Federal Policy Director Stephanie Carlson has been named the 2017 Emerging Iowa Leader by the Iowa State University College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The award was presented at center court of Hilton Coliseum during the college-sponsored ISU women's basketball game on Jan. 21.

Carlson received a bachelor's degree in animal science from Iowa State in 2013.

"From sharing her expertise with classes and student organizations, to advocating and raising awareness for college priorities through the Curtiss League and the Grow Iowa Agriculture organization, Stephanie has positively impacted the college and our students in many ways," said Wendy Wintersteen, endowed dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Selection of the Emerging Iowa Leader Award is based on efforts to advance agriculture and life sciences in Iowa through communications, education, relationship-building, engagement and outstanding alumni service to the college. Honorees must be age 40 or younger at the time of nomination, live or work in Iowa and demonstrate high potential for future professional growth.





Service through **education & research**

ISU swine research program focuses on nutrition, physiology and metabolism

Since joining the Iowa State University Animal Science department in 2008, associate professor Nicholas Gabler has assembled a group and established a research program that looks at a variety of issues, including growth promoting antibiotic alternatives, intestinal integrity and function, immunometabolism, and nutrition and health interactions and the impact of specific pathogens on performance.

This group works with other scientists, including faculty members from Iowa State departments such as veterinary diagnostic and production animal medicine, and vet microbiology & preventive medicine. Here's a short list of research results and names of those who have worked on the respective projects:

- PRRSV and Lawsonia+Mycoplasma pathogen challenges reduce grow-finisher pig lean accretion and lifetime performance (grad students Wes Schweer and Emma Helm)
- PEDV reduced whole body tissue accretion in nursery pigs and can result in an extra 14-21 days to reach market weight (grad student Shelby Curry)
- Immune cell glucose metabolism is altered in PRRSV-challenged pigs (Dr. Crystal Loving and Schweer)
- "Leaky gut" or reduced intestinal integrity doesn't always result in reduced pig performance (Curry, Schweer and Helm)

- Stress hormones can modulate intestinal translocation of pathogenic bacteria, and may partially explain the mechanism by which stress increases susceptibility to secondary bacterial infections (Dr. Eric Burrough and Curry)
- Growth-promoting antibiotic alternatives can improve performance in pigs, but there may be a specific age, body weight or duration of feeding that can optimize this performance.

As the use of feed-grade antibiotic alternatives increases, so, too, does the need to understand how to effectively evaluate these alternatives for swine production and performance. Gabler's group has received project-specific funding from the National Pork Board to do just that and it's working with researchers from USDA's National Animal Disease Lab as well as faculty from animal science and VDPAM.

Schweer leads the project, which includes an evaluation of published data on antibiotic alternatives that might affect nursery pig growth and performance. They're looking at several alternatives ranging from prebiotics and probiotics to resistant starch/fiber, botanicals, yeast and microminerals. The project also will develop a standardized experimental protocol that ultimately will can be applied to a broader range of experimental approaches and topics.



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Upper elementary students can learn about pork production

Third through fifth grade students are starting to explore the world more. This can be the perfect time to spark an interest in science and agriculture. In school, students are learning the difference between managed and natural systems and how things like weather, water and soil interact and affect plant and animal growth. This can include topics like why we raise pigs indoors, how we use pig manure to enrich our soils, and how we ensure pigs get the fresh food and water that they need.

Upper elementary students also are starting to understand how technology is used. This is a great time to introduce them to the technology that may be in a

swine barn. Auger feeding systems, climate control systems, misters, ventilation, etc., all make use of computer technology that students are interested in. This shows a real-world application to the technology they are learning about. To help students learn about this, educators can set up a FarmChat® session that virtually connects a classroom to a farm via a live video feed. The farmer can tour the class through the barn and show off the technology without risking biosecurity.

At the upper elementary level, students start to explore the needs of animals. Teachers can incorporate

learning about swine by discussing how farmers create balanced feed rations. They can introduce the concept of antibiotics and how veterinarians consult with farmers to keep animals healthy and treat sick animals. Students can conduct an experiment about regulating body temperature. They can ask questions like: How do humans regulate body temperature? How can farmers regulate body temperature to keep pigs comfortable?

These students are learning about the food components that make up a healthy human diet. Educators can introduce them to correct portion sizes (3 oz. is one serving, about the size of a deck of playing cards) or the correct temperatures to cook pork to (145 degrees F.).

Lesson plans and other resources to help teach these concepts can be found on the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation website or the National Agriculture in the Classroom website. These topics align with the National Agriculture Literacy Outcomes that serve as benchmarks for student learning. Students continue to build on prior knowledge as they are introduced to more and more complex topics.



Curtis Meier: Conservation champion

By Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

The Iowa Pork Producers Association's new president is holding the position for a second time because he couldn't say no to representing a way of life that he loves or an organization that has a bright future.

Curtis Meier believes that every farmer has a story to tell and most of them have a lifetime of stewardship work and image to protect, especially when it comes to conservation and water.

"I don't know a farmer out there that does not want to protect the water we drink, as well as the water our grandchildren drink," said Meier.

Unfortunately, rarely does Iowa's collaborative, solutions-based approach gain media space. For example, in the past year, coverage of water quality stories by the press has increased 117 percent, while coverage of agriculture in general has increased only 17 percent. The news of Iowa's lawsuit and the resulting negative views toward conventional agriculture also have been covered globally.

"We've come a long way," Meier said upon reflection. "I remember telling my father when I was in high school that we had an issue with erosion and he said 'We don't have any erosion.' I took him down to a fence post that was nearly buried with top soil. That's not the case now."

Today, the Meier farm is 100 percent no-till. The family also invested in the equipment to do low disturbance manure distribution, a practice that some thought would have a negative impact on yields. The Meier family farm won 2nd place in the National Corn Growers Yield Contest in 2014 after yields increased using the low disturbance equipment.

Curtis and Brenda Meier farm just northwest of Clarinda in southwest Iowa.

"We live down here in the banana belt – not as much snow and ice like they get north of here," laughed Meier.

This is a family farm where their son and daughter live on the two Century Farms just east of them. Their son and son-in-law are both on board when it comes to conservation and they take it into consideration on every task.

When we talked late last summer, the Meier family had just been recognized by the governor, Lt. governor, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, and the Iowa Department of Natural Resources with an Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Award. This award recognizes those who have taken steps in their farming operations that improve or protect the environment and natural resources of Iowa while also serving as local leaders to encourage other farmers.

In addition to raising pigs, cattle and crops and serving on the IPPA Board for the last eight years, Meier also has served on his county's Soil and Water Conservation Board.

"We still have some landlords we need to get on board and help them understand that taking care of conservation issues today will enhance the future," said Meier. "And we have to continue to do a better job of telling our farm stories."



Brenda and Curtis Meier received the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award in 2015.



2016 IPPA Membership Survey

Members share public policy priorities in latest survey

Iowa's water quality situation continues to grab headlines across the state and a new survey indicates it's a priority of Iowa Pork Producers Association members as well.

IPPA asked members in its 2016 membership survey to rank their top public policy issues for the current Iowa legislative session and 31 percent of the 417 people who responded put water quality at the top of the list. The second priority was nuisance lawsuit limitations with 24 percent listing it as a top priority. Section 179 Tax Coupling and funding a new and expanded Iowa State University Veterinary Diagnostic Lab were close behind at 14 percent and 13 percent respectively.

The Iowa Legislature invested heavily in Agriculture Secretary Bill Northey's Nutrient Reduction Strategy in 2013 and as a strong supporter of the strategy, IPPA is funding a \$25,000 co-share with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship this year to entice more producers to install new nutrient loss reduction technologies.

The survey has asked members in recent years what conservation practices are being implemented on their farms and results indicate Iowa's pork producers are doing more each year to improve water quality. Sixty-four percent of the respondents are using GPS variable rate, 55 percent practice no-till, 47 percent use nitrogen inhibitors, 37 percent have buffer strips and 35 percent have planted cover crops. These percentages are up considerably from the 2015 survey.

What's more, 48 percent indicated they plan to plant cover crops in the next few years; 30 percent will install more grass waterways and use nitrogen inhibitors; and 29 percent will use GPS variable rate technology. All of these practices can greatly reduce nitrogen buildup in the state's water sources.

Research is critically important and helps move the pork industry forward in both profits and social acceptance. IPPA invests heavily in research projects each year and asked members in the survey what research projects they would like to see pursued by the association. Nutrient management/water quality and swine health were the two most popular answers. IPPA will continue to invest in areas of greatest producer concern.

Delegates at the 2016 IPPA Annual Meeting voted to support efforts to address foreign animal disease preparedness. The association's 2016 survey found that only 27 percent of the respondents have a foreign animal disease response plan for their farm. In turn, IPPA has formed a FAD Preparedness Task Force to address concerns, collaborate with state animal health officials, and better prepare producers.

The 2016 IPPA Membership Survey was conducted last fall. Nearly 60 percent of those responding are pig owners and 35 percent listed themselves as contract growers.

Survey results are used by the association to develop more effective policies, positions and programs.

Dubuque chef named winner of 2017 Iowa Pork Taste of Elegance

A Dubuque chef was named *Chef Par Excellence* at the Iowa Pork Producers Association's 31st annual Iowa Pork Taste of Elegance contest on Jan. 23 in Des Moines.

Ben Jones with Brazen Open Kitchen & Bar in Dubuque captured top honors in the culinary contest at the Community Choice Credit Union Convention Center. Jones earned a plaque and \$1,000 for his "Pork Tenderloin, Textures of Carrot, Hazelnut Dukka, Pigtail Briouat entrée." Jones also receives a trip to the National Pork Summit in St. Helena, Calif., this spring.

In addition to being named *Chef Par Excellence*, the Dubuque chef also captured the Media's Choice Award and another \$250.

Dubuque chefs have dominated the contest in recent years. Chef Jon Nelson of the Diamond Jo Casino's Wood Fire Grille in Dubuque earned the top honors last year and in 2012.

Chef Justin Scardina with the Norse Culinary Team at Luther College in Decorah won second place, or *Superior Chef* honors. He received \$500, plus a plaque for his entrée. Third place went to Chef Jordan Walton with Harvey's Diner & Pub in Redfield. His entrée earned him the *Premier Chef* plaque and \$250.

A dozen chefs from around the state competed for the awards in the afternoon and all were

required to prepare an original pork tenderloin entrée. A team of judges selected the winners on the basis of taste, appearance and originality.

"The event gets better every year and the competition in the kitchen was at an all-time high," said Chef Phil Carey of the IPPA Restaurant and Foodservice Committee.

A crowd of 340 invited and paid guests attended the evening reception, which featured samples from all 12 entrees, appetizers and samples of wine and beer from several Iowa wineries and breweries. The guests also were able to select their favorite pork entrée for the People's Choice Award. That went to Chef Kurt

Nygaard of the 1910 Grille in Mason City. He won \$250 and a plaque.

"Opening our doors to the public for the first time was a great success. Our pork-loving consumers loved sampling the chefs' entrees, and pairing those samples with great Iowa wine and beer was the cherry on top," said IPPA Marketing/Programs Director Kelsey Sutter.

The IPPA Taste of Elegance competition and reception helped kick off the 45th annual Iowa Pork Congress.



*Chef Ben Jones displays his double award-winning pork entrée.
Photo Credit: Joseph L. Murphy, Iowa Soybean Association*

Iowa Pork Foundation raises new record amount for scholarships

The Iowa Pork Foundation raised a record amount of scholarship funds for the third consecutive year at the 2017 Iowa Pork Congress Kickoff Reception and Auction on Jan. 24 in Des Moines.

Nearly 300 pork producers, allied business partners and tradeshow exhibitors joined IPPA producer leaders and others for the social hour, pork buffet and live auction.

The event raised \$27,595 for youth scholarships, topping last year's \$24,150. The auction bill included everything from electric smokers and grills to wall clocks and catered dinners. Fifty-one items were donated to the auction and attendees' generous bids helped set the new record.

Auctioneer Mike Christensen was assisted by ring men Joe Bair, Bair Auctioneering; Ernie Barnes from the National Pork Board; Pete Houska of the National Pork Producers Council; former IPPA President Greg Lear and IPPA Producer Education Director Drew Mogler; the IPPA Board; and 2016 Iowa Pork Youth Leadership Team.

The event included the introduction of the 2016 Iowa Pork Foundation scholarship winners and the presentation of certificates to the recipients.

IPPA and the Iowa Pork Foundation extend sincere thanks to everyone who attended, donated and helped raise money for deserving student scholarships!



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Slate of resolutions approved by delegates; Pork Congress remains in Des Moines

Delegates to the 2017 Iowa Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting unanimously approved four resolutions that were submitted for discussion. Three of the four resolutions were passed without debate.

All eight Iowa districts were represented at the meeting with 110 delegates attending.

The IPPA Board of Directors submitted a resolution requiring the association's aggressive support for building a new Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University and renovating existing lab space. The resolution also calls on IPPA to push the Iowa Legislature to fund the project.

The ISU VDL is one of only three or four full service labs in the nation and processes more than 75,000 cases annually.

"No other lab in the world has this food animal caseload," VDL Executive Director Pat Halbur told delegates. "We have biosafety challenges, severe overcrowding and outdated infrastructure."

The IPPA Board also submitted a resolution regarding an IPPA membership review. Delegates voted to have the IPPA Membership Committee develop a plan to assist local/county organizations to address evolving membership opportunities. The plan is to include guidance on the transition of local/county organizations.



Delegates voted to officially place a seven-day resolution on the annual meeting agenda for action. The IPPA Nutrient Management Task Force, 13 producers who attended a three-day Iowa Department of Natural Resources workshop late last year, asked IPPA to support electronic submission and retention of manure management plans as long as paper submission continues and additional steps are taken to provide for traceability of data inquiries and protection of sensitive field-specific information. The resolution also required that specific application data and nutrient and easement records should only be kept on-farm for DNR inspection.

A fourth resolution submitted by the IPPA Board of Directors focused on updating USDA's voluntary pork quality standards that have been in place since 1985 and exclude accurate quality assessments for color and other attributes. A 20-minute discussion was held on the resolution with some delegates voicing support and others sharing concerns.

"Chefs are disappointed the industry hasn't developed [quality] standards and I encourage passage to enhance what the National Pork Board is doing," said delegate and former IPPA President Steve Kerns of Clearfield.

"We need to be careful and cautious on how we achieve this," said Dale Reicks of Lawler, a delegate and National Pork Producers Council representative on the IPPA Board of Directors. "I'm afraid it could become a discount program."

The resolution was ultimately passed by delegates.

The IPPA Board of Directors also reported on a resolution from the 2016 Annual Meeting. The resolution sought to have IPPA investigate the possibility of holding Pork Congress and other events in other cities as retaliation for the Des Moines Water Works lawsuit against three northwest Iowa drainage districts.

The board appointed a special task force to review the specifications and meeting site options, also obtaining input from allied industries as part of its due diligence. After studying the issue, the task force recommended that Pork Congress and other association events continue to be held in Des Moines.

2016 IPPA President Al Wulfekuhle of Quasqueton addressed delegates on the "state of the association" and various state committee reports and national updates were provided.

Retiring IPPA board members Marv Rietema, Paul Skartvedt, Derrick Sleezer and Past President Dave Struthers were provided gifts and thanked for their years of service at the conclusion of the meeting.

Wulfekuhle ended his term as president and turned the gavel over to 2017 IPPA President Curtis Meier of Clarinda. A complimentary resolution was presented honoring Wulfekuhle on his successful term.

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Wulfekuhle recaps year in 'state of the association' address



The 2016 president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association presented the "state of the association" address at the Jan. 24 IPPA Annual Meeting in Des Moines and he talked about the accomplishments of his one-year term.

"This past year has not been

the best for profitability and we've definitely had our share of challenges," said Al Wulfekuhle. "However, through it all, producers continued improving their operations to feed not just the U.S. population, but a larger and larger part of the growing world. I'm totally impressed and encouraged by the engagement and perseverance of Iowa pork producers."

The Triumph/Seaboard plant in Sioux City and the Prestige Foods plant in Wright County will soon give producers additional marketing options and improve demand for pigs and Wulfekuhle told delegates he's excited about the new packing capacity.

"It's a strong indication that pork production will be strong in Iowa for many years to come," he said.

IPPA invested in additional Iowa and national retail promotions with the National Pork Board in 2016 and Wulfekuhle said he's proud that the association recognized that ongoing production efficiency and expansion was going to create additional pork product.

"Investment within our state is good, however, it is very important that we also put money where we can reach the

most consumers for the least cost, which are the larger cities in the U.S.," he said.

The Quasqueton producer touched on exports and their increasing importance to producers during his address. IPPA leaders and staff participated in meat missions to China, Japan, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic and Cuba in 2016 in an effort to enhance relationships and build exports to those markets.

Wulfekuhle highlighted IPPA's continued efforts to attract and retain animal science and veterinary medicine graduates at Iowa State University. The association is investing \$100,000 a year in each college for the next few years to keep the best and brightest of these graduates in Iowa.

The now past president mentioned Iowa Pork's efforts to ensure that producers were prepared for the Guidance 209 and 213 antibiotic regulations that took effect on Jan. 1.

IPPA launched an assessment and evaluation of the social media, promotions, public relations and public policy programs last year in an effort to enhance coordination of the four areas.

"This assessment will allow us to continue the effective use of Checkoff and SIP dollars," said Wulfekuhle.

In his closing remarks, Wulfekuhle commended IPPA CEO Pat McGonegle and his staff for accepting new roles and continuing to provide strong service to the industry. He thanked all of the people who help guide and direct the association through their grassroots involvement and he made special mention of the board of directors.

"The amount of knowledge sitting around that table at board meetings is incredible, but it's not just their knowledge that makes this group special, it's their ability to work together, to listen and learn from each other and to make good decisions," he said. "As an independent pork producer from Buchanan County that came onto this board six years ago never intending to be president, I have to say you made my job easy."

Clarinda farmer becomes Iowa Pork Producers president for second time

A long-time Page County pork, beef and grain farmer has embarked on his second one-year term as president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Curtis Meier of Clarinda received the president's gavel from 2016 President Al Wulfekuhle of Quasqueton at the conclusion of IPPA's annual meeting in Des Moines on Jan. 24. Meier is believed to be the first, two-time president in the association's 82-year history. He first served in the role in 2003.

"It's a great opportunity, not one I really asked for, but things just fell in place," Meier said. "I never dreamed I'd have another chance at it. We have a strong and knowledgeable board of directors and I look forward to working with the board in the coming year to address the issues, achieve our goals and improve the success of the state's producers."

Meier and the IPPA Board of Directors will be focused on trade, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory at Iowa State University and conservation.

Pork exports closed 2016 with increased strength after a slow start and trade missions and market development will continue to be key in 2017, said Meier. IPPA will continue to do its job of promoting pork and creating markets with the help of the Iowa Economic Development Authority, the National Pork Board and the National Pork Producers Council.

"We have a great protein source in pork," Meier said. "Every Asian market we can develop is big for [pork producers]."

Iowa State University is seeking a \$100 million appropriation from the state of Iowa to fund an 83,000 square-foot addition and renovation of 27,500 square feet of the existing College of Veterinarian Medicine's Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. ISU will supply \$4 million of the necessary funding and seek another \$20 million in private gifts. IPPA has already promised \$1 million for the facility and Meier says the association will continue pushing for the state funding.

"The organization needs to support the vet lab. The pork industry relies heavily on the lab's services and we will emphasize the importance [of the funding] in the coming year. We need to talk to our state legislators to let them know how critical it is to our industry," he said.

As a Page County soil and water commissioner, Meier knows the importance of caring for our natural resources and he will continue encouraging producers to install new nutrient loss reduction technologies wherever possible.

"Even with times as tough as they are, people are still concerned about conservation and are willing to spend money on cover crops, terraces, waterways, CRP, etc., Meier said. "We want to continue strong support for conservation as an organization."

Meier and his wife, Brenda, along with their son and son-in-law, have a diversified farming enterprise. The family has a 160-sow farrow-to-finish swine business, 1,100-head of beef cattle and 3,000 acres of corn and soybeans.



Get Ready for the Revolution: Why Now is the Best Time Ever to Be in Agriculture

By Darcy Maulsby



Will a robot be running your swine nursery in the future? Could a 3-D printer eliminate the need for you to cook dinner?

Prepare to feel exhilarated, and maybe even as disoriented as Marty McFly when he visited 2015 in the movie "Back to the Future II" when you listen

to Dr. Lowell Catlett, a New Mexico State University professor emeritus and 2017 Iowa Pork Congress keynote speaker.

"Get ready, folks," said Catlett, who stressed that now is the best time ever to be in agriculture, especially with the technology revolution underway. "This changes everything."

With his fingers spread wide apart, hands flying and no need for PowerPoint slides, the thought-provoking ag economist/futurist detailed seven trends that are setting the stage for an unprecedented era in agriculture, including:

1. **Smart technology cognition.**

Catlett's smart phone is 32 million times more powerful than the computers that took men to the moon. That's just the beginning. "The world of artificial intelligence (AI) calls it cognition—when devices communicate with each other," Catlett said. "As transistors have become more powerful and cheaper, the list of machines that are communicating with each other is limitless." In the rush to make technology "smarter" and connect everything, in the future there isn't going to be a corn seed or food animal that won't have a transistor, Catlett speculated. "Computer capacity and speed is infinite, for all intents and purposes," he added. "Get ready, because this blows the doors off everything."

2. **Growing demand for protein.**

Thanks to American farmers' phenomenal adoption of technology, producers are able to feed more people on the planet today than ever before, at a time when emerging economies continue to grow around the globe. "The world is richer than at any time in history," Catlett said. "When people get more money, they want to eat more meat protein, including pork." If the world's population grows to more than 9 billion people in 2050, as projected, two times more meat will need to be produced, Catlett added. "This won't come from pasture systems. It will come from intensive animal agriculture, primarily in the United States,

because this is where the grain and infrastructure to support the industry are located.”

3. Robots. The robots are coming, and they’re transforming everything from farming to manufacturing, said Catlett, who noted that 50 percent of each car built today is made by robots. High-tech milking systems are the fastest growing use of robots in agriculture. “How could robots be used for raising baby pigs and monitoring animal health?” asked Catlett, who noted robots can work 24 hours a day and don’t get tired. Robots also are being designed to be more agile and work next to humans. “There’s now a robot that’s capable of threading a needle and can determine a peach’s ripeness by feel,” Catlett said. “This will usher in whole new uses for robots, like harvesting ripe apples and grapes.”

4. New market segments. Trends from eco-tourism to “slow-growth” chickens are creating new market segments in agriculture. Eco-tourism, which now comprises 10 percent of U.S. net farm income, encompasses everything from hunting rights to corn mazes, Catlett noted. Also, in a world when one out of every two meals are eaten away from home, new food niches are evolving, including slow-growing breeds of chicken. While these breeds consume more feed per pound of meat, they are promoted as healthier and more flavorful.

5. Biological 3-D printing. “Your dinner is now printed” might become a reality, thanks to 3-D printing. In 2013, a U.K Daily Mail newspaper story described a full meal, including a burger and a cheesecake, that was produced

by 3-D printing, a technology that continues to evolve. Beyond food, the nonprofit Methuselah Foundation is offering \$1 million to the first research group to make a bioengineered liver that is able to go into a “large mammal, enabling the host to recover in the absence of native liver function and survive three months with a normal lifestyle.” “What if you could use similar technology to print a vaccine or feed additive on the farm?” Catlett asked.

6. Autonomous technology. Self-driving cars are already a reality, along with auto-steer in farm equipment. What if semi-trucks and other equipment are next? “It might be like autopilot in airplanes, where technology can

do a lot, but there are still pilots,” Catlett said. “People become more like technicians than operators.”

7. Big data. Who owns the future? “The aggregators of big data,” Catlett said. “Making money in this new world will revolve around aggregating information. We’re babes in the woods about this, but make sure people pay for your data.”


In some ways, the future of agriculture is already here—it’s just distributed unevenly. One thing is clear, though, Catlett noted. “This is the best time to be alive, and it’s the best time to be in agriculture.”





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Washington County's Brennemens are Iowa's 2016 Pork All-Americans



Tim and Erin Brenneman of Washington received the Iowa Pork Producers Association's 2016 Pork All-American Award at the 45th annual Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

The Pork All American award is the highest honor an individual Iowa pig farmer can receive from IPPA. A producer must be under the age of 40 and a Master Pork Producer to be eligible.

TJAC Pork is part of the family owned and operated Brenneman Pork farrow-to-finish operation. The Brennemens have 29,000 sows and finish more than 620,000-head annually. Brenneman Pork consists of the 8,000-sow family farm in Iowa, with the remaining sows in Missouri. The family believes in three-site production and uses farrowing, nursery and finishing facilities, many of which are solar powered.

The feed comes from the family owned mill that can produce more than 700 tons/day.

Tim is head of live production, helping to oversee nursery and finishing operations, as well as managing the field personnel for finishing. He also oversees all scheduling for the farms and works closely with the truckers and packers to ensure all loads are scheduled appropriately.

Tim and Erin recently constructed 7,500 finishing spaces and 4,800 nursery spaces for research purposes. Barn trials range from feeder space and ventilation to stocking density and general nutrition.

Erin specializes in day-one pig care. She ensures that all sow farm workers are properly trained to ensure each pig is warm, dry and full of milk. Recently, she has become more involved with ensuring feeder pigs are getting off to a good start. Erin also manages the data entry portion for each sow farm and oversees public relations and education.

The Brennemens are active in church and frequently assist with school events, host farm visits and donate pork. Tim and Erin are active members of the Washington County Pork Producers Board. Both are graduates of Iowa State University. They have two children.

The IPPA Pork All-American award was established in 1970 to honor young producers who have established themselves as community leaders and successful and dedicated businesspersons.

Previous IPPA Pork All-American Award Winners

2015	Brad and Terri Van Gelder	2002	David Moody, Ames	1990	Dr. John A Korslund, Eagle Grove
2014	Ryan Reed, Ottumwa	2001	Allen and Darrel Burt, Marshalltown	1989	Arvin and Laura Vos, Otley
2013	Paul Pingel, Aurelia	2000	Tom and Nancy McDonald, Hopkinton	1988	David Litscher, Stanwood
2012	Sean Dolan, Masonville	1999	Tom Floy, Thornton	1987	Michael Bovy, Waterloo
2011	Dan and Rachel Berdo, Washington	1998	Marla Conley, Cherokee	1986	Kent and Ross Paustian, Walcott
2010	Aaron and Trish Cook, Winthrop	1997	Rick and Brad Moser, Larchwood	1985	Robert Jon Dircks, Clarence
2009	Mike and Sarah Ver Steeg, Inwood	1996	Rodney, Brian, Dwight and Perry Mogler, Alvord	1984	Dennis Friest, Radcliffe
2008	Dana and Nicky Sleezer, Aurelia	1995	Rob and Char Brenneman, Washington	1983	Dennis and Robert Baker, State Center
2007	Todd Wiley, Walker	1994	Joe and Linda Scallan, Iowa Falls	1982	Harold Trask, Renwick
2006	Brian Monaghan, Ryan	1993	Roger and Linda Coon, Lohrville	1981	Duane Miller, Wellman
2005	Joel and Bryce Van Gilst, Oskaloosa	1992	Jon Caspers, Swaledale	1980	Dave Hausman, Onawa
2004	Mike Pech, Winthrop	1991	Jerome and Heidi Vittetoe, Washington		
2003	Thadd, Travis, Trent and Troy Knoblock, Rock Rapids				

2016 Master Seedstock Award presented posthumously to Nevada farmer



A long-time swine seedstock farmer from Nevada who passed away in January 2016 has been named the winner of the 2016 Master Seedstock Award by the Iowa Purebred Swine Council and the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Members of the Dan Engler family accepted the award on his behalf at the 45th annual Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

Dan and his wife, Marcia, started raising market pigs together in Story County more than 40 years ago. They focused more on the show ring side the last 30 years as their children became interested in junior projects such as 4-H and FFA. All of the Engler children showed pigs for several years and several of his grandchildren have carried on the tradition.

The Engler operation focused on having five to eight high quality purebred

females that he bred for several state fairs and National Swine Registry shows. Many of these females trace back to a Hampshire gilt that Dan bought in 2012.

Dan was very passionate about improving the Hampshire breed and making pigs better in every way. He never wanted to raise the most pigs, he wanted to raise the best pigs. This tied into another passion for helping children who wanted to show. It wasn't uncommon for Dan to travel across the state or keep in touch with people who bought his stock.

Engler's hard work paid off in considerable success at shows across the country. At the 2016 Iowa State Fair, he had the Hawkeye Market Show Reserve Champion Hampshire Market Pig, the Grand Champion Hampshire Boar in 2014, the Reserve Champion Crossbred Truckload in 2013, the FFA Grand Champion

Hampshire Market Hog in 2011, the 2010 Grand Champion Pen of three Derby Pigs, the FFA Reserve Champion Yorkshire Market Hog and FFA Grand Champion Yorkshire Boar in 2009, the FFA Grand Champion Commercial Gilt in 2008, and the 2004 Hawkeye Barrow Show Grand Champion. Engler had many division and class winners at the Indiana State Fair, National Barrow Show, Ak-Sar-Ben, National Swine Registry shows, and several county fairs across Iowa.

The operation was run solely by Dan, Marcia and any visiting grandchildren. It is truly a family operation and any visiting children were quickly put to work, whether it was helping process baby pigs or cleaning barns. Although Dan had lots of help, he made all of the feeding and breeding decisions.

Dan passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 28, 2016. He will be remembered as a soft-spoken, humble and hard-working man who was an excellent role model. He found great joy in his family, especially his grandchildren, and supported children of the community through his participation in 4-H and FFA.

The Iowa Purebred Swine Council has sponsored the Master Seedstock Award since 1958 and has selected one Master Seedstock Award recipient each year since then. Its purpose is to recognize significant contributions to the Iowa and national purebred industries and for evidence of genetic improvements within their selected breeds for the benefit of Iowa, the nation and, in many cases, internationally.

Young Black Hawk County pig farmers are state's top environmental stewards



The Iowa Pork Producers Association named Ben and Anna Bader of Jesup as winners of the 2016 Iowa Environmental Steward Award.

The couple received a trophy and \$2,500 cash award during the 45th annual Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

The Baders are part owners and operators of Bader Farms with Ben's parents; Lee and Debra. Ben's current portion of the family-farm consists of a 1,000-head feeder-to-finish swine barn and 600 rented row-crop acres.

Ben began his farming career in 2007, taking out an operating loan and renting 56 acres while still attending school. He graduated from Iowa State University in 2008 with a degree in ag systems technologies and returned home to farm full-time and buy into the family hog farm. He has since grown the grain and swine enterprise, engaged in a sow-shares arrangement, built a feed mill with his father, and started custom farming additional acres to offset equipment costs. He credits much of his success to maintaining a great working relationship with his landlords.

Bader has used his college degree to implement precision technology for fertilizer application and increased farm data analysis. Ben collects his own soil grid samples and completes prescription mapping for nutrients.

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Brief Summary: Before using Enroflox® 100, consult the product insert, a summary of which follows.

CAUTION: Federal (U.S.A.) law restricts this drug to use by or on the order of a licensed veterinarian. Federal (U.S.A.) law prohibits the extra-label use of this drug in food-producing animals.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION: Each mL of Enroflox 100 contains 100 mg of enrofloxacin. Excipients are L-arginine base 200 mg, n-butyl alcohol 30 mg, benzyl alcohol (as a preservative) 20 mg and water for injection q.s.

INDICATIONS:

Cattle - Single-Dose Therapy: Enroflox 100 is indicated for the treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) associated with *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Histophilus somni* and *Mycoplasma bovis* in beef and non-lactating dairy cattle; and for the control of BRD in beef and non-lactating dairy cattle at high risk of developing BRD associated with *M. haemolytica*, *P. multocida*, *H. somni* and *M. bovis*.

Cattle - Multiple-Day Therapy: Enroflox 100 is indicated for the treatment of bovine respiratory disease (BRD) associated with *Mannheimia haemolytica*, *Pasteurella multocida* and *Histophilus somni* in beef and non-lactating dairy cattle.

Swine: Enroflox 100 is indicated for the treatment and control of swine respiratory disease (SRD) associated with *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae*, *Pasteurella multocida*, *Haemophilus parasuis* and *Streptococcus suis*.

RESIDUE WARNINGS:

Cattle: Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 28 days from the last treatment. This product is not approved for female dairy cattle 20 months of age or older, including dry dairy cows. Use in these cattle may cause drug residues in milk and/or in calves born to these cows. A withdrawal period has not been established for this product in pre-ruminating calves. Do not use in calves to be processed for veal.

Swine: Animals intended for human consumption must not be slaughtered within 5 days of receiving a single-injection dose.

HUMAN WARNINGS: For use in animals only. Keep out of the reach of children. Avoid contact with eyes. In case of contact, immediately flush eyes with copious amounts of water for 15 minutes. In case of dermal contact, wash skin with soap and water. Consult a physician if irritation persists following ocular or dermal exposures. Individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to quinolones should avoid this product. In humans, there is a risk of user photosensitization within a few hours after excessive exposure to quinolones. If excessive accidental exposure occurs, avoid direct sunlight. For customer service, to obtain a copy of the Safety Data Sheet (SDS) or to report adverse reactions, call Norbrook at 1-866-591-5777.

PRECAUTIONS:

The effects of enrofloxacin on cattle or swine reproductive performance, pregnancy and lactation have not been adequately determined.

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Subcutaneous injection can cause a transient local tissue reaction that may result in trim loss of edible tissue at slaughter. Enroflox 100 contains different excipients than other enrofloxacin products. The safety and efficacy of this formulation in species other than cattle and swine have not been determined.

Quinolone-class drugs should be used with caution in animals with known or suspected Central Nervous System (CNS) disorders. In such animals, quinolones have, in rare instances, been associated with CNS stimulation which may lead to convulsive seizures. Quinolone-class drugs have been shown to produce erosions of cartilage of weight-bearing joints and other signs of arthropathy in immature animals of various species. See Animal Safety section for additional information.

ADVERSE REACTIONS: No adverse reactions were observed during clinical trials.

ANIMAL SAFETY:

In cattle safety studies, clinical signs of depression, incoordination and muscle fasciculation were observed in calves when doses of 15 or 25 mg/kg were administered for 10 to 15 days. Clinical signs of depression, inappetence and incoordination were observed when a dose of 50 mg/kg was administered for 3 days. An injection site study conducted in feeder calves demonstrated that the formulation may induce a transient reaction in the subcutaneous tissue and underlying muscle. In swine safety studies, incidental lameness of short duration was observed in all groups, including the saline-treated controls. Musculoskeletal stiffness was observed following the 15 and 25 mg/kg treatments with clinical signs appearing during the second week of treatment. Clinical signs of lameness improved after treatment ceased and most animals were clinically normal at necropsy. An injection site study conducted in pigs demonstrated that the formulation may induce a transient reaction in the subcutaneous tissue.

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2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap

Animal care is taken very seriously and Ben ensures the farm stays up-to-date on packer audit requirements, including PQA Plus and TQA certifications. He also completes a routine environmental review of the farm, ensuring proper barn conditions for pig comfort and growth.

The Baders now no-till nearly all their soybeans and some corn. They've planted many grassed waterways, buffer strips and terraces, have enrolled acres in the Conservation Stewardship Program, and are participating in pollinator programs. Ben also has begun experimenting with cover crops. They apply their own manure and are selective on application timing; taking neighbors, wind and soil temperature into consideration.

As Ben and Anna planned to build the barn, he talked to close neighbors to address any concerns. They keep their farm well maintained and free of rodents.


The Baders know the importance of sharing their story with consumers. Ben has promoted conservation in television and radio ads and he has spoken about modern agriculture and farm safety at local schools. The couple also has hosted visitors from Chicago, New York and Japan. Ben engages in IPPA promotional opportunities at the Iowa State Fair and sporting events to share positive ag messages.

Ben has served as a local parish council member, coop board member and county Farm Bureau president. He was recognized through Iowa Farm

Bureau's Young Farmer Achievement award program in 2015. He also has traveled to Washington, D.C., and the Iowa Legislature to discuss farm policy.

Anna, a nurse by trade, now enjoys staying home with their 10-month-old daughter, Molly, who represents the fourth generation to live on the original family farmstead.


The Environmental Steward Award was established in 2007 by the IPPA Environmental Committee to recognize pork producers who go above and beyond in environmental stewardship. Winners are selected on the producer's manure management, soil and water conservation practices, air quality strategies, wildlife habitat management and environmental management innovations.



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Nine new Master Pork Producers named by IPPA

The Iowa Pork Producers Association added nine new names to the fraternity of Master Pork Producers at the 2017 Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

This marks the 75th class of awardees who were selected and recognized by their peers for excellence in pork production. Dr. Chris Rademacher, Iowa State University Extension swine veterinarian, narrated a brief slide show of each new Master Pork Producer's operation and each one received the coveted brass belt



buckle, emblematic of the award, and a certificate of achievement.

Neighbors and peers first nominate farmers they feel are deserving of the award and all nominees must be

responsible for the daily health and well-being of the swine in their care to be considered for the award. Production efficiency with supporting records, expertise in one or more segments of the production cycle, and an understanding of industry issues such as quality assurance, animal identification and animal welfare are other keys to receiving the award.

The Iowa Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University have been selecting Master Pork Producers every year since 1942.



Sean Baragary

Winthrop, Buchanan Co.

Baragary manages a 700-head sow farm and a 2,400 head wean-to-finish site that is part of G&W Pork. The sow farm annually produces 17,500 weaned pigs and his finishing site produces 4,800 market hogs. Additionally, Sean and a friend farm 100 acres of row crops.

Sean got his start in pork production by helping on his uncle's hog farm when he was a child. He began helping pork producing neighbors when he was in junior high. He attended Kirkwood Community College for swine management and joined G&W Pork in 1998.

An employee at the sow farm handles the farrowing department and Sean manages the breeding aspect. The sow farm has an on-site feed mill that Sean used to manage several years back. Despite several disease challenges over the years, Sean's management of the sow farm has led to impressive production numbers as they are producing nearly 29 pigs/sow/year. Sean credits their success to increased biosecurity measures and intense management of breeding gilts. He works hard to ensure weaned pigs get a good start in his finishing barns by grouping pigs in similar sizes, mat feeding multiple times per day, and filling the barn in the shortest amount of time.

Having spent most of his life in the swine industry, Sean knows that it is important to stay abreast with the latest developments in the industry. He is a past president of the Buchanan County Pork Producers and assisted with community events throughout the year. He is active in the Iowa Soybean Association and Iowa Farm Bureau, as well as local 4-H and FFA chapters. Baragary is a member of the IPPA Public Policy Committee.

Sean and his wife, Kelsey, were married in 2015 and reside in Winthrop.

2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap



Joe and Michelle Burgmeier

Lockridge, Jefferson Co.

The Burgmeiers own and operate Pitch Black Ranch. Joe has been in the pig farming business for nine years and custom farrows about 220 sows for a niche roaster pig company in New Jersey. He farrowed 372 litters in 2015. Whiteline sows and Large Black boar semen are used in production. The genetics, feeding and production methods are designed to deliver a “butter ball” roaster pig.

In addition to the niche hog production, the Burgmeiers have a 360-head stock cow herd. They also farm 310 acres of row crops and 100 acres of hay.

Joe uses the manure nutrients from his swine and beef enterprises to fertilize the crops.

Michelle earned a doctorate in veterinary medicine from Iowa State University and owns a mixed animal clinic in Fairfield.

Joe is an active member of the Jefferson County Pork Producers and helps with grilling and other promotional events. He also serves on the Jefferson County Farm Bureau Board and is currently the president of their local church council.

Joe and Michelle have three children.



Seth and Jennifer Evans

Lenox, Taylor Co.

The Lenox farmers have a 600-head sow farm in a farrow-to-finish swine business. They currently market 13,000 pigs per year. Additionally, they maintain a 60-head cow/calf herd with purebred Angus and Angus-Simmental crosses.

Seth grew up in the swine industry, helping with his father's 300-head sow farm. After Seth returned home from Northwest Missouri State, where he played baseball and studied animal science, the family built the current sow farm. His father, sister, brother-in-law, wife and children are actively involved in the operation today.

The Evans are very conscious of biosecurity measures and protocols. Their closed-herd of 30 years has managed to stay PRRS naïve during this time. With health and biosecurity carrying a lot of emphasis, the operation utilizes very few antibiotics delivered via feed. This speaks to their herdsman'ship and exceptional management skills.

Seth and Jennifer are rightfully proud of their farm's ability to utilize all the grain raised on their 1,200 acres of land as it is the perfect amount of land to utilize the manure nutrients from the pigs. They own and operate their own feed mill, and employ several soil conservation measures such as strip tillage and cover crops on all their acres.

The couple is very active in their community. Both coach their children's sports teams at Lenox Community School. Seth is a past Extension Council member for Taylor County, and currently serves as a township trustee. They are members of the Taylor County Pork Producers and the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

Seth and Jennifer have two children.

2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap



Cale and Connor Juergensen

Churdan, Greene Co.

The brothers raise 25,000 head of wean-to-finish pigs per year on contract for AMVC Management Services. Along with their swine business, the brothers also have a small herd of 10 bred cows and one bull. Cale and Connor farm 450 acres of row crop that they rent from their grandparents. They are the fourth generation to manage and operate their family farm.

Cale, Connor and their mother, Jill, have managed the farm since the brother's father, Chris, died in 2012. The family, including two younger brothers, handles the day-to-day duties of the operation. They utilize

manure nutrients from their barns on 75 percent of their corn and soybean acres. They emphasize getting newly arrived pigs off to a good start by getting them up several times a day and mat feeding.

The Juergensen boys are active members of their church. Cale is an elder and usher. Connor is a trustee and usher. Cale is the Greene County Fair swine superintendent and Connor is vice president of the Greene County Fair Board. Both are members of the Greene County Pork Producers and they both plan to be married this summer.

Cale received his associate's degree in agriculture production from Iowa Lakes Community College in 2013. Connor received an associate's degree in agricultural technology from Iowa Central Community College in 2013.



Marti and Martha Knoblock

Rock Rapids, Lyon Co.

The Knoblocks are part owners and operators of GMC farms. Marti and his brothers, Mitch and Morris, manage the swine business that consists of a 2,400-head swine nursery and three 2,400-head finishing barns. The family recently made the decision to invest in a 5,800-head sow farm near Brookings, S.D. GMC Farms markets approximately 22,000 head of pigs annually to JBS in Worthington, Minn.

GMC Farms grinds and mixes its own corn and soybeans at its on-farm feed mill. About 130 tons are ground each week to supply their hog facilities with feed. GMC was part of a ractopamine-free program in 2016 that enabled the farm to receive a premium for its hogs.

Marti and Martha are past members of the Lyon County Pork Producers Board. They have six children who are active 4-H and FFA members and the entire family is involved in their church and community.

2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap



Russ and Dianne Reth

Manchester, Delaware Co.

The Reths have raised pigs for 26 years and currently have a wean-to-finish system on their family farm. They receive pigs every eight to nine weeks from a 2,500-head sow unit they have interest in. The family marketed nearly 4,400 head in 2015 to Tyson Meats.

The farm includes 550 acres of row crop, 450 acres of which were planted to corn in 2015. Russ grinds and mixes his own feed on site and feeds about half of the corn grown to the pigs.

All daily farm operations are completed by the couple themselves. Together, they have continued to grow their operation over the years and promote the pork industry.

The Reths volunteer in various church activities and serve on committees and Russ is a communion lay minister. He also is a past school board member. Dianne was a Delaware County 4-H leader for 14 years. They are both members of the Delaware County Pork Producers with Russ active on the county grilling team. Russ and Dianne both participate in pork promotions at the Iowa Speedway, Iowa State Fair and at the Safeway BBQ Battle in Washington, D.C.

The couple has three children and three granddaughters.



Robert and Cheryl Ten Napel

Ireton, Sioux Co.

The Ten Napels own and operate RTN Farms and have raised pigs for 38 years. They started raising pigs farrow to finish, but later transitioned to farrow to wean. In 2008, due to increased regulation and health challenges, they converted their buildings into nurseries and finishers and now raise hogs on contract. The couple owns 3,200 swine finishing spaces and 8,000 nursery spaces. Robert provides all of the daily pig care.

"We've always tried to stay current with the ever-changing practices, adapting our methods and buildings as we went," Robert said.

"Sometimes you do discover that the old way worked better and have to go back. Keeping ourselves educated and current brings about a healthier pig and that is the most important factor in our operation."

Robert and Cheryl also have a thousand acres of corn and soybeans.

The Ten Napels off-farm activities include their local church council, where Robert serves as treasurer. He also is a member of the West Sioux Education Foundation Board and the Hawarden Community Foundation Board. Robert and Cheryl are proud members of the Sioux County Pork Producers.

The couple has three adult children and six grandchildren.

2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap



Joe Thoma

LaPorte City, Black Hawk Co.

Thoma and his wife, Jennifer, are part owners and operators of their family's Countyline Livestock farm. Joe, who has raised hogs for more than 30 years, farms with brother Matt; father, Jim; and cousin, Dan. Together, they own and feed approximately 50,000 hogs annually. They have 1,500 head of cattle and farm 5,000 acres of corn and soybeans. A new, modern feed mill was added in the past year.

Joe manages all pig movements, repairs and oversees two employees. He also handles the marketing and schedules loads to Tyson in Waterloo. Jennifer handles the bookkeeping for the farm, including the livestock enterprises and their feed mill.

Away from the farm, Joe, Jennifer and their four children are active in their church and community. They volunteer at church and Joe helps grill at school-sponsored tailgates. He is on the Black Hawk County Pork Producers Board and is a past president. He is a member of the Black Hawk County Corn and Soybean boards and a Farm Bureau member. Joe also is active in the Jesup Lions Club and Knights of Columbus.



Peter and Cheryl Thome

Osage, Mitchell Co.

The Thomes have been contract producers for the Smithfield Hog Production Division for the past 19 years. They own and manage a feeder-to-finish facility that markets more than 8,500 pigs annually and take great pride in their barn site's appearance.

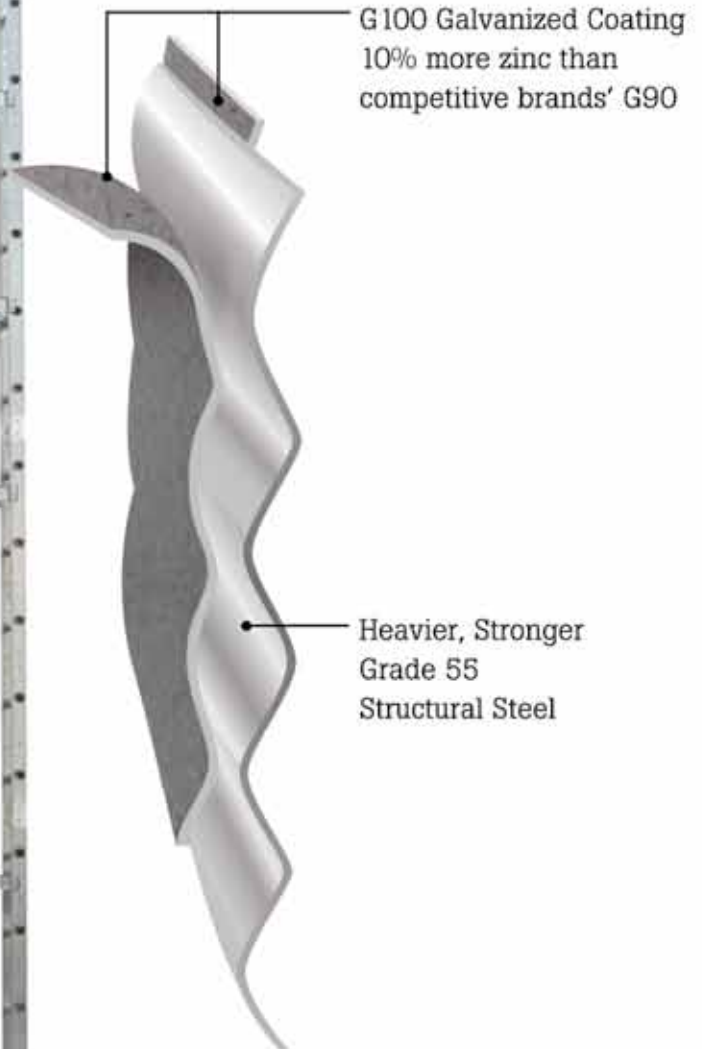
Peter and Cheryl's excellent management practices have allowed their facility to be utilized for the research and development of herd health studies by Smithfield's veterinary staff. They rank in the top third of Smithfield's Midwest Division of contract growers with regard to management, environmental sustainability and overall animal care.

In addition to their contract finishing business, the Thomes raise 1,600 acres of corn and soybeans.

The couple has taken active leadership roles in their community over the years. They belong to the Mitchell County Pork Producers and are active church members. Peter has served as a Knights of Columbus officer and is past president of the local school board.

The Thomes have five children and five grandchildren and all remain very close to the farming operation. Peter and Cheryl enjoy having their grandchildren participate in spring planting, fall harvest and in receiving new piglets in the barn.

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Iowa Select Farms sow farm manager named Master Pork Partner

A woman who has worked her way into a management role for Iowa's largest pork producer has earned a 2016 Master Pork Partner Award from the Iowa Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

Adriana Hernandez, who was recently promoted to a multi-site manager for Iowa Select Farms, received a certificate of achievement and the brass Master Pork Producer belt buckle at the Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

Hernandez came to the United States after obtaining an animal science degree from the University of Guadalajara in Mexico. She joined Iowa Select in 1998 as a sow farm technician and quickly progressed to a day one lead, breed lead, farrowing department head and breeding department head before becoming the manager of a sow farm.

Now, Adriana's in charge of two sow farms and not only supervises two, 12-person crews, but also oversees the training needs of key groups of new employees at her farms. She focuses on implementing Iowa Select's SelectPride safety program and constantly looks for ways to do things better and more safely.

Hernandez has a unique skill to teach and provide hands-on training on animal practices in the breed-to-wean phase of production. She has vast knowledge in sow productivity, body condition scoring and feed allocation, breeding and reproductive physiology and farrowing and colostrum



management. Recently, she has been learning a considerable amount about managing group sow housing and filtration conversion as both of those renovations are taking place on the farms she manages.

Adriana is a familiar face around the Iowa Pork Tent as she has volunteered at IPPA's Iowa State Fair concession for several years. She recently became the subject of a Real Pig Farming video that focused on showing the swine industry's diversity.

Hernandez and her husband, Gustavo Alvarez, who also is an Iowa Select sow farm manager, reside in Ames. The couple has three children.

The Master Pork Partner Award recognizes pork production company employees who have demonstrated positive impacts in their production systems and a commitment to the We Care ethical principles, but don't have active daily roles at a specific production site. This is the third year that the award has been presented.

Smithfield employee named Master Pork Partner by IPPA

The Iowa Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach have presented a 2016 Master Pork Partner Award to a pork production company employee.

Doug Matthies of Walnut in Pottawattamie County was recognized and presented the brass belt buckle emblematic of the award at the Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

Matthies serves the Midwest region of Smithfield Hog Production as business improvement manager. He has been involved in the swine industry for more than 45 years, starting as a hog buyer for Farmland. He joined Smithfield when it purchased Farmland.

Doug assists growers with the permitting process for new construction. He oversees facility construction and works directly with contractors in bidding, workmanship, and follow-through. He is currently implementing a raised-without-antibiotics program with contract growers in southwest Iowa.

Matthies has witnessed many changes in the swine industry over the course of his career. He recalls his early days when 200 pound pigs were considered heavy by packers. He also notes the changes in biosecurity and health management, which he views as "before PRRS" and "after PRRS." Doug has always been a champion of change and encouraging those he works with to improve their management and their bottom line.



In the community, Matthies is a past president of the Walnut Community School Board, president of the Walnut Optimist Club, and commander of the Walnut American Legion Post 422. He is state chairman of American Legion Youth Baseball Program and has also served on several youth baseball programs throughout the years. Doug also is a PQA and TQA trainer/advisor.

Doug and his wife, Margo, have three children.

The Master Pork Partner Award recognizes pork production company employees who have demonstrated positive impacts in their production systems and a commitment to the We Care ethical principles, but don't have active daily roles at a specific production site. This is the third year that the award has been presented.

IPPA names Pipestone veterinarian 2016 Master Pork Partner

A veterinarian for a Minnesota-based pork production company has been named a 2016 Master Pork Partner by the Iowa Pork Producers Association and Iowa State University Extension and Outreach.

IPPA recognized Dr. Bryan Myers of Independence in Buchanan County at the Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25. He received the emblematic brass belt buckle during the presentation.

Myers has been a veterinarian for more than 25 years and has worked for Pipestone Veterinarian Services since 2009. He started in mixed practice, but over the years was drawn to the pork industry and has made swine his focus the last 10 years.

Bryan works with Pipestone-managed sow farms, along with numerous consulting farms, not only on health management, but production, biosecurity, welfare, pig flow and financials. He also works closely with the grow-finish team. Myers was recently promoted to head veterinarian of Pipestone's east region. He has given numerous presentations, nationally and internationally, to employees within the company, producers and fellow veterinarians.

Biosecurity on Pipestone-managed farms is an aspect of pig health that Bryan is currently focusing on. He leads a biosecurity veterinarian team that meets frequently to discuss strategies, research and technologies that can be effectively



implemented in their system to improve herd health. He has used his experiences in the swine industry to not only help clients, but fellow employees in thinking through decisions.

Community involvement is important to Bryan as he helps the Buchanan County Pork Producers with promotions and events. He is an elder at church and has been a volunteer paramedic for the Farley EMS for more than 10 years.

Bryan and his wife, Lisa, have two kids, one of which also works for Pipestone.

The Master Pork Partner Award recognizes pork production company employees who have demonstrated positive impacts in their production systems and a commitment to the We Care ethical principles, but don't have active daily roles at a specific production site. This is the third year that the award has been presented.



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Retired IPPA CEO named Honorary Master Pork Producer

The Iowa Pork Producers Association annually recognizes one or more people who have greatly contributed to the success of the state's pork industry as an Honorary Master Pork Producer. IPPA's 2016 recipient is no stranger to the state association.

IPPA presented the award to retired IPPA CEO Rich Degner at the Iowa Pork Congress Banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25. He was with IPPA for 35 years and served as CEO from 1998 until his retirement on Sept. 30, 2015.

Degner joined IPPA in 1980 and held nearly every position with the association prior to becoming CEO. He worked in communications, producer education, marketing, public policy, research and administration. Rich gained extensive international experience as part of the association's market development and producer education efforts.

The pork industry underwent many changes during Degner's IPPA career. The transition from typical family farrow-to-finish farms to large-scale family farrowing operations and multi-site production was a major change.

The 2001 split of the National Pork Producers Council into the National Pork Board and NPPC created need for a new public policy funding source and a system of revenue sharing, which Degner helped develop.

Rich helped establish the Iowa Pork Tent to give the industry greater exposure at the Iowa State Fair. He could often be found washing baked bean pans in the kitchen during the fair.



Degner helped start IPPA's foreign market development program with the Iowa Economic Development Authority and the U.S. Meat Export Federation and was a leader in the implementation of the association's research funding program. He also made it a point to build a strong relationship with Iowa State University, saying "it's truly valuable to pork producers."

The Le Mars native was raised on a farm. He attended Iowa State University and earned bachelor's and master's degrees in agricultural education. He taught vocational

agriculture at Rock Valley and Ankeny schools in Iowa for four years prior to joining IPPA.

Rich and his wife, Nancy, reside in Ankeny and have one son, Chris. The Degners also own family farm land, including a century farm.

The Honorary Master Pork Producer Award is presented for outstanding and distinguished service to the betterment and success of Iowa's pork industry. Recipients are selected by the IPPA Board of Directors and the program is funded by the Pork Checkoff.

Belle Ringer and Hog Wild award winners for 2016

The Iowa Pork Producers Association annually recognizes the state's top female and male pork promoters from among the many who devote time each year to promoting pork and the pork industry. IPPA presented the state Belle Ringer and Hog Wild award winners at the association's annual meeting luncheon in Des Moines on Jan. 24.

Belle Ringer Award



Joanne Tupper receives the state Belle Ringer Award from 2016 IPPA President Al Wulfekuhle.

Joanne Tupper of Ionia was named the state winner, beating out district winner Sheila Smith from Delaware County for the top honor.

Tupper has served on the Chickasaw

County Pork Producers Board for 13 years and leads many of the county's programs and activities. She has been instrumental in coordinating promotional programs has been involved in pork education activities as well.

Tupper spearheads a variety of activities during National Pork Month. The October Pork Freezer promotion was held with local appliance dealers and lockers for the 14th consecutive year. She also helps with an annual October Pork Month food pantry donation, a Christmas promotion with local retailers that provides pork coupons, and a School Booster Club partnership that encourages the club to serve pork. Joanne also coordinates the county scholarship program and much more.

"Joanne is a true advocate of pork and the pork industry and is always ready to help wherever needed," said IPPA Promotions Committee Chairman Ken Ries of Ryan.

The state Belle Ringer Award is presented each year to a woman who plays a key role in contributing to the pork industry through her county pork organization. The winner has shown the highest qualities of leadership, dedication and commitment to the activities that promote the Iowa pork industry.

Hog Wild Award



IPPA District 8 Board member Heather Hora of Washington accepts the Hog Wild Award on behalf of Joel and Lura Huber of Wellman from 2016 IPPA President Al Wulfekuhle.

The state Hog Wild Award is usually reserved for the top male pork promoter, but Joel and Laura Huber of Wellman work as a team and IPPA recognized both for the award.

"The Hubers are dedicated and tireless leaders of the pork industry and commit countless hours to Washington County Pork Producer programs," said IPPA Promotions Committee Chairman Ken Ries of Ryan in announcing the award.

The couple devoted three full weekends promoting pork at the Iowa Speedway in Newton, coordinated a RAGBRAI pork promotion, and helped with numerous other grilling events. Joel and Laura's daughters, Alexa and Callie, help with many of the activities, proving that family is an integral part of pork production.

The IPPA Promotions Committee annually presents the state Hog Wild Award to an individual who commits his time and efforts to introducing consumers to new and exciting pork products, educating restaurants and retailers about products they produce, or assisting with the many county and state activities to better the Iowa pork industry.

Al Monaghan of Delaware County and Craig Strother of Story County joined the Hubers as 2016 district Hog Wild Award winners.

2016 IPPA County Membership Awards

Iowa county pork organizations work hard each year to attract and retain members at the county level, as well as the Iowa Pork Producers Association. The counties and their leadership are recognized for their recruitment efforts at the Iowa Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting Luncheon each year. The 2016 awards were presented on Jan. 24 in Des Moines.

Membership dues are used for non-Checkoff purposes such as regulatory and public policy efforts. IPPA uses membership money to address county, state and national issues and protect the interests of pork producers each year.

Awards for Largest County Membership, Early Bird Membership, Over-Goal Membership, Largest Percentage Over Goal, Most New Members Over 2015, and County Involvement were presented by Heather Hora, chairperson of the IPPA Membership Committee.

IPPA proudly recognizes the county organizations that successfully retain and attract new members to the organization. Iowa's organized counties recruited 4,359 producer/members in 2016, a 1 percent decrease from 2015!

Largest County Membership Award – Washington Co.

Washington Co. had the largest membership for the 11th consecutive year with 325 producer/members.

Early Bird Membership Award – 42 counties

These counties received this award for filing their membership lists with IPPA by the March 1 deadline.

Buchanan	Crawford	Franklin	Iowa	Linn	Page
Cass	Dallas	Greene	Jackson	Lyon	Scott
Cedar	Davis	Grundy	Jefferson	Mahaska	Sioux
Cerro Gordo	Delaware	Hamilton	Johnson	Marion	Story
Cherokee	Des Moines	Henry	Jones	Mitchell	Taylor
Clayton	Dickinson	Howard	Kossuth	Montgomery	Wapello
Clinton	Fayette	Ida	Lee	O'Brien	Winneshiek

Over-Goal Membership Award – 25 counties

These counties reached or exceeded their 2016 membership goal. The goals are determined by taking the three-year average of a county's membership and then increasing it 2 percent.

Adair	Chickasaw	Des Moines	Ida	Linn	Story
Benton	Clayton	Grundy	Jasper	Madison	Tama
Black Hawk	Davis	Hardin	Jones	Poweshiek	Taylor
Buchanan	Delaware	Howard	Kossuth	Shelby	Webster
Cherokee					

Largest Percentage Over-Goal Award – Chickasaw Co.

Chickasaw Co. received additional recognition for exceeding its goal by 26 percent

County with Most New Members Over 2015 – Chickasaw Co.

Chickasaw Co. also received this award for recruiting 34 new members in 2016!

2017 Iowa Pork Congress Re-Cap

County Involvement Award – 35 Counties

Since 2006, IPPA has presented the County Involvement Award to honor and reward counties that maintain an active presence and support the state organization. Points are earned through annual meeting participation, Iowa Pork Tent grilling, placing newspaper ads or purchasing billboard space. Each county that earned at least 2,000 points for their activities received \$500. The top five highest scoring counties each received \$1,000. The top counties were:

2000 pts – Benton	2525 pts – O'Brien	4300 pts – Hamilton	The Top 5
2000 pts – Hancock	2650 pts – Clay	4375 pts – Tama	
2025 pts – Mitchell	2675 pts – Jefferson	4925 pts – Grundy	
2125 pts – Lee	2800 pts – Page	5275 pts – Webster	
2125 pts – Sac	3225 pts – Hardin	5575 pts – Cherokee	
2150 pts – Clayton	3575 pts – Bremer	5900 pts – Ida	9,075 pts - Sioux
2150 pts – Greene	3675 pts – Boone	6475 pts – Adair	9,550 pts - Story
2175 pts – Buena Vista	4050 pts – Scott	7000 pts – Plymouth	10,875 pts - Lyon
2250 pts – Jones	4150 pts – Kossuth	7225 pts – Chickasaw	13,350 pts - Buchanan
2275 pts – Marshall	4175 pts – Black Hawk	8375 pts – Washington	16,275 pts - Delaware

Congratulations to all of the 2016 County Membership Award winners for your hard work and dedication.

IPPA Leaders of Tomorrow



The 2016 IPPA Leaders of Tomorrow program participants were recognized during the luncheon. The 12 participants who completed the program were Adam Crawford, Adam Decker, Ann McDonald, Brandon Bell, Cody Weaver, James Sullivan, Jeff Hartwig, Katee Vittetoe, Laurel Pierson, Lindsay Parker, Mathew Thome and Patrick Gent.

2016 IPPA County Promotion and Education Project Awards

The Iowa Pork Producers Association annually recognizes county pork groups that have conducted successful pork promotions and educational programs during the previous calendar year and selects one county in each category for the award. The Best County Promotion and Education Program awards were presented on Jan. 24 by IPPA Promotion Committee Chairman Ken Ries of Ryan.

"Promoting and educating consumers about pork and the pork industry are of the utmost importance today. County pork producer organizations play an important role in this effort," Ries said.

Promotional activities can have a major impact on consumer demand. Retail promotions, newspaper and radio advertising, television appearances, sporting events, fairs, festivals and other community events are all great ways to share the news about pork production and our commitment to providing safe and wholesome products for consumers. Many county producer groups understand the importance of promoting the product and are actively involved in their communities each year.



IPPA Consumer Information Director Joyce Hoppes (left) presents the Best County Promotion Award to Heather Hora of Washington Co.



2016 IPPA President Al Wulfekuhle presents the Best County Educational Program Award to Joanne Tupper of Chickasaw Co.

Best County Promotion Program – Washington Co.

The Washington County Pork Producers sponsored the Zach Johnson Foundation Classic Luncheon and Gala in Cedar Rapids in June. County representatives worked with the chef to select and source the pork for the luncheon for the golf pros and celebrities who participated. For the gala, a pork entree was served to more than 600 attendees. Washington County's efforts caught the attention of Zach Johnson, who expressed his appreciation of the pork industry and Washington County Pork Producers at the dinner.

"This is a great dual-purpose program. It promotes the pork industry as well as the product, said Ries.

A Pork Month promotion by the Delaware County Pork Producers Association also earned praise. The county partnered with the Regional Medical Center in Manchester to give out \$10 pork coupons to every woman who had a mammogram during October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Best County Educational Program – Chickasaw Co.

The Chickasaw County Pork group sponsored a tour of the Fair Oaks Pig Adventure in Indiana for FFA members attending the National FFA Convention to give the future agriculture leaders an experience and better understanding of pork production. Approximately 100 students participated in the tour.

For some, it was their first visit to a pig barn.

"Educating consumers about pork and pork production is crucial to the industry," Ries said. "This year's education winner did an amazing job of educating young leaders about the pork industry."

All nominations for 2017 will be due to the Iowa Pork Producers Association by Dec.1. The Promotions Committee looks forward to receiving nominations and rewarding producers' hard work.

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IPPA's 'Dine on Us' another big success

The Iowa Pork Producers Association held its 3rd annual "Dine on Us" promotion during the 2017 Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines and early results indicate it was a successful promotion.

A total of 18 downtown and area restaurants participated and six had reported as of Feb. 27 that 822 "Dine on Us" coupons had been redeemed by the Feb. 15 deadline.

IPPA Board members and Youth Leadership Team members and contestants distributed more than 2,500 \$5 discount coupons to consumers on Jan. 25 in the downtown skywalk system. The coupons could be used to reduce the cost of a pork entrée at any of the participating restaurants. IPPA provided each establishment with promotion signage and table tents.

"It continues to be a successful Pork Congress promotion," said IPPA Consumer Information Director Joyce Hoppes. "The participating restaurants like the program and it allows us to showcase our delicious pork products and introduce pork to people who may not already be pork lovers."

The special promotion replaced the Winter Pork Picnic in 2015 and works to involve Des Moines-area restaurants that normally serve pork entrees or that are willing to put pork on the menu for the promotion. The promotion helps entice people to enjoy pork and gives the industry a positive identity.

IPPA reimburses the restaurants for all redeemed coupons.





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WHO

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and find the "Youth Tour"
tab under "Youth".



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SE Polk FFA team wins 2017 IPPA Youth Swine Judging Contest



A team of FFA members from Southeast Polk High School in Pleasant Hill took top honors in the Iowa Pork Producers Association's 9th annual Youth Swine Judging Contest at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines on Jan. 26.

Southeast Polk team 4 edged out a Bellevue FFA team to win the senior division of the contest. Nodaway Valley placed third, a Grinnell FFA team took fourth and a team from Washington rounded out the top five.

In the Junior Division, two Benton County 4-H teams placed first and second.

More than 400 4-H and FFA students from 38 Iowa schools formed 112 teams to participate in the contest and attend the Iowa Pork Congress tradeshow.

"It was exciting to see the increased participation this year and we truly

appreciate the support of the schools around the state and their willingness to provide their students with this opportunity to learn more about swine production," said IPPA Producer Outreach/Federal Policy Director Stephanie Carlson.

Each team in both divisions was required to judge four classes of hogs to sharpen their gilt selection and market hog evaluation skills. The students scored a keep/cull gilt

class, did live carcass evaluation, and judged market hog and commercial gilt classes. The students viewed a carcass demonstration and were tested on their commercial pork industry and meat quality knowledge. Points were awarded for each activity.

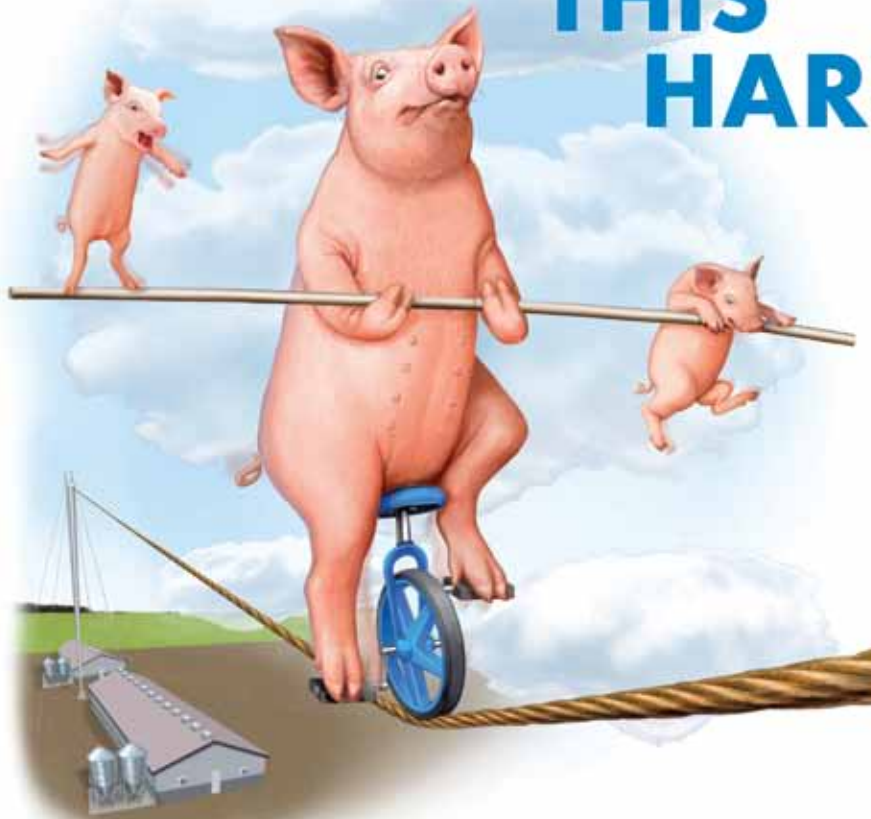
Each member of the top five Senior Division teams earned scholarships: \$750 for first place; \$500 for second place; \$250 for third place; and \$125 for the fourth and fifth place teams. Overall, IPPA awarded \$7,000 in scholarships. The Benton County Junior Division teams received plaques from IPPA.

"These kids are our future pork industry producers and leaders and we believe it's important to provide the students with the educational opportunities they need to be successful," Carlson said. "With continued growth in the pork industry, there will be strong demand for knowledgeable people."

Waldo Genetics, Smithfield, Producers Livestock, Eldon C. Stutsman, Inc., Swine Genetics International, Marting Manufacturing/Smidley and the Pork Checkoff all partnered with IPPA for this year's contest.



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New IPPA Youth Leadership Team selected

The 2017 Iowa Pork Youth Leadership Team was introduced at the 45th annual Iowa Pork Congress banquet in Des Moines on Jan. 25.

A high school senior from Cherokee was named the 2017 Iowa Pork Queen. Clare Conley is a senior at Cherokee Washington High School and plans to attend Iowa State University in the fall to pursue a degree in agricultural studies. Clare is the daughter of Bonni Conley of Cherokee.

Joining Conley on the 2017 Iowa Pork Youth Leadership Team are Dylan Riedemann of O'Brien County and McKenna Brinning of Washington County. Riedemann and Brinning will serve as youth pork ambassadors this year.

Dylan is the son of Craig Riedemann of Calumet. He is a sophomore at Iowa State University where he is studying agricultural engineering. After graduation, Dylan would like to use his degree by working on hog building ventilation systems.

Brinning is the daughter of Shane and Kathleen Brinning of Keota. McKenna is a freshman at Iowa State

University pursuing a degree in animal science. She hopes to one day own a veterinary clinic in a rural area and work with both large and small animals.

Nine young women and men entered this year's competition. All of the contestants participated in interviewing and communications exercises at the Iowa Pork Congress and were judged on their skills, poise, presentation and overall knowledge of the pork industry and Iowa agriculture.

The top female contestant is crowned pork queen and the top remaining contestants, male or female, are named youth ambassadors. Each receives a \$4,000 scholarship from IPPA.

The new youth leadership team members will represent IPPA at various pork promotional and educational events throughout the year.

The 2016 Iowa Pork Youth Leadership Team of Queen Holly Cook of Winthrop in Buchanan County and ambassadors Olivia Bisbee of Stacyville in Mitchell County and Ashley Smeby of Klemme in Hancock County concluded their terms with farewell speeches at the banquet.



Pork Queen Clare Conley



Ambassador Dylan Riedemann



Ambassador McKenna Brinning



IPPA president-elect addresses USMEF seminar in Korea

A pair of Iowa Pork Producers Association Board members returned Feb. 18 from a week-long Iowa Economic Development Authority visit to Korea. The mission was highlighted by a presentation by President-elect Gregg Hora.

The Fort Dodge producer spoke to a gathering of 270 Korean importers, retailers and foodservice officials on Feb. 14 about the competitiveness of U.S. pork at the U.S. Meat Export Federation spring seminar in Seoul. Hora shared information about his farm and family, U.S. pork production, the American breeding herd, current production costs, production efficiency and more.

Hora was joined on the trip by IPPA Vice President of Resources Trent Thiele from Elma, IPPA Communications Director Ron Birkenholz, two members of the Iowa Beef Industry Council, a representative of Midwest Premier Foods in Johnston, officials from Thunder Ridge Beef Company in Sigourney and IEDA International Marketing Manager Mark Fischer.

USMEF Korea Director Jihae Yang briefed the group on the current state of the domestic pork industry, stating that the nation's self-sufficiency rating is 66 percent and declining and Korean demand for U.S. pork and beef is increasing. Yang noted that the U.S. had 30 percent of the Korean pork

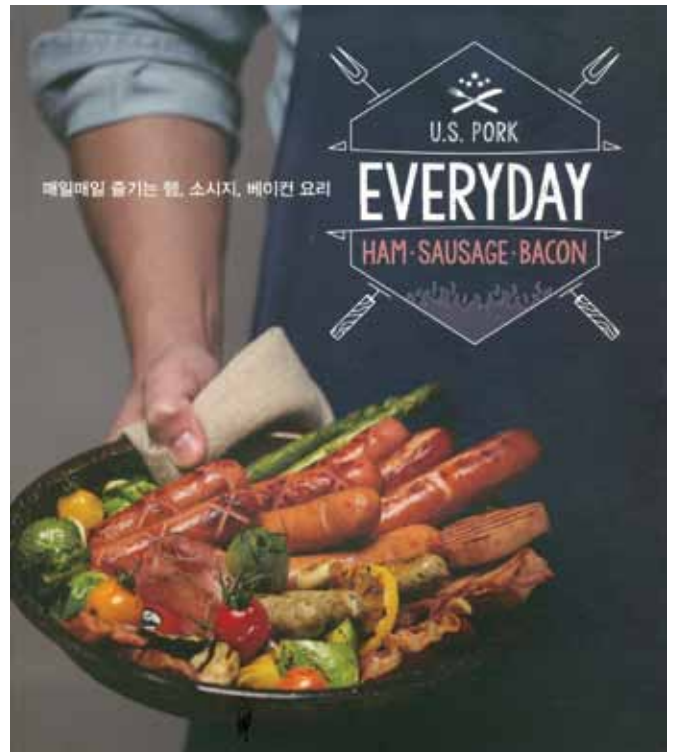
market in 2016 and Korea is expected to increase imports this year by 7 percent.

The delegation learned more about the Korean economic and political situations from the U.S. Embassy charge d'affaires and its country team. It was noted that the Korean economy is declining, youth unemployment is at 12 percent and rising, and the country's president is facing impeachment.

The delegation participated in a special USMEF processed pork cookbook launch in Seoul on Feb. 15. The first-time USMEF event was attended by about 60 Korean foodservice professionals. The cookbook is printed in Korean and features 128 pages of ham, sausage and bacon recipes from a local celebrity chef. Hora made some introductory comments about the U.S. pork industry and he and Thiele handed out a door prize to one of the attendees. The event also featured a pork product tasting.

The Iowa group also toured local meat processing and cold storage facilities, supermarkets, and the newest port in the city of Incheon during the mission.

The trip proved highly successful for Midwest Premier Foods as it struck a large pork deal with a small meat processor in Seoul.



Regional Conferences cover market outlook, swine health and safety

The Iowa Pork Producers Association hosted its 2017 Regional Conferences across Iowa February 20-22 and those who attended received updates on several key topics.

IPPA hosts the regional conferences each year in conjunction with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach and the Iowa Pork Industry Center. Sessions were hosted in Orange City, Carroll and Washington. The final conference scheduled in Nashua was cancelled due to weather. This marks the 17th consecutive year hosting the conferences.

The program included Dr. Lee Schulz, ISU Extension livestock economist, who looked at the 2017 swine market. Dr. Chris Rademacher, ISU Extension swine veterinarian, gave an update on PRRS, discussed what the industry has learned since the PEDv epidemic in 2013-14, and discussed the symptoms of Seneca A virus, stressing the importance of reporting

known cases to your veterinarian. Erik Potter, an ISU Extension swine specialist, presented the importance of implementing a culture of safety in your barns. Finally, ISU Extension swine specialists led a session on how producers should evaluate health management strategies in an era of fewer antibiotics administered through feed.

Here is a summary of this year's sessions:

Market Outlook – Dr. Lee Schulz

Beginning with input costs from feedstuffs, Schulz discussed the USDA Supply and Use reports for corn and soybeans, noting that with current yield and projected price trends that it would create more bullish behavior in the pork industry. Dr. Schulz believes that the biggest changes in prices is behind us. He notes if that is the case, there are going to be more windows to identify opportunities and risks in the market as we see less volatility compared to the past three years. The biggest



surprise to most analysts, including himself, in looking back over 2016 price behavior was the nice bump to prices in the second half of the year due to unforeseen exports heading to Asia.

As for 2017 futures markets, Dr. Schulz noted that the August and October contracts are currently much higher than what we experienced in 2016. However, even with the addition of new packing capacity in the Midwest, and specifically Iowa, one of the risks through the coming year is whether all the pork coming down the pipeline will be able to find a home.

Swine Health Update – Dr. Chris Rademacher

Starting with an update on PRRS, Dr. Rademacher noted that over the past two to three years the new developments around the PRRS virus haven't necessarily been good news. What we've seen is the emergence of newer, more virulent strains such as 1-3-4 and 1-7-4 hitting herds, which are much harder to clean up. Going forward, producers are going to have to identify whether their goal is to eliminate PRRS or eradicate PRRS. Most producers are successful at eliminating the virus by closing the herd. The issue is keeping them from rebreeding.

We've seen an uptick of reported PEDv cases over the past winter, but nothing compared to 2013-14. Rademacher notes that, going forward, PEDv could be just a winter disease that we learn to deal with. He says producers should continue implementing strict biosecurity measures, but it shouldn't have the economic impacts like it has in the past.

In his Seneca Valley Virus update, Dr. Rademacher noted that this disease was first discovered in the U.S. in 1988 and an average of two to four cases a year were investigated by USDA/APHIS. In the past few years, however, an average of 8 to 10 cases have been diagnosed per week. The big issue with Seneca Valley Virus is the symptoms are indistinguishable from Foot and Mouth Disease. He stressed the importance of keeping an eye out for vesicles on feet and snouts when walking pens and loading market pigs.

Safe Pigs, Safe People – Erik Potter

Potter started by explaining the impact that injuries have on a pig farm. Employees may have to take time off,

incur medical expenses, place burden on co-workers, and have a real impact to their employer's bottom line. Potter noted that it's important for producers to look at all processes/procedures and identify hazards and risks. Once identified, determine the best way to eliminate or minimize those risks.

Some of the most common risks on a pig farm include; animal handling, slips, trips and falls, machine guarding, lock out-tag out, and pit pumping. In each one of these risks, it's important for the worker to understand the risks, be properly trained, and have access to the appropriate equipment.

Swine Health Management and Antibiotic Stewardship – ISU Extension swine specialists

Leading up to the FDA Veterinary Feed Directive and Guidances 209 and 213, the pork industry has been reducing antibiotic use. Producers have realized the cost/benefit, there's been an increase in antibiotic-free products, and the PQA Plus and We Care initiative are aimed at responsible use of antibiotics.

The ISU Extension swine specialists talked about several strategies to minimize the use of antibiotics, including; vaccination, biosecurity, caretakers and management. In regard to management, several key points they discussed were ventilation, feed additives, weaning age and stocking density. They noted that with the decreasing amount of antibiotics being used, it's important to properly evaluate feed additives that attempt to improve the intestinal health of the pig. The swine specialists encouraged producers to reach out for additional help in evaluating antibiotic alternatives or identifying other ways to decrease the amount of antibiotics used in their operations.

Full PowerPoint handouts from the 2017 Regional Conferences and recorded proceedings are available for viewing through the "Seminars and Conferences" tab in the "Producer Resources" section at www.iowapork.org.

For more information about the Regional Conferences or other IPPA educational programs, please contact Drew Mogler at dmogler@iowapork.org or by calling IPPA at (800) 372-7675.

New NW Iowa pork plant expanding

STF seaboardtriumph
F O O D S

Seaboard Triumph Foods says it will expand its new pork processing facility in Sioux City to include the addition of a second shift.

The addition of a second shift will allow processing of up to approximately six million hogs annually. The plant will employ approximately 2,000 people, including about 200 salaried positions and 1,800 hourly production positions.

The plant is currently in the final stages of construction in the Bridgeport West Industrial Park in Sioux City, located north of the Sioux Gateway Airport along the Missouri River.

While the initial start-up is anticipated in August 2017, construction for the expansion is expected to begin this spring with completion in the summer of 2018.

A full line of fresh pork products for international, retail, food service and further processing markets will be produced. Seaboard Foods will market and sell the pork produced by the plant.

“The timing of the expansion for a second shift is a result of growing demand for the Seaboard Foods line of quality pork products as well as ongoing growth in the industry. The support demonstrated thus far by our customers, community, city and state agencies simply gives us great confidence to grow right here in northwest Iowa,” said Mark Porter,

Seaboard Triumph Foods chief operating officer.

“Today’s announcement to add a second shift shows the confidence that Seaboard Triumph Foods has in our community,” said Mayor Bob Scott. “As one of the largest projects in Sioux City, this expansion will create the demand for further housing growth to accommodate new employees in the region.”

In May 2015, Seaboard Foods and Triumph Foods announced the formation of Seaboard Triumph Foods (STF), a joint venture with equal ownership, to construct a new pork processing facility in Sioux City, Iowa. Site work began in

September 2015, and construction is expected to be completed by July 2017.

Triumph Foods is owned exclusively by pork producers and Seaboard Foods is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Seaboard Corporation. Triumph Foods and Seaboard Foods are integrated food companies, with farm operations and pork processing, controlling the entire process every step of the way from before the farm to the plate. If the two companies were considered as a single combined entity, they would comprise the second largest hog producer, a top five U.S. pork processor, and a leading exporter of U.S. pork.

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2016 U.S. pork exports set volume record; Iowa again tops \$1 billion

The U.S. Meat Export Federation compiled and released USDA export statistics on Feb. 8 that show export volume reached a record 2.31 million metric tons (mt) last year, up 8 percent year-over-year and 2 percent above the previous high in 2012. Export value increased 7 percent from a year ago to \$5.94 billion. December pork exports totaled 222,635 mt, up 18 percent year-over-year, valued at \$564.2 million, up 20 percent.

Exports accounted for 25.8 percent of total 2016 pork production and 21.5 percent for muscle cuts – up from 24.2 percent and 20.8 percent, respectively, in 2015. December ratios were 28 percent for total production and 23 percent for muscle cuts only – up significantly from December 2015. Export value per head slaughtered averaged \$50.20 in 2016, up 4 percent from the previous year. The December average was \$56.06, up 24 percent.

A remarkable second half pushed 2016 pork export volume to Mexico to its fifth consecutive record at 730,316 mt – breaking the previous record by 2 percent. Export value to Mexico totaled \$1.36 billion, up 7 percent year-over-year and the second-highest on record, trailing only the \$1.56 billion mark reached in 2014.

“At this time of record-large pork production, it would be hard to overstate the importance of Mexican demand to the U.S. industry,” said Philip Seng, USMEF president/CEO. “This is especially true for hams, as we are locked out of Russia – once a large destination for U.S. hams – and China’s demand for imported hams has moderated in recent months. So now more than ever, we need strong demand from our key customers in Mexico, and they have responded with extraordinary



results. December exports to Mexico accounted for nearly \$16 per head, and that’s absolutely critical to the entire U.S. pork supply chain.”

Though down from the high levels seen earlier in the year, December pork exports to China/Hong Kong were still up 40 percent year-over-year in volume (47,242 mt) and 42 percent higher in value (\$96 million). For the full year, exports to China/Hong set a new volume record of 544,943 mt (up 61%) and broke the \$1 billion mark for the first time (\$1.07 billion, up 53%).

Japan remained the leading value destination for U.S. pork, though exports fell 5 percent in volume (387,712 mt) and 2 percent in value (\$1.56 billion) compared to 2015. However, chilled exports to Japan set a new record of 218,211 mt, up 8 percent.

Fueled by increases in China/Hong Kong and Canada and steady exports to Mexico, pork variety meat exports jumped 20 percent in volume to 523,199 mt and 24 percent in value to \$999 million – just short of the record levels reached in 2014.

Iowa was once again the nation’s leader in pork exports in 2016, topping \$1 billion in muscle cut and variety meat sales for the 5th consecutive year. Last year’s value was a 6.48 percent drop from 2015. Japan continued to be Iowa’s best international customer with more than \$459 million in purchases. Canada, Mexico, Hong Kong and South Korea rounded out the top five. Iowa pork was exported to 28 countries last year.

NOTES:

- Export statistics refer to both muscle cuts and variety meat, unless otherwise noted.
- One metric ton (mt) = 2,204.622 pounds.

Montgomery Co. pig farmers receive 'Good Farm Neighbor Award'



Kirk, Kent and Kevin Swanson of Red Oak.

A farm family from Montgomery County received the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award on Jan. 26 at the Iowa Pork Congress in Des Moines.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey presented the award to Kirk, Kent and Kevin Swanson of Red Oak.

“The Swanson family does things right in how they care for their animals, protect the environment and serve their neighbors and community. It is great to be able to recognize a deserving family like this in front of their peers during Iowa Pork Congress. Iowa is fortunate to have outstanding livestock farmers like the Swanson family all across the state and I encourage anyone to consider nominating a livestock farmer in your community for this distinguished award,” Northey said.

The Swanson’s own 4 K Farms. They have a farrow-to-finish hog business with 20 boar studs and also sell semen to other hog farmers. The family has planted a wind break and also uses cover crops, buffer strips and terraces to prevent erosion and protect water quality.

The family was nominated for the award by neighbor and fellow pork producer Dennis Carlson. In his nomination, Carlson highlighted the family’s care for the environment and also their active involvement in the community.

The “Big Show,” which airs on both WHO and WMT radio, broadcast live from the presentation.

The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor award is made possible through the financial support of the Coalition to Support Iowa’s Farmers.

Iowa Supreme Court rules against Des Moines Water Works

By Eldon McAfee, Brick Gentry, PC, IPPA legal counsel

The Iowa Supreme Court issued its long-awaited ruling in January on the Iowa law issues in the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) citizen suit filed by the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) in federal district court against 10 drainage districts in Sac, Calhoun and Buena Vista counties.

The Iowa Supreme Court ruled in favor of the drainage districts, finding that the districts have immunity from DMWW's claims for money damages and other legal claims by DMWW that the districts must take action under Iowa law to control the discharges of nitrates from the tile lines. The court also rejected DMWW claims of violations of the Iowa Constitution.

The case now goes back to the federal court for a ruling on the question of whether the drainage districts can be required to obtain a federal NPDES (discharge) permit for any nitrates discharged from the district's tile lines to waters of the U.S.

In this lawsuit, the DMWW has alleged that discharges of nitrates from the drainage districts' field tile lines are discharges of pollutants from "point sources" without an NPDES permit under

the CWA and without a permit under Iowa law. The DMWW also alleged that the discharges are a nuisance, a trespass, negligence, an unconstitutional taking without compensation, and violate constitutional due process and equal protection.

In finding that the drainage districts are immune from DMWW's claims for money damages, the court noted that drainage districts have had immunity "over one hundred years" and that there was no basis to change that legal precedent. The court noted that the Iowa Legislature had created drainage districts for a very limited purpose – to drain and therefore make productive land that was otherwise unproductive. The court also ruled that downstream property owners cannot sue drainage districts for injunctive relief, i.e., the drainage districts cannot be ordered by a court to take action under state law to eliminate the discharges. Finally, the court ruled that the DMWW, as a government entity, cannot bring claims under the Iowa Constitution against the drainage districts as another government entity.

In making its ruling the court made two critical points that

are important not only for this ruling, but also potentially for any further rulings by the federal court:

- The drainage districts have no authority under state law to regulate farmer nitrate use and that lack of control means the districts cannot be held liable for the discharges – "liability is premised on control" the court stated. This is a point the drainage districts have repeatedly made and the court agreed and emphasized this point.
- Well established Iowa court decisions favor placing liability on the party who can avoid the harm at the least cost. As has been emphasized by the scientific and agricultural community, the court ruled that because the drainage districts' drainage systems were not designed or intended to filter out nitrates, the "least-cost avoider" for removing nitrates from drinking water may well be DMWW, the party which is already required by law to provide safe drinking water to its customers.
- In a very pointed conclusion, which also is often brought up by the ag community, the court drove home the point of the DMWW being the best situated to remove nitrates from drinking water, stating that the DMWW "itself at

times has lawfully deposited back into the Raccoon River the very nitrates it removed.” The court repeated the point later in the opinion stating that “[t]he DMWW’s claim that putting nitrates into the Raccoon River creates a public nuisance is at odds with its own practice of depositing those nitrates back into the same river.”

Other important points made by the court in its ruling are:

- Iowa law gives farmers who comply with fertilizer label instructions immunity from liability for nitrate contamination and that reinforces the drainage districts’ immunity from the DMWW’s claims. As the court stated, claims for nitrate contamination against drainage districts would be a way to get “backdoor relief against farmers that the Legislature has specifically barred through the front door.”
- Iowa law only authorizes drainage districts to assess costs to landowners to drain land, not to assess costs to redesign drainage systems to abate nitrates.
- Drainage districts could not get liability insurance for the DMWW’s claims, presumably because of the immunity provided by Iowa law.

The case now goes back to the federal court to consider the DMWW’s claim that the drainage districts are point sources under the CWA and that they, therefore, are required to obtain NPDES

permits for the tile line discharges of nitrates to waters of the U.S. Although this ruling is not a ruling on the NPDES permit issue, this ruling that the drainage districts have immunity under Iowa law and no authority to control farmer nitrate use should

impact the NPDES permit issue. If the federal court does not dispose of the case in the two pending pre-trial motions filed by the drainage districts, the case is scheduled for a two-week trial starting on June 26.

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Iowa Appeals Court denies coverage for contract feeder who purchased custom feeding insurance policy endorsement

by Eldon McAfee, Brick Gentry, PC, IPPA legal counsel

On Jan. 11, the Iowa Appeals Court agreed with a Polk County judge and denied a contract feeder liability insurance coverage for his losses for 837 market weight hogs that died in his building due to a breaker tripping. In the case, Schulz Farm Enterprises, Inc. v. IMT Insurance, the appeals court denied insurance coverage even though Schulz's contract feeder had purchased a "custom feeding endorsement" to his farm liability policy.

As previously reported by the Iowa Pork Producers Association, contract feeding insurance coverage is of major importance to Iowa pork producers. Unfortunately, this is the latest case where farm liability coverage has been denied for pig loss by contract feeders. As in this case, denial is most often based on the standard farm liability policy exclusion for losses to property under the "care, custody and control" of the insured. The premise for this exclusion is that there should only be liability insurance coverage when the person who caused the loss of property owned by someone else is not in control of that property when the loss occurs.

In this case, as in several other cases, including the 2013 Iowa Supreme Court case of Boelman vs. Grinnell, Schulz's contract feeder was aware that he would not have coverage under his standard policy and purchased a custom feeding endorsement. The custom feeding endorsement stated that the policy exclusions "pertaining to 'custom feeding' are deleted." The Iowa Court of Appeals ruled that the

term "pertaining to" removed only the custom feeding exclusion but did not delete other policy exclusions such as the exclusion for property "in the care of" the contract feeder. The court ruled that the endorsement insured Schulz's contract feeder for "damages caused by the hogs, but not damage done to the hogs." The court also noted that Schulz's contract feeder paid an additional premium of \$118 for the custom feeding endorsement and that this amount of additional premium "does not correspond with the additional risk of insuring the health of the hogs, but does correspond with the additional risk of damage caused by the hogs."

Schulz has until Jan. 31 to apply to the Iowa Supreme Court for review of this Iowa Appeals Court decision.

This case, like the 2013 Boelman case, illustrates the importance of carefully reviewing and understanding custom feeding insurance policy endorsements. One of the critical factors in these two court decisions appears to be the amount of premium charged for the endorsement. Contract feeders should have their policies reviewed and if there are coverage questions, a written coverage opinion specific to contract feeding pig losses should be obtained from the insurance company.

For additional information, please see the IPPA publication titled "Contract Feeders: Legal Considerations for Insurance."



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Study shows producers were ready for VFD

Iowa and U.S. pork producers were not only well aware of new federal rules for on-farm antibiotic use, but were already complying by the implementation date.

In a survey conducted by the National Pork Board in November, 95 percent of the producers surveyed said that they were ready to be fully compliant by the time the rules took effect on Jan. 1, 2017. In Iowa, 79 percent of the producers taking part in the Iowa Pork Producers Association's annual membership survey last fall said they were prepared for the new requirements regarding the Veterinary Feed Directive.

"The pork industry worked toward the Jan. 1 implementation date for nearly two years. There was a concern that some producers would not make changes until after the date of implementation, but that does not seem to be the case," said Jan Archer, National Pork Board president and a producer from North Carolina. "Pig farmers are committed to the substantive changes regarding antibiotic use, and many discontinued using antibiotics for growth promotion years ago, while also reviewing swine medical treatment uses of antibiotics as well."

One of the key changes to the new Food and Drug Administration (FDA) rules is that medically important antibiotics could no longer be used for growth promotion. Today, human medically important antibiotics can only be used to treat sick animals or to prevent disease and/or control it.

Archer added that a key hurdle in complying with new FDA rules is ensuring that every pig farmer has a defined and ongoing client relationship with a veterinarian. That can be a challenge in remote areas of the country where the nearest veterinarian could be hundreds

of miles away. Last month, the Pork Checkoff announced a partnership with Global Vetlink of Ames to offer a veterinarian locator tool, which is available at pork.org/antibiotics.

"Complying with the new rules is critical to maintaining consumer trust in the high quality and safety of pork produced in the U.S.," Archer said. "The two key elements are having an established veterinarian-client-patient relationship and ensuring that antibiotics are administered under the guidance of a veterinarian. To do so without veterinarian oversight is now illegal."

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Key considerations for deployment of Chlorine Dioxide gas-based sterilization

By John Mason, chief science officer, BioWall
Second in a series

There are emerging biosecurity options for pork producers that offer the potential for greater decontamination efficacy with little to no environmental impact and lower overall cost. Historically, decontamination of structures has been through heating the structure and/or washing with liquid biocides. Both of these methods have limitations in application, consistency and efficacy.

As described in detail in the November article, Chlorine Dioxide (ClO₂) is a powerful microbiocide that has now been made available to pork producers. When generated in its purest form, it leaves neither residual toxicity nor carcinogens, and it has a long track-record of deployment not only in physical structures but also in municipal drinking water, municipal waste water and direct food contact process water. When applied as a gas, it maintains its core qualities as a sterilant while uniquely addressing the challenges of very large-scale spaces such as barns or food processing plants containing both porous and non-porous surfaces.

In this article, we outline the specifics of deploying a Chlorine Dioxide gas-based sterilization solution to treat structures, equipment and water on the farm.

Pre-treatment

It's important to notice that, unlike current pork production industry practices, there are no pre-washing or pre-soaking requirements beyond removal of organic material such as animal waste. All equipment and components can be left within the structure. Due to the ubiquitous dispersion and sterilization effectiveness of Chlorine Dioxide gas within a structure, there is little to no requirement for removal or movement of equipment within a facility in order to achieve the highest levels of sterilization.

Structure preparation

Structures need to be sealed for a safe and effective gas sterilization

treatment. This is done by “tenting” the facility (or portion of the facility) with a non-porous material that will contain the gas. As a best practice, a negative air pressurization system should be deployed during application to prevent any sensitive material, whether it is gas or pathogens, escaping the treatment area.

Deployment process

The first deployment step consists of producing the Chlorine Dioxide gas on site with a mobile generation system. While there are products marketed as “stabilized chlorine dioxide,” true and pure Chlorine Dioxide gas must be generated on site via a particular process.



before

The gas dispersion set up follows next. Various temporary conduits from the gas generator are deployed in order to provide even dispersion of the gas within the structure. Upon application of the gas, gas sampling points are then monitored to ensure that they have reached the targeted concentration of chlorine dioxide. Once achieved, the dose is maintained for the prescribed amount of treatment time, to ensure that all pathogens are completely removed and all microbiological pathogens are remediated. Post-treatment efficacy testing also is conducted on site, utilizing mobile laboratories. Producers should be mindful that measuring the effectiveness of a treatment is of paramount importance. Regardless of the treatment methodology, efficacy should never be assumed - even if it conforms to industry standards or standard practices. The only assurance of effectiveness is thorough post-treatment testing.

The last step consists of removing all the gas out of the structure by using an air-scrubbing system that does rapid gas removal.

Resuming operations

Downtime is minimal. For example, treating a large structure requires a total of two to five days (includes mobilization, set up, running sample lines, setting up and conducting testing, administering treatment, clean up and demobilization).

After treatment is completed, animals can be moved back into the space and operations can be resumed within six to 24 hours, depending on the size of the treated structure.

Comprehensive treatment considerations

Taking a “prevention is better than detection and treatment” attitude toward biosecurity

is a sound policy. The various disinfection and decontamination applications consist of but are not limited to: (1) structure fumigation to remove any present pathogens or microbiological contaminants; (2) animal drinking water - even though chlorine dioxide is a true gas, it is water-soluble so you can apply chlorine dioxide to an animal water system; (3) biosecurity – used to decontaminate trucks, interior trailers or equipment.

There are contamination risks associated with all aspects of pork production and processing operations, most of which are tied to their most common characteristics – air, water, people, equipment and animals. High biosecurity standards should be established and applied across the board to maintain food safety, business continuity and brand reputation.

About the author

Mason founded the chlorine dioxide panel on the American Chemistry Council in 1988 to develop standards for the chlorine dioxide industry for disinfection of drinking water and food, and for industrial applications. He has been the lead technical advisor to governmental agencies and commercial businesses on events ranging from the U.S. Capitol anthrax attack, to large agribusiness viral contaminations and biosecurity protocols.



after

House adopts Fry, Moore & Bacon Resolution

Three members of the Iowa House of Representatives introduced this resolution on Jan. 26 to honor Iowa's pork producers. Representatives Joel Fry, Tom Moore and Rob Bacon introduced the resolution to recognize the Iowa Pork Congress, North America's largest winter swine trade show, as well as the pork industry as major economic drivers in the state. The House unanimously adopted the resolution.



HOUSE RESOLUTION 3 BY FRY, MOORE, and BACON

A RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE IOWA PORK CONGRESS TO IOWA'S PORK INDUSTRY AND THE ECONOMIC IMPORTANCE OF THAT INDUSTRY TO IOWA AS DOCUMENTED IN A RECENTLY PUBLISHED STUDY.

WHEREAS, the Iowa Pork Producers Association has sponsored the Iowa Pork Congress each year since 1972; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Pork Congress is the largest winter swine trade show in the United States attracting 4,987 people from Iowa and the Midwest in 2016; and

WHEREAS, the 2017 Iowa Pork Congress will be held in Des Moines on January 25 and 26; and

WHEREAS, during the 2017 Iowa Pork Congress, attendees will be presented with the latest comprehensive data available regarding economic contributions to this state made by the pork industry; and

WHEREAS, the data is contained in a recently published study prepared by Decision Innovation Solutions entitled "Iowa Pork Industry Report" which describes the economic impacts of the pork industry on this state including more than \$756 million in state taxes paid, \$1.5 billion in federal taxes paid, \$36.7 billion in total economic output, 141,000 jobs, \$12.1 billion in value-added output, and 8.2 billion in labor income; NOW THEREFORE,


BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE, That the House of Representatives recognizes the important role of the Iowa Pork Congress in improving pork production practices and expanding markets for pork and pork products; and

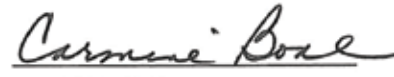
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE, That the House of Representatives recognizes the economic impact of the Iowa pork industry on this state's economy as documented in the Iowa Pork

Industry Report; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit certified copies of this Resolution to Mr. Al Wulfekuhle, 2016 President of the Iowa Pork Producers Association and Mr. Curtis Meier, 2017 President of the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

We, Linda Upmeyer, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Carmine Boal, Chief Clerk of the House, hereby certify that the above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives of the Eighty-seventh General Assembly.


LINDA UPMYER
Speaker of the House


CARMINE BOAL
Chief Clerk of the House



News from the National Pork Board



Registration open for April 2017 Pork Management Conference

The National Pork Board will host its annual Pork Management Conference, April 19-21, in Nashville, Tennessee.

The annual conference, moved to April this year, will accommodate a diverse set of experts from across the U.S. The 2017 conference will address current business trends and challenges facing the U.S. pork industry. Through presentations, breakout sessions and networking, attendees will gain important insight on the pork industry, its challenges and financial management practices that improve the performance and efficiency of pig farming.

"The Pork Management Conference is more than an industry meeting, but an interactive experience," said Andrew Reinecker, chair of the Checkoff's Producer and State Services Committee and a Pennsylvania producer. "The engagement between the guest presenters and experts and those working in the industry offers producers an opportunity to gain knowledge

from different areas, ask questions and implement this information on their farms."

In addition to the general sessions open to all attendees on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings, two concurrent afternoon sessions are planned on Thursday, April 20. Topics include benchmarking, safety programs, emerging social media, accounting, tax updates and price discovery, and results from the recent industry employee compensation survey.

The registration fee is \$425 per person through March 31 and increases to \$475 beginning on April 1. A registration form and a detailed list of events are available at pork.org/pmc.

2016 U.S. pork exports show impressive progress

At year-end 2016, U.S. pork exports showed impressive progress following a challenging 2015. In 2016, 5.1 billion pounds of pork and pork variety meats valued at \$5.94 billion dollars were exported, up 8 percent and 7 percent respectively from 2015, according to USDA.

"We saw a strong 2016 for U.S. pork exports, but we still face challenges with increased global competition and a stronger



U.S. dollar,” said Becca Nepple, vice president of international marketing for the Pork Checkoff. “The Checkoff is committed to bolstering its partnership with international customers through additional funding of in-country promotions of U.S. pork with the U.S. Meat Export Federation.”

On average, U.S. pork and pork variety meat exports accounted for 25.8 percent of total pork production in 2016. Export value returned an average \$50.20 per head back to producers.

During 2016, more than 100 countries around the world imported U.S. pork.

The top five markets by volume were Mexico (1.61 billion pounds), China/Hong Kong (1.21 billion pounds), Japan (854.8 million pounds), Canada (452.2 million pounds) and Central and South America (299.7 million pounds).

The top five markets by value were Japan (\$1.56 billion), Mexico (\$1.355 billion), China and Hong Kong (\$1.075 billion), Canada (\$798.5 million) and Korea (\$365.1 million).

With more pork available in the U.S., the National Pork Board recently approved an increase of 12.7 percent in funding for 2017 export market activities. This financial commitment translates into tangible marketing activities that increase U.S. pork exports to emerging and developing markets.

Promotions and marketing activities will focus on displacing other proteins and global competitors and on promoting larger pork cuts.

Consumers invited to experience pork's flavor, value

The National Pork Board launched an integrated “Taste of Now” marketing campaign in February.

The campaign includes significant Spanish-language outreach (*El Sabor de Hoy*), creates consumer awareness of pork's unmatched flavor and value making it the ideal protein on any occasion.

“Pork is trending and there has never been a better time to enjoy pork and make delicious dishes for family and friends,” said National Pork Board President Jan Archer, a North Carolina pig farmer. “That is the focus of this first national campaign of 2017. And we are teaming up with celebrity chefs and pork advocates with a simple message – When it comes to pork, there has never been a better time than now to make something delicious.”

Hispanic actor and TV personality Carlos Ponce will share the virtues of pork and bring the campaign to life. Additionally, five-time James Beard Award nominee Jose Mendin – who stars in a multimedia series featuring the loin, ham, ribs and tenderloin – has created 10 delicious, easy-to-prepare and budget-friendly recipes to inspire Latino consumers to indulge with pork.

The recipes, which include 30-second “how-to” videos, are on PorkTeInspira.com and other social media platforms. *El Sabor de Hoy* includes an 11-week radio and digital media buy in the top 10 Hispanic markets in the U.S. while *The Taste of Now* English-language campaign includes the top 10 African-American markets. Celebrity chef Richard Ingraham is sharing loin and rib recipes with the African American community through interviews and social media efforts.

The Hispanic marketing project included a national sweepstakes that gave fans a chance to win a trip to Miami to attend the Food Network & Cooking Channel South Beach Wine & Food Festival.

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Checkoff-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Checkoff, pork producers invest \$0.40 for each \$100 value of hogs sold. The Pork Checkoff funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and foodservice marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, technology, swine health, pork safety and environmental management. For information on Checkoff-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675 or check the Internet at www.pork.org.



News from the National Pork Producers Council

Canada, Mexico want to maintain trilateral trade deal with U.S.

Canada and Mexico indicated in late February they want to keep the trilateral agreement among them and the United States.

The Trump administration wants to review the existing North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which took effect in January 1994, and the president has made known his preference for bilateral rather than multilateral trade pacts.

Canadian and Mexican officials also said tariffs and quotas should not be subject to any renegotiation of NAFTA.

In a related matter, U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly met with Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Videgaray and Economy Minister Ildefonso Guajardo in Mexico City to discuss, among other matters, trade. The National Pork Producers Council has said that any reworked U.S.-Canada-Mexico trade deal must not disrupt U.S. pork exports to the pork industry's No. 2 and No. 4 markets.

NPPC testifies at Farm Bill hearing

Michael Springer, a third-generation crop and hog farmer from southeastern Kansas, testified on the 2018 Farm Bill on behalf of the National Pork Producers Council at a field hearing held by the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry in late February.

Among other provisions, NPPC wants lawmakers to include in the next Farm Bill:

- Authorization and funding for an FMD vaccine bank.
- Funding for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which conducts diagnostics on animal diseases, and for grants to states for disease surveillance.
- An increase in funding for agricultural research to ensure that the U.S. livestock industry maintains its competitiveness in the global marketplace.
- Funding levels that sustain the Market Access Program and the Foreign Market Development Program, which support U.S. exports.
- Funding levels maintained for conservation programs.

In written testimony presented to the committee, which held its first in a series of field hearings at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kan., NPPC urged Congress and the Trump administration to pursue in the 2018 Farm Bill "policies and regulations that support the U.S. pork industry rather than hinder its ability to continue producing safe, lean and nutritious pork and pork products for the global marketplace."

NPPC applauds White House ag appointment

The White House announced on Feb. 27 the appointment of a special assistant to the president for agriculture, trade and food aid. The position had been left vacant for most of the Obama administration.

Ray Starling, the current chief of staff for Senator Thom Tillis, R-N.C., has been appointed to the position and the National Pork Producers Council applauds the selection.

"By picking a true champion of American agriculture to serve in this key advisory role, President Trump is sending a clear signal of his commitment to reverse unnecessary regulations inhibiting pork producers and all U.S. farmers from doing what they do best: supplying the world with the most nutritious, affordable and abundant food available," said NPPC President John Weber of Dysart.

"Growing up raising hogs on a farm in North Carolina that his family continues to operate today, Ray's long, distinguished career in agriculture policy has always been informed by a deep understanding of pork producers and a sector so vital to our economy and national security," Weber continued. "We look forward

to working with Ray and the Trump administration to address the needs of rural America.”

NPPC, Cattlemen urge Trump to initiate trade talks with Japan

The National Pork Producers Council and the National Cattlemen’s Beef Association sent a joint letter to the White House in February urging President Trump “to initiate free trade agreement negotiations with nations in the Asia-Pacific region beginning with Japan.”

The request came days before the president met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Washington, D.C.

For U.S. beef and pork exports, Japan is the highest value international market. In fiscal 2016, Japanese consumers purchased \$1.4 billion of U.S. beef products and \$1.5 billion of U.S. pork products. Demand in the Asian nation for U.S. beef and pork is very strong despite Japanese tariffs and other import measures that limit market access for both products.











Under terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) agreement, Japan’s 38.5 percent tariff on fresh and frozen beef would have been cut to 9 percent over the agreement’s phase-in period and would have given the U.S. beef industry parity with Australia in the Japanese market. Japan’s tariffs on pork, which are determined through a so-called gate price system, would have been substantially reduced as part of the TPP agreement.

An analysis by the U.S. International Trade Commission found that beef exports to TPP countries, which included the United States, Japan and 10 other Asia-Pacific nations, would grow by \$876 million a year by the end of the phase-in period and that most of the growth would be in trade to Japan. Likewise, it found that pork exports to TPP countries would grow by \$387 million, with most of the exports going to Japan. Nearly 9,000 U.S. jobs would be generated by increased exports of livestock products, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s export multiplier.

Now that the TPP has been abandoned, NPPC is urging the Trump administration to negotiate bilateral trade agreements, particularly with countries in the fast-growing Asia-Pacific region.

Your participation in the Strategic Investment Program allows the National Pork Producers Council and state organizations to enhance and defend your opportunities to compete at home and abroad.



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Negotiate for fair trade (import/export)		
Fight for reasonable legislation		
Fight for reasonable regulation		
Inform and educate legislators		
Provide producers direct access to lawmakers		
Proactive issues management with media		
Secure and guide industry research funding		
Enhance domestic and global demand		
Provide producer information and education		
Funding	\$0.10/\$100	\$0.40/\$100

Your voluntary investment is NPPC’s primary source of funding; Checkoff dollars cannot be used for public policy funding.

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) conducts public policy outreach on behalf of its 44 affiliated state association members enhancing



opportunities for the success of U.S. pork producers and other industry stakeholders by establishing the U.S. pork industry as a consistent and responsible supplier of high quality pork to the domestic and world market.

NPPC is primarily funded through the Strategic Investment Program, a voluntary producer investment of \$.10 per \$100 of value that funds state and national public policy and regulatory programs on behalf of U.S. pork producers.

For more information on NPPC, visit www.nppc.org.

Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers News and Notes



From improving site aesthetics to enhancing neighbor relations, a properly planted windbreak can serve many functions on the farm. Most importantly, trees can protect livestock from inclement weather conditions including harsh winds, blowing snow or extreme temperatures.

Whether livestock are raised in a feedlot, pasture or barn setting, windbreaks should be designed to meet the specific needs of the farm. The layout and tree species incorporated in the windbreak can be customized for optimum protection and economic benefit.

Under roof, the animal environment can be adjusted based on outdoor conditions. However, this often

comes at a cost. Windbreaks can help lessen the cost by reducing the amount of energy needed to heat or cool livestock barns.

Windbreaks also are an effective tool in depositing or redirecting snow in desired areas. For example, a well-designed windbreak can help keep snow away from driveways and storage facilities or even prevent roof collapses.

At the end of the day, windbreaks are a great investment on any livestock farm. Start designing your windbreak by visiting the Green Farmstead Partner page at supportfarmers.com.





PORK RECIPES

Asian Slow Cooker New York Pork Roast

2 to 3 pound boneless New York (top loin) pork roast
2 tablespoons Chinese five-spice
2 tablespoons plus 3/4 cup brown sugar, divided
2 teaspoons garlic powder
2 teaspoons red pepper flakes, divided
1 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons cold water, divided
2 tablespoons cornstarch
1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
2 tablespoons soy sauce
Fresh chopped cilantro, for garnish
Lime wedges for garnish



Place the pork roast in your slow cooker. In a small bowl, whisk together the Chinese Five Spice, 2 tablespoons of brown sugar, garlic powder, 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/2 teaspoon black pepper. Rub the spice mixture all over the pork roast (including the bottom). Pour 1 cup of water around the side of the pork roast. Try not to pour it over top. Cover and cook on low for 8 hours or high for 4 hours. When there is about 20 minutes of cooking time left, prepare your glaze: In a small bowl, mix together the cornstarch and 2 tablespoons of cold water until dissolved. Set aside. In a large saucepan, add 1/2 cup of the remaining cold water, apple cider vinegar, soy sauce, 1 teaspoon crushed red pepper, and 3/4 cup brown sugar. Bring to a simmer and then stir in the cornstarch. Continue to stir until the glaze has thickened, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Remove the pork from the slow cooker and discard the liquid. Generously brush the pork with the glaze while the pork is still hot. Serve the remaining glaze on the side. Serve the pork with chopped

Roasted Pork Tenderloin with Oregano-Coriander Rub

1 pound pork tenderloin
1 teaspoon dried oregano, crushed
1 teaspoon ground coriander
1/2 teaspoon dried thyme, crushed
1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
1/2 teaspoon curry powder
1/4 teaspoon salt, coarse
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped



Nutrition:
Calories: 119 calories
Protein: 23 grams
Fat: 3 grams
Sodium: 192 milligrams
Cholesterol: 63 milligrams
Saturated Fat: 1 grams
Carbohydrates: 1 grams
Fiber: 1 grams

Trim any fat from pork. For dry rub, combine oregano, coriander, thyme, cumin, curry powder and salt in small bowl. Moisten pork tenderloin with water; coat with dry rub. If desired, place pork in shallow dish; cover and marinate in refrigerator for 8 hours or overnight. Heat oven to 450 degrees F. Place pork on rack in shallow roasting pan. Roast about 20-27 minutes or until an instant-read thermometer inserted near center reads 145 degrees F. Remove from oven and loosely cover pork with foil. Let rest for 5 minutes. Slice pork; arrange slices on a serving plate. Sprinkle with parsley. Serves 4.

Pork Chops with Sofrito

8 New York (top loin) pork chops, 1/2-inch thick
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 cup white onion, diced
1 cup green bell pepper, diced
1 cup red bell pepper, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
3 8-oz cans Salsa de Tomate, LaPreferida or Goya
1 teaspoon chili powder



Nutrition:
Calories: 216 calories
Protein: 26 grams
Fat: 9 grams
Sodium: 429 milligrams
Cholesterol: 67 milligrams
Saturated Fat: 2 grams
Carbohydrates: 11 grams
Fiber: 2 grams

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Add pork loin chops and brown 1 to 2 minutes on each side. Remove from pan and set aside. Reduce heat to medium. Add diced onions, peppers and garlic; cook 5 minutes until browned and softened, stirring occasionally. Add tomato sauce and chili powder, cook 5 minutes; reduce heat to low. Return pork loin chops to pan. Simmer 8 to 10 minutes until internal temperature on a thermometer reads 145 degrees F., followed by a 3-minute rest time. Serve over yellow rice with pigeon peas. Serves 8.

**pork
checkoff**

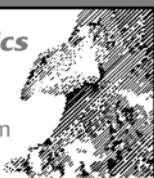
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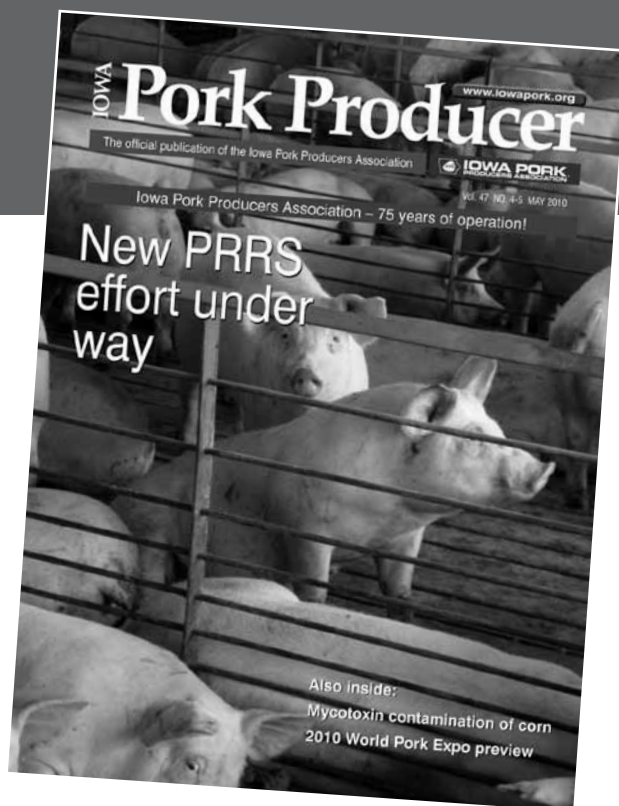
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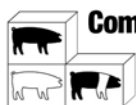
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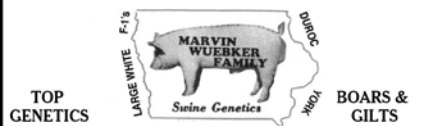


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