

IOWA

Pork Producer

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The official publication of the Iowa Pork Producers Association



IOWA PORK
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Vol. 54 NO. 4-5 May 2017





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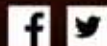
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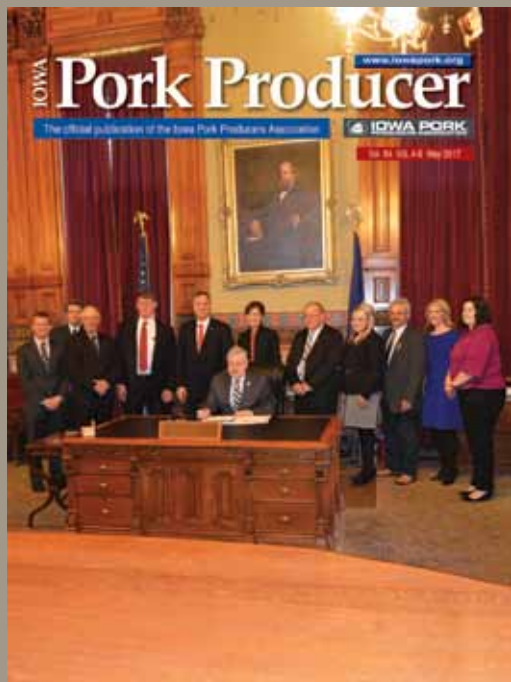
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About the Cover

Gov. Terry Branstad signed the Responsible Farm Protection Bill on March 29. Learn more about this significant legislation on page 26.

Programs are made available to pork producers without regard to race, color, sex, religion or national origin. The Iowa Pork Producers Association is an equal opportunity employer.

The Iowa Pork Producer is the official publication of the Iowa Pork Producers Association and sent standard mail from Des Moines, Iowa, to Iowa pork producers by the first week of the month of issue. The publisher cannot guarantee the correctness of all information or the absence of errors and omissions, nor be liable for content of advertisements.

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MISSION STATEMENT

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.

Public Notice

by the Iowa Pork Producers Association and The National Pork Board

The election of Iowa pork producer delegates for the 2018 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 9 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2017, in conjunction with the Iowa Pork Producers Association's Committee Day. The session will be in the Northwoods Conference Center of the Stoney Creek Hotel & Conference Center, 5291 Stoney Creek Ct, Johnston, Iowa. All Iowa pork producers are invited.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of Iowa and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the Checkoff deducted.



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Iowa Pork Producers launch 2017 tenderloin contest



The Iowa Pork Producers Association is now looking for Iowa's Best Breaded Pork Tenderloin.

IPPA opened nominations for the 15th annual contest on April 19. Consumers can nominate their favorite tenderloin restaurant, café or pub until June 7. Nominations can be submitted at iowapork.org or by using the form below. Nominations are limited to one per household.

Any café, restaurant or tavern that serves hand-breaded or battered pork tenderloins is eligible to be nominated. An establishment must be open year-round to win, but seasonal restaurants can make the top five. The top five restaurants with the most nominations from each of the eight IPPA districts

will be judged. The IPPA Restaurant and Foodservice Committee reserves the right to add additional restaurants to the judging process as it sees fit. Restaurant owners and operators are prohibited from nominating their own establishment.

New this year is a specially designed poster that can be downloaded by restaurants from the Iowa Pork website to print off and display to help encourage nominations from their customers.

One person who nominates the winning restaurant will be entered in a drawing to win \$100. The winning restaurant will receive \$500, a plaque to display in the establishment and statewide publicity.

A total of 385 restaurants, cafes and other establishments received 1,982 nominations in last year's contest won by Nick's in Des Moines. A total of 40 restaurants were judged on the quality of the pork, taste, physical characteristics and eating experience.

Iowa pork industry representatives will judge the tenderloins and IPPA will announce the winner during National Pork Month in October.

The contest recognizes Iowa dining establishments that have pork as a regular menu feature in support of Iowa's nation-leading pork industry.



Nominate your

favorite
Breaded Pork Tenderloin
to be named **2017's BEST**

Breaded Pork Tenderloin in Iowa!

Please fill out the nomination form or fill out the online form at www.iowapork.org.

Iowa Pork Producers Association,
P.O. Box 71009, Clive, IA 50325.



Nomination Form

Restaurant Name: _____

Restaurant Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Restaurant Phone Number: _____

Restaurant Days & Hours of Operation: _____

Your Name: _____

Your E-mail: _____

City/State: _____

*If form is not filled out completely, it will not be considered for nomination.



Nick's, Des Moines

**Nominations must
be received by
June 7, 2017.**

Rules:

- The top 5 restaurants with the most nominations in each of our 8 districts will be judged
- Only one nomination per household
- Nominations can not be sent in by the owner or operator of the restaurant
- Nominated restaurants should have year-round, regular hours and feature the pork tenderloin on their daily menu

**ONE person who nominates
the winning restaurant will
win \$100!**



IOWA PORK
PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

Pork Industry Briefs



Producers appointed to state commissions

Gov. Terry Branstad announced on March 1 that he had appointed Dr. Howard Hill of Cambridge to the Environmental Protection Commission. Hill is a past president of the National Pork Producers Council and a recent Iowa Pork Producers Association Board member.

He replaces Dr. Gene Ver Steeg of Inwood who served two terms on the commission since 2008. Ver Steeg was reappointed to the EPC for a four-year term in 2013. He was president of IPPA in 2006.

Branstad also appointed Chad Ingels, a niche pork producer from Randalia, to the commission.

The EPC consists of nine members appointed by the governor. Commissioners serve staggered four-year terms. State law requires that three members be actively engaged in livestock and farming. One member must be active in business and finance, one must be engaged in the management of a manufacturing company and four members are electors of the state.

Another pork producer, Laura Hommel of Eldora, was appointed by the governor to the Natural Resource Commission. Hommel farms with her husband, Dave, in

Grundy County. They marketed 1,300 pigs last year and raise 1,000 acres of corn and soybeans. Laura is chairperson of the Grundy County Pork Producers and recently completed a term on the IPPA Promotions Committee.

The appointees began their terms on May 1 and were subject to Senate confirmation.

IPPA participating in Hy-Vee, Fareway promotions

From May through October, numerous pork promotions and activities will be taking place at Hy-Vee and Fareway stores in Iowa and the Midwest and the Iowa Pork Producers Association will be deeply involved.

May is ground pork month at all Hy-Vee stores. The activities include magazine recipes, special ground pork pricing, point-of-sale materials, social media campaigns and a meat manager display contest. The pork themes continue at Hy-Vee in June with backyard BBQs. The campaign includes a partnership with King's Hawaiian as part of National Hawaiian Week, backyard luau BBQ giveaways, demonstrations and radio, online and social media advertising.

The Illinois and Minnesota Pork associations are partnering with IPPA on the Hy-Vee promotions in May and June. IPPA is working on additional activities with Hy-Vee for the rest of the summer and into the fall.

Fareway promotions will kick off with statewide pork grilling recipe television ads in late May or June and pork features in two issues of *Centsable Health Magazine*.

Additional Fareway opportunities are being considered by the association, including summer grilling promotions, tailgate recipe commercials and October Pork Month activities.

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.

FarmChat® participants wanted

If you're interested in helping educate the younger generation about pork production and farming, the Iowa Pork Producers Association would like to hear from you. The association is looking for producers who are interested in participating in FarmChat.

FarmChat is a program that uses Skype to connect the farm with the classroom on a virtual field trip. It enables farmers to give students sitting in a classroom a tour of their farm and a better understanding of modern pork production.



IPPA is looking for 10 to 15 pork producers for the 2017-18 school year who would be willing to visit with classrooms from their pig barns. Training will be provided by the Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation this summer.

IPPA will assist in developing partnerships with classrooms and scheduling the FarmChat® sessions. The time commitment is up to you. Participants can do one or two FarmChat® sessions that may take one to two hours each, or you can do more if you like.

To sign up or if you have questions, please contact Joyce Hoppes at IPPA at jhoppes@iowapork.org or (515) 225-7675.

Applications requested for 2017 Engler scholarship

Graduating Iowa high school students interested in the purebred

swine industry are being encouraged to apply for the 2017 Dan Engler Memorial Scholarship.

A \$750, one-time scholarship will be awarded to a 2017 high school graduate. Applicants must be a resident of Iowa, involved in the purebred swine industry and plan on continuing their education at a two- or four-year institution.

The scholarship is being offered by the family of the long time and enthusiastic purebred swine breeder who passed away last year.

Applications are available from Elizabeth Beagley at lizbeagley@gmail.com. They are due no later than June 1, 2017. Applicants also must provide a copy of their high school transcript and two letters of recommendation.



Service through **education & research**

IPIC, ISU Extension and Outreach work to develop new farmers

Young and beginning farmers face many hurdles as they enter the agricultural industry and grow their farm operations. Financial constraints, time limitations and lack of communications skills often complicate the growth and asset transition plans of young farmers and farm families. Beginning farmers also are unique in their collective organization, family structures and goals, yet they need education, skills and experiences to help them sustainably and profitably grow their operations.

According to the 2012 Census of Agriculture, 28 percent of Iowa's farmers are over age 65, and there are four times more farmers over 65 than under 35 years. The Iowa pork industry mirrors these stats and presents challenging but needed transition opportunities with the facility and associated business assets involved.

Through a USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program grant, Iowa State Extension and Outreach is responding to the needs of beginning and early-career farmers by facilitating "Start to Farm: New Farmer Learning Networks." This program helps to enhance farm business skills of young and beginning agricultural enthusiasts and encourages them to consider transition opportunities with either their families or unrelated parties. Start to Farm supports beginning and retiring farmers as well as military veterans interested in farming. Several Iowa commodity and community partners including the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the Farmer Veteran Coalition also are involved in the project.

The Start to Farm program strengthens the efforts of Iowa State Extension's Beginning Farmer Center and the Beginning and Young Livestock Producers Success Network. The existing BYLPN peer groups have been an excellent venue for young farmers to grow through business education, peer mentoring and social networking.

ISU Extension and Outreach livestock and farm management specialists have been active in working with several local peer groups. Participants enjoy the concept of peer learning by forming a community to share new ideas on profitable farming methods and touring farms and agricultural businesses.

For more information on these opportunities, see the Beginning Farmer Center website at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/>; the Start to Farm group's website at <http://www.extension.iastate.edu/bfc/start-farm-new-farmer-learning-network>; or the Start to Farm group's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/IowaStartToFarm/>.





Iowa Agriculture Literacy Foundation



What should middle school students know about swine?

By middle school, many students have mastered the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. They start to gain a perception of their personal strengths and weaknesses. Middle school then is the tipping point when students can lose interest in subjects like science. A poll of 4,000 children aged nine to 14 found that 42 percent of nine-year-olds were inspired by science. By the time those students were 14-years-old, only 35 percent found science inspiring. More so, they don't associate a science background with future career options.



Sixth grade students learn about building a healthy swine feed ration at the Mason City STEM festival.

Middle school students look to adults for inspiration and this can be a great time to foster their interest in science with animal husbandry. By tapping into a student's natural curiosity, classroom lessons can investigate how climate and natural resources determine the type of livestock that can be raised in a specific region. Students might discover that a lot of swine are raised in Iowa because of the accessibility to feed like corn and soybeans.

Students can identify strategies for houses that consider animal welfare and animal safety. Students can study how barns keep pigs safe and comfortable with temperature controls and automated feeding systems. These indoor systems protect the pigs from sunburn and even predators. With indoor systems, swine manure also can be captured and then returned to fields where it adds nutrients for plant growth.

Middle school students also can begin to explore different technologies used in agriculture. For swine production, we can look at technologies like artificial insemination and the genetics of a swine herd. Students can begin to understand how farmers might breed for specific characteristics in live animals. This in turn leads to characteristics in our pork products like leaner cuts of meat or more cuts of the loin from longer animals.

By connecting the need for a science background to future career options, animal science can be elevated in its importance in the curriculum. Students can start to connect what they are learning in school to future career options like animal geneticist, nutrition specialist, breed manager, feed mill manager, veterinarian, livestock hauler, meat inspector, swine nursery worker, and countless other jobs in the industry.

Iowa Western culinary team

judged best at IPPA contest



The Iowa Pork Producers Association held its annual Student Taste of Elegance competition on March 6 at the Des Moines Area Community College's Iowa Culinary Institute in Ankeny.

Eleven teams of students from Iowa Western Community College, Iowa State University, Scott Community College and the Iowa Culinary Institute each prepared an original pork tenderloin entrée for judging on taste, appearance and design.

The Red Hats from Iowa Western took first place honors with their "Pistachio

Encrusted Pork Tenderloin." The students on the team were Katelynn Hunter-Mullin, Ann Snyder, Jennifer Christensen, and Taylor Post. Each student received \$100 from IPPA. In addition, their culinary program at Iowa Western received a \$750 check for scholarships or classroom supplies.

The DMACC Swine and Dine team placed second. The team prepared "Apple & Brown Sugar Pork Tenderloin with Bacon and Creamed Corn Succotash." IPPA awarded each student \$50 and DMACC will receive

a \$500 check for scholarships or classroom supplies.

The third-place team was Jalapeno Business, also from DMACC. The team prepared "Un Sabor De Cuba." Each student received \$25 from IPPA and their school will receive a \$250 check for scholarships or classroom supplies.

The event is held to inspire innovative and exciting ways for culinary arts students to use pork in their menus, measure their progress and practice working as a team in the kitchen. A team of judges provided immediate feedback, critiques and professional advice for the student teams.

"This event is always a ton of fun," said IPPA Marketing and Programs Director Kelsey Sutter. "The students are excited to be there, they eagerly await their kitchen start time and their entrees never fail to impress! The future culinary scene is in good hands!"

The IPPA Student Taste of Elegance is open to any Iowa college that has a culinary arts program.



Iowa Western's Red Hats team.

pork
checkoff

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START HEALTHY. END STRONG.



Pork Checkoff investigates new trade opportunities in Mexico



Jose de Jesus, Checkoff director of multicultural marketing, tours a traditional downtown Mexico City market.

With Mexico's hunger for U.S. pork continuing to grow, members of the National Pork Board spent March 13-18 in Mexico City building trade relations. The delegation invested its time immersing itself in Mexico, which is one of America's most important export markets. During the visit, the group emphasized the safety and reliability of the U.S. pork supply.

"Our visit to Mexico was eye opening. As board members, we were able to witness why Mexico is such an important trading partner," said Jan Archer, National Pork Board president and a North Carolina pig farmer. "The

average Mexican family spends 30 to 40 percent of its income on food, so they appreciate the ability to access safe, nutritious and affordable U.S. pork."

The delegation received a warm welcome and were encouraged and enthused about the future of trade with Mexico. Within the next five years, economists predict Mexico may become the largest market for all U.S. goods, surpassing both Canada and the European Union.

During the week, board members saw firsthand the market opportunity and benefit of

expanding trade with Mexico. The key objectives of the trip were to discuss and define areas of mutual interest, to extend appreciation to Mexico's trade industry for the high volume of U.S. pork purchased and to emphasize the reliability and availability of U.S. pork and the next steps needed to support expanding trade.

In 2016, Mexico was again the No. 1 importer of U.S. pork in terms of volume. Mexico imported more than 730,000 metric tons of U.S. pork last year. In terms of value, Mexico was again No. 2 at \$1.4 billion. In January 2017, Mexico became No. 1 in both

volume and value. The U.S. accounts for more than 90 percent of the total pork imported to Mexico.

At a high-level, the trip agenda included opportunities for board members to:

- Meet with the USDA's Foreign Ag Service to understand Mexico's economy and its current political environment.
- Learn about new pork product development and innovation.
- Visit places where pork is sold and marketed to Mexican consumers. Those outlets include high-end club stores, regional supermarkets, fast-casual restaurants and a traditional wet market.
- Meet with Mexico's largest retail chain that sells and processes almost exclusively U.S. pork and hear about plans for further growth.
- Meet with some of Mexico's largest importers to discuss mutual interests and ways U.S. pork can maintain its role as a strong supplier.

"We saw that our investment of producer dollars in the U.S. Meat Export Federation returns great dividends as it develops relationships with importers and retailers," Archer said. "Our Mexican neighbors import fresh pork and ham, but also the products that have less value to the U.S. consumer. Pork byproducts, such as offal and pig heads, fill an important need in the Mexican marketplace."

More than 35 percent of the U.S.-produced pork hams are exported to Mexico and processed in Mexican facilities where they are transformed into deli meats and formed-ham products. These products are crucial for low-income diets. That

is why the National Pork Board is committed to sharing information with the National Pork Producers Council as it works on trade access issues. This cooperation enables the entire U.S. pork industry to work together efficiently.

"Pork is a mainstay in Mexican culture – consumers appreciate it and know how to prepare it," said Bill Even, National Pork Board chief executive officer. "The challenge Mexico faces is getting more protein-rich food into the diets of low-income residents and children. This requires a focus on new product development and education."

The National Pork Board works directly with the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) to address this key issue, specifically through outreach to dietitians and other medical professionals in Mexico. USMEF also educates students on the role pork and protein play in

the diet and, to Mexican consumers, provides point-of-sale promotional materials at retail stores.

Beyond these direct consumer messages, Checkoff-funded USMEF activities include work with trade representatives – importers, brokers and processors – to educate these trade groups on the benefits of U.S. pork and its quality, safety and availability.

"As a producer, I value our trade relationship with our neighbor even more after visiting this beautiful country," Archer said. "Growth in our industry is the result of a strong trade balance."

In 1989, the U.S. had very few trade agreements, but today has 20 in place. Free trade agreements contribute to increased exports and enhance the opportunity to distribute U.S. pork worldwide.



A pork vendor at one of Mexico City's traditional markets.



Iowa, U.S. hog inventory shrinks

USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service released the quarterly *Hogs and Pigs* report in March and it shows a drop in swine numbers since December.

Iowa pig farmers had 21.8 million hogs and pigs as of March 1, a drop of 3 percent from the previous quarter, but up 8 percent from the previous year.

The December 2016-February 2017 quarterly pig crop was 5.70 million head, down 7 percent from the previous quarter, but 7 percent above last year. A total of 530,000 sows farrowed during this quarter. The average pigs saved per litter was 10.75 for the December-February quarter, down from 10.90 the previous quarter.

As of March 1, producers planned to farrow 520,000 sows and gilts in the March-May quarter and 525,000 head during the June-August quarter.

United States inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1 was 71.0 million head. This was down 1 percent from December 1, 2016, but up 4 percent from March 1, 2016.

Breeding inventory, at 6.07 million head, was down slightly from the previous quarter, but up 1 percent from last year.

Market hog inventory, at 64.9 million head, was down 1 percent from last quarter, but 4 percent higher than last year.

The December 2016-February 2017 pig crop, at 31.4 million head, was up 4 percent from 2016. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 3.01 million head, up 3 percent from 2016. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 49 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was a record high of 10.43 for the

December-February period, compared to 10.30 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 8.00 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 10.50 for operations with more than 5,000 animals.

United States hog producers intend to have 3.01 million sows farrow during the March-May 2017 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in 2016, and up 5 percent from 2015. Intended farrowings for June-August 2017, at 3.05 million sows, are down slightly from 2016, but up 1 percent from 2015.

The total number of hogs under contract owned by operations with more than 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 48 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, the same as the previous year.

Mexico sets February export pace



U.S. pork exports posted the strongest February volume on record, according to statistics released by USDA and compiled by the U.S. Meat Export Federation (USMEF) in April.

Pork exports reached 197,025 metric tons (mt) in February, up 15 percent year-over-year, with value up 17 percent to \$486.7 million. For the first two months of 2017, exports totaled 399,692 mt, up 18 percent, with value increasing 22 percent to \$995.3 million.

February exports accounted for 27.6 percent of total pork production and 22.9 percent for muscle cuts only, up from 23.8 percent and 20 percent, respectively, last year. January-February ratios were also significantly higher at 26.8 percent and 22.2 percent, compared to 23 percent and 19.3 percent in the first two months of 2016. Export value per hog slaughtered averaged \$51.94 in February, up 18 percent year-over-year, while the Jan.-Feb. average was up 20 percent to \$51.05.

Mexico was once again the pacesetter for February pork exports, with volume up 22 percent to 64,990 mt and value increasing 28 percent to \$116 million. This pushed Mexico's two-month totals to 137,396 mt (up 27%) and \$244.7 million (up 39%). Mexico's strong demand is reflected not only in increased buying from the U.S., but also in relatively high domestic hog prices, as per capita consumption of pork continues to grow. Strong demand from Mexico helped move prices for U.S. heavy bone-in hams higher in 2017, up an average of 4 percent year-over-year.

For Japan, the leading value market for U.S. pork, February exports increased 14 percent to 32,178 mt, valued at \$130.4 million (up 18%). For Jan.-Feb., exports to Japan were up 10 percent in volume (63,755 mt) and 14 percent in value (\$256.1 million). Chilled pork exports to Japan increased 7 percent through February to 34,682 metric tons.

Other pork export highlights included:

- China/Hong Kong continued to take large volumes of U.S. pork variety meats in February, offsetting the slowdown in pork muscle cuts and putting the combined February total at 42,881 mt (up 5% year-over-year), valued at \$83.2 million (up 12%). Two-month totals were up 10 percent in volume (80,893 mt) and 15 percent in value (\$159.3 million).
- Pork exports to South Korea, which were slow in the first half of 2016 before gaining momentum later in the year, totaled 14,649 mt (up 26%) in February, valued at \$38.2 million (up 29%). Through February, volume increased 29 percent to 30,722 mt, while value improved 39 percent to \$83.3 million.

NOTES:

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



IPPA leaders visit top volume pork market

No country buys greater amounts of U.S. pork than Mexico and a group of Iowa Pork Producers Association leaders recently ventured to our southern neighbor to maintain the strong relations and keep pork moving into the country.

IPPA Vice President of Producer Services Ken Ries, District 4 Board member Jim Hogan, former IPPA Board member Marv Rietema and IPPA CEO Pat McGonegle visited Mexico City, Guadalajara and two other cities in late March.

The group met with buyers; stopped by supermarkets; visited Proan, a large, diversified Mexican family farm, and Proteina Animal that imports 1.8 million bushels of corn annually; and toured processing plants that are importing bone-in and boneless U.S. hams. A considerable amount of Iowa pork also was being processed at the plants.

“We saw fresh pork that was harvested in Marshalltown on

Monday and by Thursday, it was on the cutting floor in Mexico getting further processed,” said Hogan.

The processing plants were all family owned businesses that are interested in long-term partnerships with suppliers. Many of the companies said they enjoy the relationship with U.S. suppliers.

“I was surprised at the number of brands they would make, each with a different percentage of meat protein,” Ries said. “They told us as soon as the family budget allowed, the mom would move to a higher percentage of meat product.”

The future of the North American Free Trade Agreement also was a topic of discussion for the pork leaders during the mission. The Trump administration dislikes the deal that involves the U.S., Mexico and Canada and wants to renegotiate the agreement. NAFTA virtually eliminates all tariffs between the countries and other trade barriers.

Many of the people the IPPA delegation spoke with voiced concerns about the impact of opening up NAFTA and some of the pork buyers expressed concerns about Iowa and the U.S. being reliable suppliers.

“I came home with a better understanding of trade issues between our countries,” Hogan said. “There is more trade going on now than I realized and there is a lot of opportunity for trade between Mexico and the U.S. Our trade relationship with them is very important to Iowa agriculture producers.”

The mission was led by the Iowa Economic Development Authority and IPPA was joined on the trip by Iowa Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Mike Naig and representatives of the Iowa Corn, Soybean and Beef associations.

The Iowa Pork Producers will be travelling to Beijing in July to continue efforts to increase pork sales in leading U.S. export markets.

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2017 World Pork Expo

set for June 7-9



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schedules, exhibitor information, lodging and travel information.

Education, innovation and networking

In 2016, more than 20,000 producers and agriculture professionals, including 1,100 international guests from 35 countries, participated in the three-day exposition. NPPC officials anticipate similar attendance this year. Anyone involved with pork production—owners, managers, veterinarians, employees and allied industry—should attend and take advantage of the opportunity to interact with producers and companies from around the world.

The ever-expanding trade show is the centerpiece of Expo's international connection, featuring hundreds of companies from across the globe. Attendees can stroll both indoor and outdoor displays and more than 310,000 square feet of commercial exhibits specific to pork production. The trade show runs from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on June 7 and 8 and 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on June 9.

A particularly valuable part of Expo is the chance for attendees to learn about new and changing developments in pork production through a variety of free educational seminars. Experts on business planning, swine management, herd health and marketing will present up-to-date information at the business seminars and Pork Academy on Wednesday and Thursday.

Food and fun at World Pork Expo

Of course, Expo always includes time for fun, fellowship and plenty of tasty pork. Allied industry tents provide a spot for producers to

interact with each other and mingle with representatives from a range of companies. Along the Grand Concourse on Thursday, attendees can enjoy a summer evening with MusicFest's live music, grilled pork and refreshments.

Another activity not to be missed is the Big Grill, which serves free pork lunches each day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Big Grill is staffed by Iowa's Tama County Pork Producers and provided more than 10,000 pork lunches last year.

Swine shows

The World Pork Expo swine shows will kick off Expo week with activities beginning on Monday, June 5. Hosted by the National Junior Swine Association and Team Purebred, the Junior National has evolved into one of the nation's premier youth swine shows. It combines educational programs such as judging contests, a Skill-a-thon and certification programs with live hog competitions through June 9. Continuing its record-setting pace, the 2016 show involved 2,351 hogs exhibited by 948 youth from 30 states.

The open shows will take place in the Swine Barn on Friday with breeding stock auction sales scheduled for Saturday morning, June 10. Last year, more than 1,090 purebred and crossbred gilts and boars were exhibited.

Register today and save

Online registration is now available. Individuals heading to Expo can register online through June 1 and receive a discounted rate of \$10 per adult (ages 12 and up), which covers all three days of Expo. On-site registration will be \$20 per adult, with a special Friday-only rate of \$10.

from Wednesday, June 7, through Friday, June 9, at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines.

This year, NPPC has rolled out a new World Pork Expo website. The user-friendly design provides everything you need to easily register for Expo and plan a successful visit, including event



Strong demand lifts prices despite more pork

By Lee Schulz, Iowa State University Extension livestock economist

Logic suggests that rising supplies pressure prices lower, all else equal.

First quarter 2017 pork supplies ran 3 percent higher than a year earlier. Yet nationally, first quarter 2017 barrow and gilt carcass prices averaged \$68.15 per cwt, up 8 percent compared to \$63.13 per cwt for the same period in 2016. Higher prices in the face of rising supplies clearly indicate strong demand.

Strong domestic and international pork demand continues to support expansion. The challenge will be sustaining prices with the record large production again this year that USDA confirmed in its *March Hogs and Pigs Report*. For now, the market anticipates supply will align with pork demand such that prices will cover full cost of production.

The surprise in USDA's March report was quite possibly the lack of surprises. All of the numbers were within the range of the pre-release estimates by analysts, except producer reported June-August farrowing intentions. Analysts expected a slightly larger number for this first intentions estimate. However, second intentions have been higher than first intentions for several reports in a row. Second intentions are better forecasts of actual sows farrowing. This will be a key number to watch in the next report to see if producers may have become more optimistic about profit prospects and plan to increase sows farrowing.

The inventory of all hogs and pigs as of March 1 totaled a record for the quarter at 70.98 million head, up 4.2 percent from a year ago. Slaughter numbers have run higher than expected in 2017 and USDA revised upward the size of the June-August 2016 pig crop by 1.2 percent to account for the heavier runs.

Just like the all hogs and pigs inventory, the number of market hogs as of March 1 was record large for the quarter at 64.91 million head; up 4.4 percent year-over-year. These are the market hogs arriving at processing plants from March to September this year.

A similar story unfolded for the breeding herd, which was up 1.5 percent, and the largest March 1 breeding inventory since 2008. Recognize that a 1.5 percent breeding herd rise results in an even greater expansion of pork production due to more pigs per litter, which have been record high in each of the last 10 quarters. Heavier market weights also can boost production, if the market provides incentives.

Some unevenness exists in the change in breeding herd numbers over the past year. One constant is that the Midwest states have collectively been the most aggressive in adding breeding inventory. For the 16 states that USDA estimates in the March report, the breeding herd was up 16 percent in Missouri, 8 percent in Illinois and Indiana, 5 percent in South Dakota, and 2 percent in Iowa compared to one year ago.

While the Iowa breeding herd growth was moderate, the market hog inventory was 8.2 percent higher than on March 1, 2016. The inventory of pigs under 50 pounds was 15.5 percent higher than one year ago. According to the National Direct Delivered Feeder Pig Report (NW_LS255), Iowa continues to be the primary destination for feeder pigs. Consistently 50 percent to 70 percent of feeder pigs crossing state lines end up in Iowa. That number has been above 70 percent at times as of late. Other individual states receive less than 10 percent of the weekly volume.

Analysts use the latest inventory numbers to forecast slaughter levels for the rest of 2017 and the first quarter of 2018. Market hog inventories indicate second quarter 2017 hog slaughter will be up 4.7 percent with the third quarter up 3.7 percent. Fourth quarter slaughter is projected up 3.8 percent, reflecting larger spring farrowings and more pigs per litter. Calendar year 2017 hog slaughter is forecast to be up almost 4 percent. Slaughter in the first quarter of 2018 will come from the at par intended summer farrowings. With more pigs per litter expected, first quarter 2018 slaughter could be 1 percent to 1.5 percent larger.

Pork production is expected to have a similar year-over-year change as dressed weights are essentially projected to be unchanged compared to 2016 levels. Any incentive to feed hogs to heavier weights will likely be offset by stout packer demand for hogs keeping marketings current.

This additional production doesn't mean hog prices will plummet. To the contrary, lean hog futures prices have made impressive gains since hitting contract lows on Oct. 5, 2016. February 2017 futures matured up more than \$27 per cwt from the low and \$9 per cwt higher than February 2016's final settlement. At the time of the *March Hogs and Pigs Report*, April, May, June and July contracts were lower than final 2016 settlements for these contract months. However, August, October and December contracts were higher; especially August and October.

At this time of year, producers are reminded of the threat of higher feed prices if weather should turn harmful to growing crops. With current feed price prospects at some of the lowest levels in years, consider some coverage on new-crop feed supplies. The growing hog and pig inventory boosts feed demand.

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Pork producers celebrate successful legislative session

The Iowa Legislature adjourned on April 21, marking another successful session for the Iowa Pork Producers Association.

“Pork producers have many things to be thankful for from the recent legislative session,” said IPPA President Curtis Meier. “We sincerely thank the legislators, farmers, counsel and staff who helped drive these positive outcomes.”

Below is a summary of successes and outcomes from this session:

Protection of Farmer Livelihoods and a Reasonable Regulatory Framework

While numerous bills were introduced to propose additional regulations on livestock farmers, ultimately no such negative legislation was passed by the Legislature. As pressure on current regulations continue, responsible farm management and siting decisions continue to be crucial to maintaining a reasonable regulatory framework.

Passage of the Responsible Farm Protection Act (Senate File 447)

The Iowa Pork Producers Association supported the measure addressing responsible farm protections in livestock nuisance lawsuit cases. It's one of the largest pieces of proactive legislation driven with strong IPPA support in recent years. For more details on this effort and new law, please see the full article on page 26.

Creation and Funding of the Foreign Animal Disease Fund

The Agriculture and Natural Resources budget funded \$100,000, in a newly created Foreign Animal Disease Fund, directing dollars to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship for foreign animal disease preparedness. This fund allows for acceptance of other public or private dollars that can aid in efforts. IPPA is listed as a coordinating entity to provide recommendation for use of the funds.

IDALS had originally requested \$500,000 for foreign animal disease preparedness, staff and supplies. While budget constraints limited the full amount, IPPA is pleased about the ability to move forward with this fund and is hopeful for the opportunity to grow public and private support for these efforts in the future.

Funding Animal Health Efforts at Iowa State University

Legislators continued the \$4 million general appropriation for the ISU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory. Discussions will continue to work toward securement of funds for the VDL's request to build a new lab and renovate existing facilities, which was strongly supported by the 2017 IPPA delegate body. This request includes a \$100 million appropriation (\$20 million/yr. for 5 years), which is proposed to be



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supported by \$20 million in private and \$4 million in university funds. IPPA has committed \$1 million to this building effort.

Additionally, legislators again supported more than \$172,000 for continued animal disease research within the Iowa Livestock Health Advisory Council. IPPA maintains three producer representatives on this council.

Funding Support for Water Quality

The Legislature again continued support for ongoing ag water quality programs, including growth in many areas. Water Quality Initiative efforts were supported at \$10.575 million; soil and water conservation at \$3.8 million; and conservation cost share at \$8.325 million.

Unfortunately, while discussions progressed on several funding proposals, time fell short for the Legislature to pass a new water quality bill this session. IPPA will continue to communicate with legislators and partners to seek long-term water quality funding.

Budget challenges, partially driven by reductions in the ag economy, led to other very difficult cuts in both

the current and upcoming budget year proposals. Funding and operational code for the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture was eliminated with current fertilizer tax allocations to the Leopold Center shifted to the Nutrient Research Center at ISU, thus replacing the general fund appropriation. The tight budget also hindered abilities for the Legislature to couple for section 179 tax deductions. Seeking permanency to section 179 coupling continues to be a priority of many in agriculture.

“We very much appreciate the support of legislators who clearly understand the importance of livestock and agriculture in Iowa,” said Meier. “Continued bi-partisan, grassroots support, education and responsible farm management and siting will continue to be critical to maintain the livelihoods of Iowa livestock farmers and the trust of our elected leaders.”

IPPA continues to encourage farmers to get to know their local legislative leaders and other elected officials and provide feedback on issues critical to their farms. For more information on IPPA public policy efforts or to become involved, please contact State Public Policy Director Tyler Bettin.

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Buchanan County producers continue pressing supervisors to rescind decision

A controversial master matrix resolution was again on the Buchanan County Board of Supervisors agenda on April 10, but the board delayed any action to rescind the resolution.

The board unanimously passed a resolution without any discussion or public comment in February that petitions the governor and the Iowa Legislature to address what the resolution termed “the failings of the Master Matrix to protect the air, water, health, “quality of life” and economic interest” of the citizens they represent. The resolution also formally requests that the Iowa Department of Natural Resources “suspend any issuance of any additional CAFO construction permits until such time as corrective new legislation regarding the Master Matrix can be adopted.”

More than two dozen Buchanan County producers and Farm Bureau representatives attended the March 13 supervisor meeting to voice opposition to the board decision and to share the positive economic contributions the pork industry makes in the county. After hearing from local producers at that meeting, the supervisors said they would consider rescinding the resolution.

With several producers again in attendance on April 10, the supervisors decided to delay action to allow them to gather more information and talk to other county boards of supervisors about the issue.

Several others also attended and voiced their opposition to rescinding the resolution.

“A lot of people there had incorrect information about nitrates and water pollution from livestock operations,” Winthrop-area producer Trish Cook reported in an e-mail.

More than 10 counties have passed differing iterations of the same resolution that was instigated by Iowa Citizen’s for Community Improvement to get all 99 Iowa counties to approve the resolution and pressure the state to get tougher on pork producers and declare a moratorium on new construction.

“I can’t tell you how disappointed I am that our supervisors made

this kind of decision without even knowing what they were doing,” said Buchanan County Pork Producers President Tina Pech of Winthrop.

Several Buchanan County producers have invited the supervisors to their farms to help educate them on modern pork practices and the impact the industry has on the local and state economies.

IPPA is assisting county organizations and local producers in responding to these resolutions. Please contact IPPA if your county takes this type of action.



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Responsible Farm Protection Bill becomes law

The Responsible Farm Protection Bill, Senate File 447, became state law on March 29. Iowa Gov. Terry Branstad signed the legislation in a ceremony at the state capitol.

The Iowa Pork Producers Association supported the measure that addresses responsible farm protections in livestock nuisance lawsuit cases. It's one of the largest pieces of proactive legislation driven with strong IPPA support in recent years.

The Iowa House of Representative passed the measure on March 22, a week after it cleared the Senate.

"The signing of this bill is a tremendous outcome for Iowa livestock farmers and will continue to encourage responsible farm

management while offering reasonable protections to responsible farmers," said IPPA President Curtis Meier of Clarinda. "Recent lawsuits have attacked talented young farmers returning to their family operation. This reasonable approach to nuisance litigation will help create realistic expectations and draw young people back to rural Iowa."

Sen. Dan Zumbach (R-Ryan) served as floor manager for the bill in the Senate and Rep. Chip Baltimore (R-Boone) served this role in the House. Both legislators highlighted the economic value of livestock production in Iowa and emphasized that the intent of the new law is to encourage responsible farm management and to protect only those "good actors" and young farm families in the industry.

"This bill is about having those young families fill our schools. This bill really is about that young guy coming out of Iowa State University, well-educated (and) knowing what best management practices are, and having the opportunity to start a farm," Zumbach said. "We need to protect the environment so these [farmers] can thrive in these rural areas."

"This bill does not protect bad actors," Baltimore said. "This is an agricultural state and we want to foster a healthy agricultural environment so that our kids and grandkids can come back and continue the legacy of agriculture."

The bill establishes a new section in the Iowa Code, 657.11A. It does not amend and leaves in place the current Animal Feeding Operations nuisance defense passed in 1998,

section 657.11, which was found unconstitutional by the Iowa Supreme Court on a case-by-case basis in 2004.

The law now provides nuisance protection for animal feeding operations as defined in Iowa Code Chapter 459, which includes confinement feeding operations and open feedlots.

Limited nuisance lawsuit protections are now offered to those farmers who follow state and federal laws and who use prudent and generally utilized management practices reasonable for their operations. A farmer who is a habitual violator of Iowa environmental law under Chapter 459 does not qualify for the nuisance protection.

Nuisance lawsuits under this new section will be presumed

to be permanent nuisances and not temporary or continuing nuisances (meaning there cannot be successive lawsuits filed for the same alleged nuisance) and any compensatory damages awarded by a judge or jury cannot exceed:

- Any decrease in the fair-market-value of the property (residence, etc.)
- Any compensatory medical damages, if the nuisance is the proximate cause of an adverse medical condition
- Any special damages (annoyance and loss of comfortable use and enjoyment of property) that are limited to no more than one and one half times the decrease in fair-market-value of property plus medical damages.

The law allows for all costs and expenses, as allowed in existing law, to be awarded to the producer if the court determines the case is frivolous.

“The new law was fostered through efforts by legislators, farmers, commodity organizations, the insurance industry and many others. We sincerely appreciate this group coming together to work toward significant, well-drafted and meaningful legislation,” Meier said.

This legislation was drafted with significant efforts from IPPA legal-counsel Eldon McAfee and Julie Vyskocil of the Brick Gentry law firm, along with support from Mike Blaser of the Brown Winnick law firm, and additional strong agriculture industry support.



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DMWW declines appeal after Federal judge dismisses lawsuit

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

The Des Moines Water Works lawsuit against several northwest Iowa drainage districts is effectively over. The DMWW board voted on April 11 not to appeal the U.S. District Court's ruling dismissing the case. As a result, the legal issues in court have been addressed and the case is concluded.

On Friday, March 17, U.S. District Court judge Leonard Strand dismissed the Des Moines Water Works citizen suit that was filed in March 2015 under the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) against 10 drainage districts in Sac, Calhoun and Buena Vista counties. The federal court cited the Jan. 27 Iowa Supreme Court ruling that found the drainage districts were immune from the DMWW's claims for money damages and other legal claims. The federal court ruled that because of this immunity under state law, the drainage districts had no power to regulate farmer nitrate use within their districts and, thus, no power to "redress" the DMWW's alleged injuries.

In this lawsuit, the DMWW alleged that nitrate discharges from the drainage districts' field tile lines were discharges of pollutants from "point sources" without NPDES permits under the CWA and without permits under Iowa law. The DMWW also alleged that the discharges were a nuisance, a trespass, negligence, an unconstitutional taking without compensation, and violation of constitutional due process and equal protection.

In its Jan. 27 ruling, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that the drainage districts had no control over the use of the land in the districts and, therefore, the districts could not be held liable for the discharges. As the Iowa Supreme Court stated: "Liability follows control."

The federal court cited that ruling by the Iowa Supreme Court and also emphasized that Iowa law does not require drainage districts to "filter out nitrates. Rather, Chapter 468 simply requires drainage districts to maintain drainage systems to keep the water flowing to drain lands. ...No provision in Chapter 468 authorizes drainage districts to mandate changes in farming practices to reduce fertilizer runoff or to assess farmers for the costs of removing nitrates from waters flowing through agricultural drainage systems." The court surmised that the DMWW may well have suffered an injury, but the drainage districts lack the ability to redress that injury.

Following the federal court's ruling, it has been noted that the court did not address the DMWW's claim that the drainage districts are point sources under the CWA and that they therefore should be required to obtain federal discharge (NPDES) permits for the tile line discharges of nitrates to waters of the U.S. It is correct the court did not reach this issue when it first ruled that the drainage districts had no authority over tile line discharges. However, it also must be noted that the DMWW specifically chose not to sue individual farmers as point sources under the CWA and

instead sued the drainage districts. The DMWW alleged that drainage districts have been overlooked, but that they qualify as point sources because they are "elaborately engineered government drainage systems." Because of this strategic approach by the DMWW in the lawsuit and the lack of control by the drainage districts over tile line discharges, the federal court could not rule on the CWA point source issue.

The federal court also dismissed the DMWW's claims that Iowa's drainage district law violated the U.S. Constitution. In making that ruling, the court addressed the DMWW's criticism of the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. The DMWW argued that the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy "seeks a 45 percent reduction of nitrate and other nutrient pollution." The DMWW then argued that the Nutrient Reduction Strategy estimates that 8 percent of nitrate comes from regulated sources such as sewer systems and 92 percent comes from unregulated sources, namely agriculture. The DMWW then stated: "It strains rationality to believe that 8 percent of the problem can create 45 percent of the solution." The federal court noted that these are not federal constitutional arguments, but instead are policy arguments that are best directed to the Iowa Legislature.

With the lawsuit now a thing of the past, the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy takes on increased importance and farmers must continue to adopt and implement proven conservation practices.

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Working with pragmatic urban partners to improve water quality

By Kaitlin Little, Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance

In recent years, collaboration has increased between urban, rural, private and public partners. Or summed up in just a few words: “a One Water approach” continues to build momentum.

The Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance has been applying the One Water concept to develop innovative approaches to water quality and more efficient solutions for implementation.

For example, the Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership Regional Conservation Partnership Project (MAWQP RCPP) co-led by IAWA and the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship is one of the largest such RCPP projects in the nation. The collaboration of partners such as farmer-led organizations, agribusinesses, non-governmental organizations, and public entities including urban utilities is critical to the effort’s success. This partnership has allowed important water quality work to continue at the local level through engagement of the local communities and the demonstration of new technologies, while having a broader impact on the state’s goal of reducing nitrate and phosphorus by 45 percent.

“Iowa’s collaborative approach to improving water quality has received national attention,” said Sean McMahon, IAWA executive director. “We are fostering strong partnerships among the public and private sectors; urban and rural communities; agriculture and environmental sectors; and point source and nonpoint source organizations to find the most cost-effective ways to improve water quality.

“Working with city leaders is crucial for realizing a One Water future,” McMahon added. “IAWA has found a visionary partner in City of Des Moines Public Works Director Jonathan Gano.”

Currently, the Des Moines Public Works is developing a project that will work with rural partners to implement water quality practices that will benefit everyone.

“While early in the planning stages, we are looking at water quality practices like constructed wetlands, oxbows, streambank stabilization, and so on,” Gano said.

He hopes the work will be a positive example of urban/rural partnership that will lead to other cities getting involved.

“We’re all using the same water,” said Gano. “So, Des Moines Public Works is happy to participate in the One Water approach.”

Gano has been a strong advocate for collaborative efforts between urban and rural partners, as well as private and public partners. Last year, he spoke at the national One Water Summit about the progress that Iowa has made both in urban and agricultural efforts to improve Iowa’s waters.

“Cities, counties and soil and water conservation districts across the state have been joining together to help coordinate efforts across jurisdictional boundaries,” said Gano.

IAWA believes that working with pragmatic urban partners like the Des Moines Public Works is key to meeting the goals set forth in the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy.

For more information on the MAWQP RCPP or other projects IAWA is involved in, visit <http://www.iowaagwateralliance.com/IAWAatWork.php>.

IPPA Swine Spectacular

Iowa swine enthusiasts from eight to 18 gathered at the Hansen Student Learning Center at Iowa State University in Ames on Feb. 25 for the 4th annual Iowa Pork Producers Association Swine Spectacular.

The pork education event attracted young people from Iowa, Michigan, Missouri and Minnesota, who competed for prizes while learning more about pigs and production through a host of activities.

“The youth who attend Swine Spectacular gain knowledge in many aspects of the industry while competing toward the grand prize, the coveted custom belt buckle,” said IPPA Consumer Outreach Director Kelsey Byrnes.

Activities and contests were held to test the participants’ swine knowledge and skills. Attendees could participate in photo and essay contests, a 50-question knowledge bowl, skills assessment, swine evaluation, extemporaneous speeches and a Processed Meats Workshop presented by Webster City Custom Meats.

The knowledge bowl questions involved meat quality, modern pork production practices, feed/nutrition, anatomy, environmental, consumer information and disease/health. The skills assessments included live evaluation and various stations that tested the participants visually.

The participants were divided into three separate age groups and points were awarded in each event toward the overall sweepstakes prizes.



Brady Allen of Le Mars was the junior sweepstakes winner. Jackson Sterle of Roland took the top prize in the intermediate class and Ashley Kahler of Cambridge topped the senior field.

Each sweepstakes winner received a custom Swine Spectacular belt buckle and a \$50 Theisens certificate. Other prizes included embroidered sherpa blankets, Coleman lawn chairs, Nike duffle bags water bottles, feed buckets and Theisens gift cards. Each

participant also received a free Swine Spectacular T-shirt.

“Seeing the enthusiasm of these youth gets me excited about the future leaders in our industry,” said Byrnes.

The event was held in conjunction with the ISU Block and Bridle Club’s annual Spring Market Hog Show.





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IPPA seeking 2017 producer award nominations



The Iowa Pork Producers Association is now launching the search for candidates for this year's producer awards and is

requesting your assistance.

Nominations are being accepted for the 2017 Master Pork Producer, Environmental Steward and Master Pork Partner awards.

Nomination forms and instructions for all award programs can be accessed under the "Producer Resources" section at iowapork.org or by contacting IPPA. Nominations must be postmarked by Aug. 21 for consideration.

The Iowa Master Pork Producer Award program began in 1942 and is a joint effort between IPPA and Iowa State University Extension to recognize those Iowa pork producers showing expertise in their segment of the production cycle, understanding current industry issues and demonstrating the ethical principles of pork production as outlined in the We Care responsible pork initiative.

The Iowa Environmental Steward Award recognizes producers who go above and beyond in environmental stewardship. Applicants are reviewed in the areas of soil and water conservation, air quality, community and neighbor relations, wildlife habitat and other production innovations.

The Iowa Master Pork Partner Award aims to recognize production company employees who have demonstrated positive impacts in their production systems and commitment to the We Care ethical principles, but do not have active daily roles at a specific production site.

All award programs follow the core principles of the pork industry's We Care responsible pork initiative to produce

safe food, protect and promote animal well-being, protect public health, safeguard natural resources, provide a safe work environment and contribute to a better quality of life in our communities.

All award recipients will be recognized in January at the 2018 Iowa Pork Congress and be highlighted in IPPA publications and at industry events. The Environmental Steward Award recipient will receive \$2,500 and the person nominating the winning farm will receive \$500.

For additional information regarding Master Pork Producer, Master Pork Partner and Environmental Steward award programs, please contact Drew Mogler at (800) 372-7675 or dmogler@iowapork.org.

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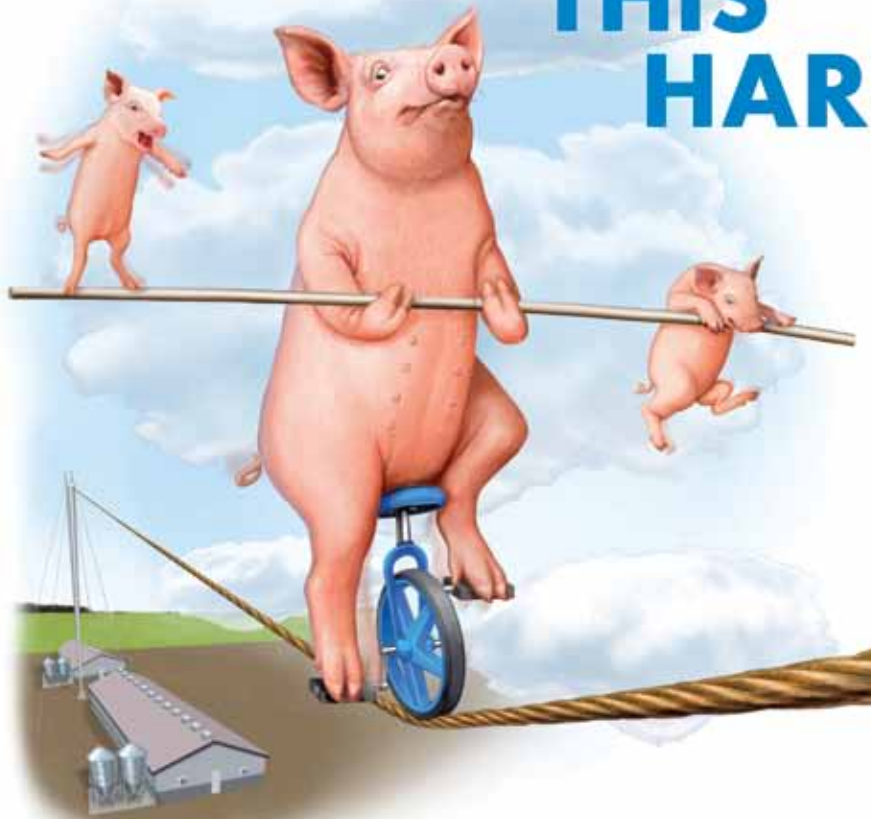
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Determan inducted into NPPC Hall of Fame

An Iowa pork producer and past president of the National Pork Producers Council is the newest member of the NPPC Hall of Fame.

Barb Determan of Early received the honor on March 2 for her perseverance and leadership of and dedication to the U.S. pork industry at NPPC's annual business meeting – the National Pork Industry Forum – held in Atlanta.

Determan, who grew up on a diversified farm in west central Illinois, is president, owner and strategist of Heartland Marketing Group. She and husband, Steve, also raise hogs.

Serving as NPPC president from March 2001 to March 2002, Determan oversaw the court-ordered split of the Pork Checkoff Program from NPPC that paved the way for the council to reestablish itself to provide the legislative, regulatory and trade advocacy necessary for the industry to achieve success.

In addition to leading the board of directors, she served as the de facto CEO of the reconstituted NPPC—most of the organization's staff were running the checkoff, which then fell to the newly established National Pork Board. Three months after being elevated to president, Determan had to weather the cancellation of NPPC's World Pork Expo because of the worldwide scare of Foot-and-Mouth Disease, then she guided the organization through the dark days after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on America.

Since those tumultuous times, Determan has dedicated much of her time and effort to promoting and serving American agriculture generally and the U.S. pork industry specifically. She served on the Iowa 4-H Foundation board of directors, including as chairwoman in 2012, and recently was nominated by Iowa Governor Terry Branstad to serve on the Iowa Great Places Advisory Board. She also was elected to the U.S. Animal Health Association Board. She has been a volunteer committee



2016 NPPC President John Weber presents the Hall of Fame plaque to Barb Determan.

member for NPPC for the past 20 years and for the National Pork Board for nearly 15 years.

“As president of NPPC, Barb guided the organization through a period of great turmoil, and since that time, she's dedicated herself to promoting and helping our industry,” said newly-elected NPPC President Ken Maschhoff, a pork producer from Carlyle, Ill. “For her can-do spirit and innumerable contributions to the U.S. pork industry, we are extremely pleased to induct Barb Determan into the NPPC Hall of Fame.”

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Pork industry honors retired IPPA CEO

The National Pork Board honored the former chief executive officer of the Iowa Pork Producers Association during the National Pork Industry Forum in Atlanta.

Rich Degner received the Distinguished Service Award on March 2. The award is given to an outstanding leader to recognize his or her lifelong contribution to the pork industry.

“Rich has provided extraordinary leadership to the pork industry,” said National Pork Board President Jan Archer, a pork producer from Goldsboro, North Carolina. “Through the years, he worked tirelessly for the advancement of pork producers, as well as for the industry in Iowa and across the United States.”

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

“Rich has dedicated his life to the U.S. pork industry, and the Iowa pork industry grew and prospered under his strong leadership,” said NPPC CEO Neil Dierks. “Like so many of our industry leaders, Rich focused on the producers and their

success and on adding value to their product. NPPC is pleased, along with the National Pork Board, to present Rich with this well-deserved award.”

Degner learned the value of hard work on his family’s farm in northwest Iowa. Following graduation from Iowa State University in 1972, he taught vocational ag in Iowa, first in Rock Valley and later in Ankeny. He joined the Iowa Pork Producers Association in 1980 under the mentorship of Mike Telford and the late Don Gingerich.

Over the next 35 years, Degner served in many roles at IPPA, including CEO for the final 17 years until his retirement in 2015. In 1981, he helped create the Iowa

Pork Tent at the Iowa State Fair. From its small beginnings, the Iowa Pork Tent is now a cornerstone of the fair and Iowa’s pork industry. Degner also played a key role in expanding pork export markets, leading producers on more than 50 trade missions to over 20 countries, including 30 to Japan.

During the farm crisis in the 1980s, he helped develop financial management tools for pig farmers who were facing foreclosure. He also led the Iowa Pork Producers Association in guiding producers to be in compliance with new regulations while modernizing their farms and propelling them into the future.

Degner and his wife, Nancy, reside in Ankeny.



Rich Degner (middle) received awards from both the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board at the Pork Industry Forum on March 2. He is pictured with NPPC President John Weber and Pork Board President Jan Archer.



Mahaska County family receives 'Good Farm Neighbor Award'

A farm family from Fremont has won the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award for March.

Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey presented the award to the Neil Albertson family at its farm on March 20. Neil and his wife, Lisa, farm with their sons, Travis and Casey, and raise breeding stock for show pigs and commercial free range production.

"The Albertson's are a multi-generation farm family that is doing things right in caring for their animals, protecting the environment and serving their neighbors and community," Northey said. "Iowa is fortunate to have outstanding livestock farmers like the Albertsons all across the state that add so much to our state and communities."

The family was nominated for the award by neighbor, Charles Brown. In his nomination, he highlighted the family's involvement in the community and the commitment of Neil and his brother to conservation on the crop ground they farm together.

Brown also highlighted the family's work to support students with swine projects, including Neil serving as

swine superintendent at the Southern Iowa Fair. "Neil has helped many young 4-H members with their swine projects; selecting the right pigs, showing them how to get ready for the show, proper feeding, etc."

Reflecting on his nomination for the Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, Neil Albertson says his success isn't something he can take full credit for.

"You don't get this award on your own," he said. "It takes friends, and in this instance, it takes my family. I'm not who I am without them."

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

The Wergin Good Farm Neighbor Award, presented by the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship and Iowa Ag Radio Network in partnership with the Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers, is presented six times annually to an Iowa farm family that raises livestock. It's given in honor of distinguished late WHO radio farm broadcaster Gary Wergin and recognizes families who take pride in being good neighbors and stewards of the land.



Board Feature – Dennis Liljedahl

Dennis Liljedahl has farmed and raised pigs for 42 years and when he retired from the Essex School Board after 22 years of service, he had the time and the desire to serve the pork industry.

Iowa Pork Producers Association President Curtis Meier and former IPPA Board member Bryan Karwal contacted Liljedahl in 2015 to see if he would be interested in the vacant 5th district seat on the IPPA Board. He agreed and was elected that fall. Dennis began his first term on the board in 2016.

“I’ve enjoyed serving on boards in the past and thought this was an opportunity to expand my horizons and hopefully advocate for an industry that my family has been involved with for a long time,” Liljedahl said.

The Iowa State University animal science graduate hopes his board involvement and exposure to issues facing producers from around the state broadens his understanding of the industry. Liljedahl noted that the board is comprised of individuals from many different production systems and although they may raise pigs in different ways, all have a passion to see pork production flourish in Iowa.

“Being on the board has made me even more aware of the importance of trade to the pork industry and all of agriculture,” said Dennis. “I hope to use that knowledge to stress to legislators the devastation that would occur to producers if we lose access to important markets in Mexico and the Far East.”

Liljedahl was instrumental in re-organizing the Page County

Pork Producers and he has served continuously on the board and held all of the offices. Dennis also is the assistant swine superintendent for the Page County Fair. He is a Master Pork Producer from 1994 and a county Hog Wild Award winner.

As a long-time school board member, Liljedahl knows the importance of education and feels the pork industry needs to educate consumers about pork’s benefits.

“We need to continue educating consumers that responsible pork production can and does take many different forms,” he said. “No matter the method of raising pigs, we all strive to produce healthy pigs and tasty pork.”

Liljedahl Farms is a diversified, third generation family farm that has continually had hogs since 1956. The 200-sow farrow-to-finish farm markets more than 3,000 head a year. Dennis also raises corn, soybeans and seed soybeans. Conserving the soil is a priority for Liljedahl. The farm has miles of terraces and all crops are no-tilled. He is expanding use of cereal rye as a cover crop every year.

So, what has Dennis learned about the association and serving on the board for a year?

“Policy issues are thoroughly discussed. The committee structure is more robust and important than I realized before serving on the board and several committees. “My observation is that the board is served by a very talented staff that do their best to ensure the directions from the board are carried out.”

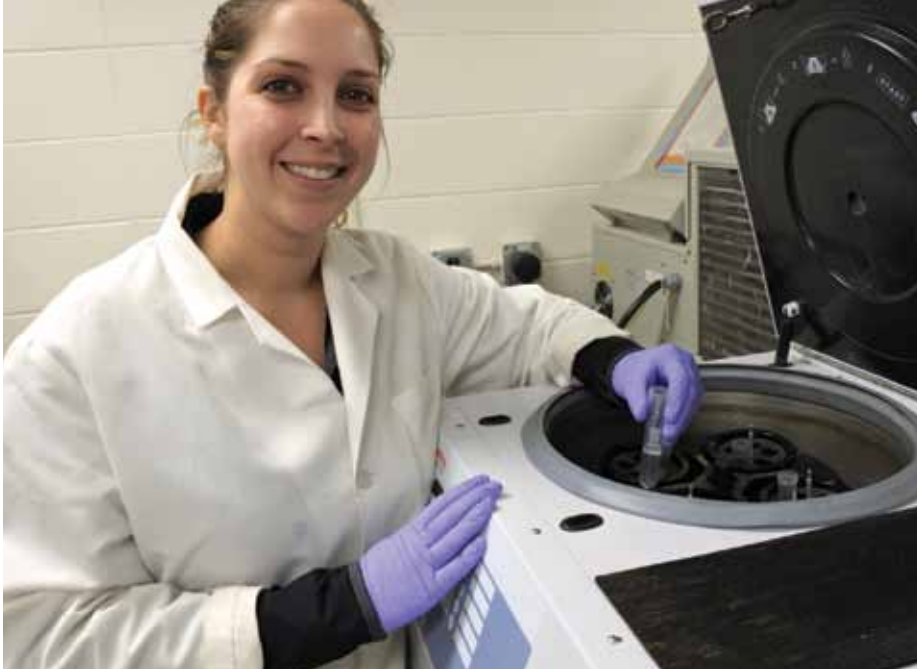
ISU grad student making most of IPPA scholarship

When Shelby Curry finishes her doctorate in animal science at Iowa State University this summer, she'll be looking to stay in the Midwest to make a career in swine nutrition and physiology. Her ideal career would be in a research setting that specializes in swine gastrointestinal physiology and its relation to nutrition and health status.

Last year, she won the \$2,500 Nelda Christian Graduate Fellowship from the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the Iowa Pork Foundation, which provided needed support to offset school fees.

Curry's dissertation focuses on the effects of PEDV on performance, intestinal function and integrity, and metabolism in nursery pigs. In addition to dissertation work, she has studied the effects of different stress hormones on bacterial growth and attachment of *Escherichia coli* F18 and *Salmonella typhimurium* in the intestine as a possible mechanism by which bacterial infections occur in stressed pigs.

During her undergraduate studies at California Polytechnic State University, she was able to intern in Iowa with AMVC Management Services in Audubon and in Indiana with JBS United. These internships confirmed her desire to work in the swine industry. In 2014, she obtained her master's degree in



Shelby Curry received a 2016 Nelda Christian Graduate Fellowship from IPPA.

animal science at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, where she was supervised by Dr. Hans Stein. Her research focused on digestibility of 24 distiller's dried grains with solubles by growing pigs.

"My training at Illinois is invaluable," she says. "I cannot say thank you enough to Dr. Stein for letting me work for him."

At Iowa State, Curry wanted to gain an appreciation for the interplay of nutrition, physiology, health and metabolism in pigs.

"Working with my adviser, Dr. Gabler, has been an eye-opening experience to how complex these systems are,"

she says. "Technology has allowed us to measure a wide array of parameters, and making sense of all the information is challenging."

Curry hopes to continue integrating the disciplines of physiology, nutrition, pathogenesis, and overall health by collaborating with colleges of different expertise.

"Right now, all my energy is focused on finishing and defending my dissertation. However, my long-term goals are to be innovative in finding solutions for challenges we face in the swine industry, including the Veterinary Feed Directive," Curry said.

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Soy protein concentrate can replace animal proteins in weanling pig diets

Plant-derived proteins are less expensive than animal proteins if used in weanling pig diets, but may contain anti-nutritional factors that can negatively affect gut health and growth performance. However, results of a new University of Illinois study indicate that soy protein concentrate (SPC) may be partly or fully substituted for animal proteins without adverse effects.

“We determined digestibility of crude protein, amino acids, and energy in SPC ground to three particle sizes,” says U of I animal sciences professor Hans H. Stein. “We also investigated the effects of substituting SPC for animal proteins on weanling growth performance.”

Soy protein concentrate is derived from defatted soy flakes by removing soluble carbohydrates and some nonprotein constituents. Three particle sizes – 70, 180, and 700 micrometers – were tested because earlier work showed that particle size of soybean meal affects digestibility of amino acids in weanling pigs.

In the group's first experiment, pigs were fed diets containing soybean meal, fish meal, or SPC ground to one of the three particle sizes. Ileal digesta were collected and analyzed for amino acid and crude protein content.

Standardized ileal digestibility (SID) of crude protein was not different among the three diets containing SPC, but diets with SPC ground to 70 or 180 micrometers had greater crude protein digestibility than the traditional protein sources. The SID of several amino acids, including tryptophan, also was greater in diets containing SPC ground to 70 or 180 micrometers, compared with the other diets.

Stein explains that these results differed from similar studies using soybean meal, in which particle size had a greater influence on digestibility. “It could be that alcohol extraction used in SPC processing improves digestibility, making it unnecessary to reduce particle size further to obtain the same results.”

In a second experiment, weanling pigs were fed corn mixed with each of the protein sources used in the first experiment. The goal was to measure apparent total tract digestibility of gross energy and the digestible and metabolizable energy in each diet.

“There were no differences in digestible and metabolizable energy among the three SPC particle sizes, but SPC ground to 180 micrometers contained more digestible energy than corn, soybean meal, and fish meal,” Stein says.

Finally, the researchers investigated the effects of SPC on growth performance and blood characteristics. In this experiment, pigs were fed combinations of fish meal, spray-dried protein plasma, and SPC ground to 180 micrometers. The different diets did not change growth performance overall and no reduction in performance was observed if SPC was used instead of fish meal or spray-dried protein plasma.

“Results of this experiment indicated that diets based on soybean meal and SPC can be fed to weanling pigs without negative effects on growth performance during the initial four weeks after weaning,” Stein says.

Altogether, results of the three experiments indicate that SPC ground to 180 micrometers may be used as an alternative to animal proteins in weanling pig diets.



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Never miss a heat: Build a better boar bachelor pad

When it comes to finding open sows in a gestation pen, you can't find a better tool for the job than a healthy boar. But the traditional practice of walking a boar is time consuming and potentially dangerous. One way to improve the safety and efficiency of heat detection in a group sow housing facility is automated heat detection technology.

"Automated heat detection using an enclosed boar within a group gestation pen is safer and more accurate than the traditional method of walking the boar," says Brad Carson, group sow housing expert and vice president of Nedap Livestock Management U.S. "Automated heat detection is an excellent complement to electronic sow feeding systems (ESF), giving sows the 'best of both worlds' by combining the potential performance benefits of group housing with the precision of individual management."

Safety first

Identifying open sows within a gestation pen is a necessary part of managing sow barns, but walking a boar can be a risky business for people and pigs in group housing situations. Automated heat detection with enclosed boar pens eliminates the safety risk and makes the process easier.

Using technology to record changes in sow behavior, automated heat detection identifies when behavior indicates the sow is in heat. The technology records how often a sow engages with a boar and the length of each interaction and identifies when

the interactions reach a threshold of heat behavior.

From inside his "bachelor pad," the boar's only means of interaction with sows is nose-to-nose through a small opening.

"This minimal interaction provides a sow with the necessary pheromonal stimulation to express heat behavior if she is in estrous while still being safe for the sow, boar and employees," Carson says.

Fast and accurate

Safety is paramount, but labor efficiency also is important if you want to make the most of your investments. Walking the boar to identify sows in heat takes the time and attention of at least one employee daily. Using automated heat detection eliminates this task because roles are reversed. The sows do the walking past the boar and don't need assistance, leaving the employee available for other tasks.

Automated heat detection also improves operational efficiency through greater accuracy. When walking a boar, employees might interpret signs of heat differently. Automated heat detection eliminates inconsistency and quickly identifies open sows for rebreeding or culling consideration. This minimizes the chance of open sows staying within the gestation group, wasting valuable farm resources including time and feed.

"I work with one farm that has compared performance data between individual gestation crates and group

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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.
The long-term effects on articular joint cartilage have not been determined in pigs above market weight.
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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gestation pens with ESF while they transition to group housing,” Carson says. “Their experience indicates automated heat detection in their group pens is the most efficient method.”

Designed for success

One key to successful automated heat detection is the right gestation pen design. Pens should be designed to minimize aggression with ample room for movement between eating and resting areas. The boar pen should be located on the path your sows walk daily so the sows are consistently exposed to the boar. Another key to success is the functionality of the heat detection system. Some automated systems can flag a sow with paint, automatically separate her from the group or send you an alert that the sow is in heat. “Look for a heat detection



system that helps you meet your production goals and supports your management style without adding labor costs or stress to employees or animals,” Carson says. “It is possible to have the best of both worlds –

providing individual sow care along with the benefits of group housing. Automated heat detection is one tool to help get you there.”

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All Around Iowa

All Around Iowa is a summary of recent education and promotion activities conducted by county pork organizations.



Hamilton County



The Hamilton County Pork Producers took part in the 3rd annual Hy-Vee Farm to Fork event in Webster City on April 8. Producers were on hand to visit with consumers about production and had a miniature finisher on hand to facilitate discussion. Pork burgers were sold and shoppers could see antique tractors and interact with live farm animals among other activities.

IPPA wants to recognize your promotions and educational efforts. Send us details and photos of your activities and we'll post them here. All digital photo files need to be high resolution and at least 1 mb in size! You can send information to Iowa Pork Producers Association; Attn: Ron Birkenholz; 1636 N.W. 114th Street; Clive, Iowa 50325; E-mail: rbirkenholz@iowapork.org; Phone: (800) 372-7675.

Scott County

On March 4, Angie and Rachel Ehlers, Scott County Little Miss Pigtales, ran an in-store promotion at the Davenport Fareway Store. The Ehlers prepared and handed out pork loin samples. Fareway was running a special on pork loins that day and sold several during the promotion. Pictured are Rachel Ehlers and Fareway Meat Manager Mike Block.



Tama County



The Tama County Pork Producers and Cookies BBQ were back at the Iowa Capitol in Des Moines on April 12 to feed lawmakers, staff and visitors. They grilled and served 750 pork loin sandwiches over the lunch hour as part of an annual county project that has taken place for several years.

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News from the National Pork Board

Easter promotion at Kroger stores held

The Iowa Pork Producers Association partnered with the Pork Checkoff on an Easter promotional campaign with the Kroger grocery chain.

The campaign included Taste of Now banner ads in select markets around the nation, including Atlanta, Chicago, Denver and

Los Angeles; and digital coupon offers in additional markets such as Dallas/Fort Worth, Indianapolis and Portland.

The digital ads ran under Kroger banners and featured pork loin and ham with links to recipes. An estimated 21 million impressions were expected. The digital coupons saved consumers \$1 on the purchase of a boneless pork

loin at any Kroger store or affiliated grocer. The coupons were available on Kroger's coupon web page, as well as through its smartphone app.

The ads ran through April 15 and the coupons were available until all funds were exhausted.

IPPA contributed \$75,000 to the campaign.

Delegates approve advisements at Pork Forum

The U.S. pork industry held its annual business meeting, the National Pork Industry Forum, March 1-3 in Atlanta.

Delegates approved two non-binding directives for the National Pork Board. The approved advisements read:

- **2017 – DE 1 Export – submitted by Minnesota Pork Board.** In order to support the National Pork Board Strategic Goal and to offer more revenue opportunities for pork



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.

producers, the Minnesota Pork Board recognizes the National Pork Board for its efforts to increase investments in exports and encourages continued budget prioritization and spending on export programs in 2017 and 2018 budgets. (Approved by delegates)

- **2017 – ST 1 Research – submitted by Indiana Pork Producer Association.** The National Pork Board is advised to facilitate and provide financial resources toward a comprehensive, multi-disciplinary research effort aimed at improving current industry livability rates from conception to slaughter. (Referred to Animal Science Committee)

Reports on advisement progress will be delivered to delegates attending the National Pork Industry Forum in Kansas City, March 1-2, 2018.

Pork industry experts discuss antibiotic stewardship in live broadcast

The Pork Checkoff hosted the annual producer update session immediately preceding the Pork Act Delegate session at the 2017 Pork Industry Forum in Atlanta.

More than 300 pork producers attended the event titled “Real Change: A Live Discussion of On-Farm Antibiotic Use.” Hosted by The Supermarket Guru® Phil Lempert, the 30-minute broadcast brought together experts in pork production, retail and animal care and welfare for a live,

web-based conversation. The pork industry’s leadership in responsible antibiotic use and its implementation of new strict guidelines set by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) was the focus of discussion.

A replay of the broadcast can be viewed at RealChangeOnFarms.org. For more information on the

National Pork Board’s efforts to assist farmers and others who want to learn more about responsible on-farm antibiotic use, visit pork.org/antibiotics.



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News from the National Pork Producers Council

Maschhoff elected NPPC president

The National Pork Producers Council elected new officers and members to its board of directors at its annual business meeting – the National Pork Industry Forum – held in Atlanta in March.

Ken Maschhoff, a producer from Carlyle, Ill, was elected president. Jim Heimerl, of Johnstown, Ohio, was elevated to president-elect and David Herring, of Lillington, N.C., was chosen as vice president. He is vice president of Hog Slat Inc.

Iowan John Weber's one-year term as NPPC president expired during the meeting.

Dale Reicks of New Hampton and Jen Sorensen of Ankeny remain on the NPPC Board.

Three ISU students earn pork industry scholarships

The National Pork Producers Council announced in early March that three Iowa State University students who are pursuing careers in the pork industry had won pork scholarships.

2017 Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarships were presented to Mary Heiller, Lexi Marek and Mitchell Juhl at the National Pork Industry Forum in Atlanta on March 2.

The \$2,500 scholarship, presented to seven other college students as well, is sponsored by CME Group and the National Pork Industry Foundation and managed and administered by NPPC.

The scholarship program was introduced in 1990 by CME Group and NPPC to celebrate the 25th anniversary of CME Hog futures. The scholarship was renamed in 2006 to honor the passing of NPPC Board of Director Lois Britt, a lifetime supporter of agriculture.

Spring legislative fly-in held

About 125 pork producers from Iowa and 18 other states traveled to Washington, D.C., in early April for the National Pork Producers Council's spring Legislative Action Conference.

Producers used the time to lobby their congressional lawmakers about various issues of importance to the industry. One of the top discussions centered on getting a free trade agreement with Japan and maintaining zero-tariff market access for pork exports to Mexico and Canada in the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Congressmen also were urged to support establishing a Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine bank, repealing a U.S. Department of Agriculture regulation—the so-called GIPSA rule—that would restrict the buying and selling of livestock, and reforming the immigration system to ensure that the industry has access to a stable workforce.

The organization's Capitol Hill-famous congressional reception, renamed the Congressional Bacon Fest, drew a large crowd of pork producers, congressional staffers and members of Congress.

Perdue 'very good' for U.S. agriculture



Calling him “very good for America’s farmers and ranchers,” the National Pork Producers Council congratulated former Georgia Gov. George “Sonny” Perdue on his April 24 confirmation by the U.S. Senate as the new secretary of agriculture.

“Sonny Perdue is the kind of leader the pork industry, and the entire livestock industry, needs at the U.S.

Department of Agriculture,” said NPPC President Ken Maschhoff, a pork producer from Illinois. “He’ll be very good for America’s farmers and ranchers.”

At his March 23 confirmation hearing before the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry, Perdue pledged to be a “tenacious” advocate for agriculture. “Agriculture needs a strong advocate,” he told the committee. He also vowed to work with the administration “to establish a strong trade policy that benefits agriculture” and to identify unintended consequences of regulations and address them “before they create challenges for agriculture.”

A veterinarian and agri-businessman who grew up on a dairy and row crop farm in central Georgia, Perdue served as the state’s governor from 2003 to 2011. Prior to that, he was in the Georgia Senate for 10 years.

“Sec. Perdue knows agriculture; I think he’ll do well as agriculture secretary,” Maschhoff said. “Also, he takes over at a critical time for agriculture, with work starting on a new farm bill and possibly on free trade agreements that would open new markets to U.S. pork and other agricultural products.”

USDA wants to advance ‘Modernization’ of Pork Slaughter’ Rule











The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) said in April that it wants to move forward with a “Modernization of Pork Slaughter” rule.

The regulation, which the National Pork Producers Council strongly supports, would increase efficiency and effectiveness of the federal inspection process and allow for the rapid adoption of new food safety technologies in pork slaughter. It also has the potential to increase U.S. hog slaughter capacity.

The HACCP Inspection Models Project, or HIMP, would allow FSIS to better focus its inspection resources and partner with the pork industry to better ensure safe products are entering the food supply. It shifts certain food safety responsibilities from federal inspectors to packing plant workers and could lead to faster pork production lines. Currently, five U.S. pork packing plants are participating in HIMP pilot projects; enactment of a modernization rule would make the system available to all packers.

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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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



CSIF receives Iowa ag secretary award

The Coalition to Support Iowa's Farmers was recognized by Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Bill Northey at the Iowa Agricultural Leaders Dinner held in Des Moines on March 7.

The coalition was one of four winners of the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Leader Awards. Northey presented the organization with the Leadership in Collaboration Award.

CSIF was established in 2004 by farmers, for farmers, to help those who raise livestock successfully and responsibly manage changes to their livestock farms. The coalition does this by helping farmers navigate regulations, providing building site analysis, consulting on safeguarding the environment, and enhancing neighbor relations. These services are provided free-of-charge to Iowa livestock farmers.

The coalition is a joint partnership involving the Iowa Cattlemen's Association, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Iowa Egg Council, Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, Iowa Pork Producers Association, Iowa Soybean Association, Iowa Turkey Federation and Midwest Dairy Association.

CSIF's mission of helping Iowa's farm families grow successfully and responsibly is still as important to the state today as it was 13 years ago. Its pre-emptive approach of helping farmers start raising livestock or grow their existing farms has proven to be successful—and in many cases—essential to reaching the farm family's goals.

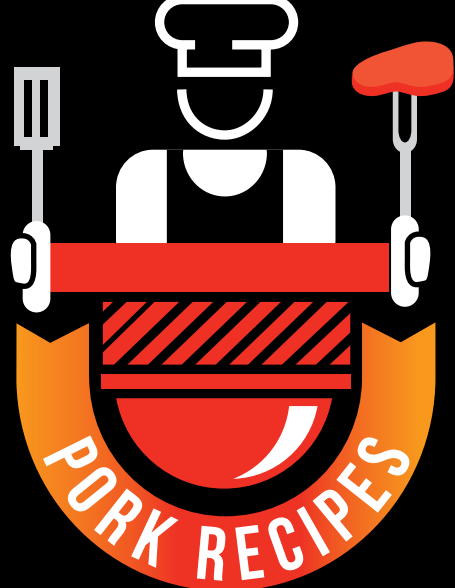
The coalition is led by Executive Director Brian Waddingham, field specialist Kent Mowrer and assistant field specialist Haley Banwart.

The four award winners were recognized for their progress, their innovative solutions and their commitment to serving our communities through collaboration and hard work.

"It is a tremendous honor and privilege to recognize these leaders that contribute so much to our state and the agriculture industry," Northey said. "These Ag Leader Award recipients epitomize the values of Iowa agriculture that makes our state a leader nationally and globally."

Northey created the Iowa Secretary of Agriculture Leader Awards to recognize, honor and promote Iowa citizens, companies and organizations that have made significant contributions to Iowa's agriculture industry. Those recognized have displayed leadership within the categories of innovation, conservation, service, and collaboration.





Southern Skillet BBQ Pork

4 New York (top loin) pork chops,
1/2-inch thick
1/4 cup Italian dressing
1/4 cup barbecue sauce
1 teaspoon chili powder

Stir together Italian dressing, barbecue sauce and chili powder. Pour over pork chops in shallow dish or plastic bag. Marinate from 30 minutes to overnight in the refrigerator. Heat nonstick skillet over medium-high heat; drain pork chops and place in skillet. Brown chops on both sides; add remaining marinade. Cover pan and simmer over medium heat for 4 minutes until internal temperature on a thermometer reads 145 degrees F., followed by a 3-minute rest time. Serves 4.



Nutrition:
Calories: 175 calories
Protein: 22 grams
Fat: 7 grams
Sodium: 325 milligrams
Cholesterol: 55 milligrams
Saturated Fat: 2 grams
Carbohydrates: 3 grams
Fiber: 0 grams

Asian Grilled Pork Tenderloin with Pineapple

2 12-16 oz. each pork tenderloins
1 6-oz. can pineapple juice
3 tablespoons soy sauce
2 tablespoons garlic, minced
2 tablespoons fresh ginger root, minced
1 1/2 teaspoons coarse salt, (kosher)
1 teaspoon ground cumin
1 teaspoon chili powder
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
2 cups pineapple, peeled and cubed (1-inch pieces)
6-8 wooden skewers, OR metal skewers

Nutrition:
Calories: 180 calories
Protein: 26 grams
Fat: 4 grams
Sodium: 577 milligrams
Cholesterol: 77 milligrams
Saturated Fat: 2 grams
Carbohydrates: 9 grams
Fiber: 1 gram

Place pork tenderloins in resealable plastic bag; set aside. In small bowl, combine marinade ingredients; pour over pork. Seal bag; refrigerate for at least 1 hour to marinate, or up to 24 hours to enhance flavor. Preheat grill to medium-hot. When ready to grill, remove pork from marinade and place on grill. Cook, covered, for about 10 minutes per side (about 20 minutes total) or until the internal temperature of pork is 145 degrees F., followed by a 3-minute rest time. Meanwhile, place the pineapple chunks on the skewer; place on grill during the last 6 minutes of grilling time, turning after 3 minutes. To serve, slice pork into 1/2-inch slices (medallions) and serve with grilled pineapple. Serves 6 to 8. medium heat until sauce thickens. Serve sauce over chops. Serves 6.

Stuffed Pork Meatballs

1 1/2 pound ground pork, 96 percent lean
1/4 cup plain bread crumbs
1/4 cup whole milk
1 tablespoon dried basil
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon dried oregano
1/2 tablespoon kosher salt, plus more for seasoning
2 tablespoons olive oil
8 to 10 green chard leaves, ribs removed, roughly chopped (4 1/2 to 5 cups)
Salt and pepper
1/4 cup chèvre, (fresh goat cheese)



Nutrition:
Calories: 320 calories
Protein: 41 grams
Fat: 13 grams
Sodium: 1230 milligrams
Cholesterol: 110 milligrams
Saturated Fat: 4 grams
Carbohydrates: 110 grams
Fiber: 3 grams

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Meanwhile, in a large bowl, combine pork, bread crumbs, milk, basil, garlic powder, oregano and salt, mixing until well incorporated. Divide mixture evenly into 8 rough patties, about 3 inches across, and set aside. In a medium skillet over medium heat, warm olive oil. Add chard, season with salt and pepper, and cook, stirring occasionally, until chard is tender, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Spoon chard evenly onto 4 of patties, leaving a 1/2-inch border around edges, then top each with 1 tablespoon chèvre. Top with remaining 4 patties. Seal edges of each patty "sandwich," then gently form sandwiches into balls. Arrange meatballs on a non-stick rimmed baking sheet and bake until the internal temperature is 160 degrees F., 40 to 45 minutes. Remove from the oven and let rest for 3 minutes before serving. 4 servings.

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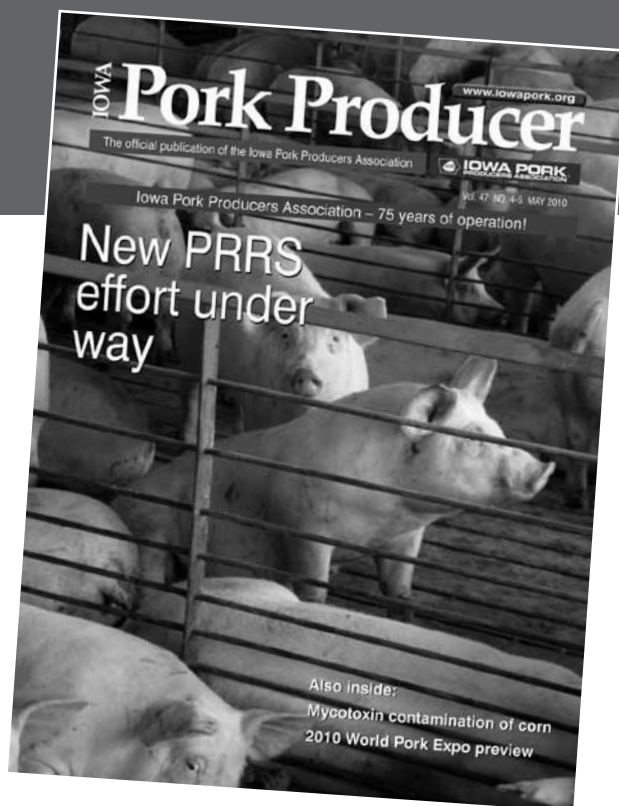
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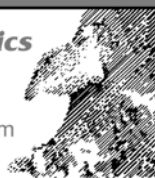
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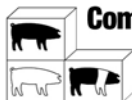
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