IPPA Supporting Several Provisions In Front of Legislature

The Iowa Legislature returned to Des Moines this past Wednesday (June 3) to work on the state budget and policy priorities of leadership. The Iowa Pork Producers Association (IPPA) is supporting several items in the budget request from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS). These budget items would allow IDALS:

- authority to destroy and conduct disease testing on feral swine;
- authority to take control of abandoned animals during a foreign animal disease outbreak; and
- increase penalties for people who trespass onto food operation businesses, including livestock farms.

IPPA is also supporting funding for animal health infrastructure, such as the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab at Iowa State University and the Foreign Animal Disease Fund at IDALS.

Second Round for State Program Disposal Assistance Underway, Claims Extended

The Iowa Department of Agriculture disposal funding assistance program is in its second round of accepting applications from producers who are euthanizing market hogs. Second round applications will be accepted through Monday, June 8. There are currently 3 rounds of funding planned, though more rounds may be added, depending on funding.

IDALS also extended the date that claims documents are due for the first round until June 15.

Farmers can apply during each round of funding, but application in one round does not carry through to the next.

Here are some key points about the Iowa Disposal Assistance Program:

- IDALS is offering $40 per approved animal to help cover disposal costs
- Market-ready pigs are those that are 225 lbs. or heavier
- Documentation required includes an electronic W9, affidavit from herd veterinarian, and proof of proper disposal
- Approved applicants are guaranteed funding for up to 1,000 animals; larger numbers may be covered, depending on the number of applicants.

Additional resource guidance for pig farmers is available through the Iowa Resource Coordination Center or by calling 515-725-1005.

Review Farm Security, Especially if Using Euthanasia

IPPA continues to encourage farmers to ensure your security on your farm and to your buildings as activist activity is on the rise in Iowa. An organization called Direct Action Everywhere (DXE) has created an online map using Google Earth to give exact locations of pig farms - both large and small - as well as processing plants. (The identification process looked for particular building types and used public information to create the maps.) DXE is encouraging their followers to go to these sites and get photos and videos of activity.

The Coalition to Support Iowa Farmers has a tip sheet on the topic. In a recent webinar, an FBI Special Agent for Iowa and Nebraska encouraged producers who have information about activists’ arrests by local law enforcement to share the case or report number of the incident and a brief summary of the incident (as observed by the farmer) with him. He is building a database of activity in the Midwest.

IPPA Committee Day Postponed

IPPA's Committee Day, which is usually held in mid-June, has been postponed. A late July date is being considered. IPPA will notify committees and checkoff payers once the new date and location is finalized.

Greater Flexibility Proposed for Paycheck Protection Program

On Wednesday of this week, the U.S. Senate took action on a bill (H.R. 7010) passed in the House earlier to provide more flexibility in how Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funds are used and how loans are forgiven. The bill expands the amount of time businesses have to use the funds and the minimum amount of the funds that must be spent. President Donald Trump is expected to sign the bill.

Business Management Webinar

The National Pork Board hosted a webinar on business management ideas for farmers to consider as they work through revised cash flows for the year. Speakers on the webinar talked about options to boost working capital on the balance sheet and topics to discuss with your farm investors and lenders.

About IPPA News for Members

This is an exclusive e-newsletter for members of the Iowa Pork Producers Association. We encourage you to share this information with other members in your county. If you are not an IPPA member and this has been forwarded to you, please send your e-mail address to dricheson@iowapork.org and we will be happy to send this directly to your inbox.