



# PORK HEADLINES

Leading Our Industry's Future Successes

MARCH/APRIL 2018

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## From the Staff . . .

We enjoyed seeing many of you in February at the WPA annual meeting and Expo! We also saw many familiar faces at the WPS Farm Show and extend a big THANK YOU to everyone who helped with the event or purchased a sandwich to support WPA.

Our spring events will continue with the National Pork Producers Council legislative action conference taking place mid-April. This event provides a great opportunity for Wisconsin producers to develop a relationship with legislators and put a face to the pork industry. Several promotion and outreach events are also scheduled for the coming months to educate consumers and influencers about how pigs are raised and provide information on pork.

Happy Spring!

*Tammy & Mandy*

### WPA STAFF

Tammy Vaassen, Exec. Vice President  
Mandy Masters, Program Director

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*The WPA membership elected individuals to serve on the Board of Directors during the WPA Annual Meeting held on February 1. Selected as 2018 officers for WPA are Jim Magolski, President; Jonathan Wyttenbach, Vice-President; Mike Salter, Treasurer; and Brian Klubertanz, Secretary.*

## WPA Honors Producers, Industry Members During Expo

The Wisconsin Pork Association recognized producers and industry members for their dedicated service at the 2018 Pork and Corn/Soy Expo, held on February 1-2 in Wisconsin Dells.

### Producer Honoree Award

Each year, the Wisconsin Pork Association presents a Distinguished Service Award to fellow individuals whose contributions to the Wisconsin swine industry merit special recognition. The 2017 WPA Producer Distinguished Service award was presented to Randy and Linda Kleven, Janesville. The Kleven's are dedicated volunteers and friends to the Wisconsin pork industry. They have both provided leadership and involvement in the Rock County Pork Producers and Wisconsin Pork Association.

Randy has served as president of the Rock County Pork Producers for a number of years, which involves organizing their annual PorkFest event. PorkFest draws a crowd of around 7,000 and they sell approximately 25,000 pork chops in the one day event. This year will mark the 50th anniversary of PorkFest. It takes hundreds of volunteer hours to pull this off, but the teamwork offered by the leaders of the pork producers in Rock County gets the job done.

*Continued on page 6*



## WPA Continues to Provide Support to Pork Industry Youth

Wisconsin Pork Association's youth committee offers several programs throughout the year for youth involved in the swine industry. These programs are focused on encouraging continued interest in pork production and developing the future leaders of the Wisconsin pork industry.

### High School & College Scholarships

For many years, Wisconsin Pork Association has awarded scholarships to high school and college students pursuing degrees in an agriculture related field. This year, sixteen students were recognized for their achievements and involvement in the swine industry. A total of over \$6000 in scholarships was awarded to these deserving students to help offset the costs of continuing their education.

Scholarships awarded on an annual basis include:

- Wisconsin Pork Association Scholarship
- Whitmore Memorial Scholarship
- Gunderson Memorial Scholarship
- Fredrich Memorial Scholarship

For additional information on these scholarships and the 2018 recipients, visit [www.wppa.org/scholarships](http://www.wppa.org/scholarships).

### Youth Pig Project Scholarships

Twenty-three youth received \$50 youth pig project scholarships in early March to help offset the costs of their 4-H and FFA swine projects. The scholarship program encourages youth to become involved in the pork industry through projects that offer opportunities to develop life skills and showcase career opportunities. In addition to support from WPA, this year's scholarships were also sponsored in part by several Wisconsin show pig producers.

### Mentorship Program

Now in its' third year, the pork mentorship program offers college students with opportunities to expand their knowledge of the swine industry, create connections with swine industry

leaders and potential employers, and identify future career goals. Students participating in the program complete a series of job shadows, attend state and national pork industry events, and complete a special project. In 2018, three students were selected to be part of the program: Elizabeth Ries, a sophomore at UW-River Falls; Shelby Veum, a freshman at Iowa State University;

## End-of-Session State Legislative Update

*By Jordan Lamb, DeWitt Ross & Stevens*

The Wisconsin State Legislature is on the verge of adjourning the 2017-18 legislative session. This session began in January 2017 and will conclude sometime in early spring of 2018.

The final weeks of this legislative session were focused on the following issues for WPA's state advocacy program.

**Additional Funding for Producer-led Watershed Grant Program:** Producer-Led Watershed Protection Grants are awarded by DATCP for projects developed by farmers that focus on ways to prevent and reduce runoff from farm fields and that work to increase farm participation in these voluntary efforts. Each application must come from a group of at least 5 farmers in the same watershed, collaborating with conservation agencies, institutions or nonprofit organizations. The maximum grant award per group is \$40,000. Fourteen producer-led groups received funding in 2016 for a total of \$242,550, 11 groups were awarded \$197,065 for 2017 funding and 17 groups were awarded 2018 funding for a total of \$250,000.

Representative Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) and Senator Rob Cowles (R-Green Bay) have authored Assembly Bill 946 and Senate Bill 796, which would increase the amount of funding in DATCP's soil and water resource management program that may be allocated for this program in each fiscal year of the 2017-19 biennium from \$250,000 to \$750,000. This legislation has passed the Assembly and the senate and now awaits Governor Walker's signature. WPA supports this legislation.

**Additional Funding for WLIC:** The Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) was funded with \$250,000 annually (\$500,000 over the biennium) in the 2017-19 state budget bill. However, the WLIC is seeking an additional \$100,000 in each year of biennium through stand-alone legislation – Assembly Bill 765 / Senate Bill 667. This legislation has passed both houses and now awaits consideration by Governor Walker.

*Continued on page 5*

and Caitlyn Wileman, a sophomore at UW-Platteville. All three are pursuing degrees in agriculture and have a strong interest in the swine industry.

### Youth Award Sponsorship

Wisconsin Pork Association is a long-time supporter of 4-H, FFA, and other youth programs in agriculture. In 2018, WPA will again sponsor the state FFA Swine Proficiency – Production award. This award recognizes Wisconsin FFA students who have been involved in hands-on swine production projects. WPA will also continue to be a sponsor of the Wisconsin State Fair Supreme Exhibitor Contest (previously Premier Exhibitor Contest). This contest encourages youth to take their swine projects beyond the show ring and demonstrate their knowledge in judging, management, current events, communications, and the overall swine industry.

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# Swine No Longer Need to be Tested for Porcine Delta Coronavirus

Starting March 27, swine entering Wisconsin or moving within the state will no longer need to be tested for Porcine Delta Coronavirus (PDCoV). Previously, swine owners needed to test for PDCoV within 90 days prior to movement as part of the requirement to test for Swine Enteric Coronavirus Disease (SECD). Accredited veterinarians also no longer need to write herd plans for swine that test positive or are not tested for PDCoV.

Swine must continue to be tested for Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv). As a reminder, swine must test negative for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRSS) and PEDv within 90 days prior to movement in Wisconsin.

The reason for the change to the testing requirement is due to positive PDCoV test results that may be the result of cross contamination from birds. Approximately half of the positive cases received by the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture since February 1 have been weak positives for PDCoV; the pigs are not ill and have never shown clinical signs according to the private practitioners.

Through investigations, DATCP discovered that birds carry their own Delta coronaviruses and they can interfere/cross-react with the swine tests. There is not a cost effective or reasonable test for producers to differentiate between the avian and porcine viruses. Veterinarians at Iowa State University have indicated that they first started to detect the interference last fall when a couple of swine herds in hoop barns tested positive and the results were linked to birds. Since Wisconsin's rule has been enacted, it is showing up in herds that are not in indoor confinement situations, and the pigs do not have a history of illness.

Veterinarians who have seen true Porcine Delta Coronavirus say it does make swine ill although the clinical signs are relatively minor in older pigs. Porcine Delta Coronavirus testing was originally included in the rule when it was being written as it was also reportable to USDA when PEDv was first introduced into the U.S. in 2013-2014.

Anyone with questions on this change in testing can contact Dr. Julie McGwin at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture at (608) 224-4897.



## Old Fashion Pork

**Old Fashion Pork, a family-owned, traditional pig production company, is seeking to purchase multiple 3-4 acre building sites near our farm in Thorp, WI.**

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# NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

## U.S., South Korea Finalize Renegotiated FTA; Lighthizer Optimistic on NAFTA

The United States and South Korea have announced they've reached agreement on a renegotiated Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). NPPC is very pleased with the outcome of the negotiations. Under the terms of the renegotiated deal, agriculture is not impacted and U.S. pork will continue to flow to South Korea with no tariff. Last year, the U.S. shipped \$475 million of pork to South Korea – a 30 percent increase over 2016 – making it the No. 5 U.S. pork export market. President Trump said final execution of the agreement may be delayed until pending nuclear arms talks with North Korea are seen to be progressing in a positive direction. While not impacting agriculture, the renegotiated deal addresses vehicle exports between the countries and establishes a quota for South Korean steel exports to the United States. The Asian nation remains exempt from tariffs the Trump administration recently imposed on steel and aluminum imports.

In other trade news, U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer voiced optimism about efforts to renegotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), telling CNBC, "I think we are making progress. I think that all three parties want to move forward; we have a short window, because of elections and things beyond our control. But if there's a real effort made to try to close out and to compromise...I'm optimistic that we can get something done in principle in the next little bit." NPPC continues to urge the Trump administration to maintain zero-duty market access for U.S. pork exports to Mexico and Canada and to caution that a U.S. withdrawal from NAFTA would cost the pork industry \$1.5 billion.

## Import Tariffs Imposed on Steel, Aluminum; Groups Warn About Negative Consequences

President Trump in March imposed tariffs on imported steel and aluminum as a way to protect national security. The administration raised concerns about U.S. reliance on imported steel for defense systems. NPPC has expressed concerns that the restrictions will lead to lost American jobs and could lead to retaliatory tariffs on U.S. products, including on agriculture exports, from U.S. trading partners. A study released by Trade Partnership Worldwide, a private analytical firm, found that the proposed tariffs would cost the U.S. economy more than 179,000 jobs, with two-thirds of them being production and low-skill positions. Additionally, the National Foreign Trade Council announced the creation of the Alliance for Competitive Steel and Aluminum Trade to weigh in on the import tariffs. The alliance, whose membership is comprised of more than 30 associations, including NPPC, issued a policy paper outlining its members' concerns with the anticipated impacts of tariffs on U.S. exports,

economic growth and production costs.

## TPP Moves Forward Without U.S.

The 11 countries remaining in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), from which the United States withdrew in early 2017, signed the agreement in early March. Now known as the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership, it still must be ratified by each of the signatory nations. NPPC, which supported the TPP, has expressed concern that the U.S. pork industry will start losing market share in countries that are part of the agreement and has urged the Trump administration to begin bilateral trade talks with countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Japan.

## DOT Issues Favorable Interpretation of ELD Exemption

The Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) released a favorable and broad interpretation of the omnibus spending bill provision addressing the Electronic Logging Device mandate, stating, "Livestock (as defined in 49 CFR 395.2) and insect haulers are not required to comply with the ELD rule for the duration of the fiscal 2018 appropriations bill, which runs through Sept. 30, and any subsequent continuing resolutions." In late March, the president signed the \$1.3 trillion federal spending bill that provided for a delay in the mandate. NPPC has advocated for the exemption until rules tailored for the unique animal welfare requirements of the U.S. pork industry are established.

## Strategic Investment Program

Funding for industry representation like those described above come directly from pork producer investment in NPPC's Strategic Investment Program (SIP). SIP allows NPPC and Wisconsin Pork Association to: fight for reasonable legislation and regulation, develop export market opportunities, and proactively address issues of industry and consumer concern, including food safety, environment, and animal health and welfare. Producers agree to contribute \$0.10/\$100 of market value. The ability to use these unrestricted funds better equips WPA and NPPC to respond to today's threats on the state and national level.

*Producers Al Ries, AV Roth, and Ray Ibeling represented Wisconsin at the National Pork Industry Forum. Al and Ray served as Pork Act delegates and AV served as Wisconsin's NPPC delegate. AV also serves on the NPPC board of directors and was elected as the 2018 vice-president.*



# WI Legislative Updates

*Continued from page 2*

WPA supports this legislation.

**Wetland Reform Legislation:** Senator Roger Roth (R-Appleton) and Representative Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) introduced legislation aimed at providing additional wetland regulatory reform. Assembly Bill 547 / Senate Bill 600 would reform Wisconsin's wetland permitting statutes by (1) eliminating the requirement for a permit for a discharge of dredged or fill material to a nonfederal wetland; (2) removing regulation of "artificial wetlands" (i.e., the wetland was created by human action and has no prior stream history); and (3) streamlining Wisconsin's wetland mitigation program by prohibiting DNR from imposing any requirements or conditions under their mitigation program that exceed the federal standards in 33 USC 332. This bill has passed both houses and is waiting for review by Governor Walker. WPA supports this legislation.

**Proposed Move CAFO Permitting Program from DNR to DATCP:** Governor Scott Walker announced, as a part of the roll-out of his Rural Agenda in December 2017, that he supported the transfer of the CAFO WPDES permit review to DATCP from DNR. This proposal is of considerable interest to WPA and our farmer members who support having adequate and skilled staff members review WPDES applications for livestock farms. No legislation to initiate this transfer was introduced in the 2107-18 session, but WPA will continue to work with other agriculture groups and the legislature in coming months to assist in moving this discussion forward.

## ADMINISTRATIVE RULES UPDATES:

**NR 151 Revision – Targeted Performance Standard for Application of Manure over Karst – PENDING Legislative Review:** In January, the DNR Board approved proposed

revisions to Wis. Admin. Code s. NR 151, Wisconsin's nonpoint source pollution performance standards and prohibitions as a mechanism to address pathogens in groundwater in certain areas of the state. The draft rule establishes an area for implementation of a new targeted performance standard for the application of manure over "Silurian bedrock," which is found in a 15 county area in the northeast and eastern part of the state. In this area, there is 20 feet or less of soils over Silurian bedrock. DNR will defer the development of the methodology that will be used to verify soil depth to the DATCP corresponding rule – ATCP 50, which will have to be developed if this revision to NR 151 is adopted. The rule was sent to the Legislature for review in time for it to move ahead during this legislative session. WPA has participated in the development of this rule during public input and will continue to do so as it moves forward. We support the rule as it is currently drafted.

**ATCP 51 Revision – Livestock Facility Siting Rule – ON HOLD.** At their July 2017 meeting, the DATCP board reviewed proposed revisions to ATCP 51 in the form of a draft rule change. However, the Board has not yet taken action on the draft rule. The Board directed DATCP staff to conduct several stakeholder meetings to get feedback on the proposed changes. Accordingly, no hearings have been set for this rule draft. The proposed revision updates several aspects of the siting rule, including incorporating revised ATCP 50 (nutrient management), creating new setbacks from property lines and roads, and creating a new system for evaluating odor from livestock structures, which is based on setback distances, as opposed to the current "odor scoring" method. WPA is closely evaluating these proposed changes for effects that it could have on new or expanding livestock farms in Wisconsin.

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# Producer, Industry Awards

*Continued from front*

Randy has served as a manager of WPA's Pork Schoppe at the Wisconsin State Fair since 2012. The Rock County Pork Producers provide a full day of volunteers to make the busiest day of the fair a sure success. He also works hard each winter to get donations for WPA's youth auction program held at expo.

Linda has also volunteered significant time for WPA programs and events. She has been a member of the Promotion Committee for seven years, and has helped to ensure the success of the annual Taste of Elegance by working with the chefs and helping organize the reception.

Randy and Linda have also volunteered for a number of other events, including Badger tailgates, New Glarus Beer/Bacon/Cheese festival, and at the WPS Farm Show.

The Klevens started raising pigs in the early 1990's on their farm in Harmony Township in Rock County. They began with Spots, Hampshires, and crossbreds, and eventually added Herefords and Tamworths, which they continue to raise today.

## **Industry Honoree Award**

The pork industry is fortunate in having many industry representatives who are dedicated to promoting and serving the industry. The Wisconsin Pork Association honors these individuals and companies by presenting them with the Distinguished Service Industry Honoree Award. The recipient of the award for 2017 is Zen Miller. Zen was presented his award during his recent retirement party.

Miller is an insightful listener and educator. In 2009, he joined the newly formed UW-Extension swine team to assist Wisconsin's pork producers. In 2012, he took over the role as Swine Team leader. As a member of the team, he was engaged in a number of projects, including a swine team booth at Farm

Technology Days, coordinating meetings with Wisconsin processors and producers, hosting an annual Badger Swine Symposium and coordinating a swine team partners meeting annually.

Miller has also served for a number of years as a Pork Quality Assurance Plus and Transport

Quality Assurance trainer and advisor to farmers. He's attended World Pork Expo and the National Pork Board's Swine Educators Conference, bringing back valuable knowledge and resources to our state. As swine team leader, he also attended several of the WPA board meetings throughout the year.



Miller has been an outstanding resource to livestock producers in his county and across the state, and Wisconsin Pork Association is deeply appreciative of his leadership and service to the swine team for nearly a decade.

## **Agri-Communicator**

WPA acknowledges the efforts of individuals in the agriculture industry to communicate with others by presenting them with the Agri-Communicator award. The recipient of this award is Neil DeBuse, of Clive, Iowa. DeBuse is a veterinarian and Founder, Owner and President of Minnesota Swine Reproduction Center, LLC. He has 20-years of experience as a veterinarian and as a manager in pork production, with direct work on key areas of sow farm and boar stud management and implementing production and health solutions for individual and integrated farms. The Minnesota Swine Reproduction Center is a swine-specific veterinary consulting firm based in Northfield, MN.

DeBuse has served as a member of WPA's Swine Health committee and PRRS Task Force for several years. His leadership on disease management, biosecurity and depth of knowledge about PRRS has been valuable. He is always willing to provide producer education and outreach. Last year, he even presented on a WPA-hosted webinar while he was traveling overseas and it was 2 in the morning. His common sense approach to swine health challenges, particularly in developing language for the revised Wisconsin animal health rule dealing with PRRS and SECD, is greatly appreciated.

## **Distinguished Public Service**

Each year, the Wisconsin Pork Association (WPA) presents the Distinguished Public Service Award, which recognizes a legislator who provides outstanding support to the pork industry. Secretary Sheila Harsdorf was presented the award for her efforts on behalf of Wisconsin agriculture in her tenure as a member of the Wisconsin State Legislature.

Secretary Harsdorf has been a great leader for Wisconsin farmers in the legislature since she was first elected to the Assembly in 1988. Because she is a farmer, she truly understands the needs of the farming community.

Secretary Harsdorf represented agriculture in the State Legislature for more than 25 years. During this time, she was a tireless advocate for Wisconsin farmers as a member of numerous committees, including the Joint Committee on Finance and the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Small Business and Tourism.





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## CALENDAR

### APRIL

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- 4 ~ WPA Board of Directors Meeting
- 6-7 ~ WI Assoc. Meat Processors Convention, Madison
- 10-12 ~ NPPC Legislative Action Conference, Washington, D.C.
- 11-12 ~ WI Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics Conference, WI Dells

### MAY

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- 3 ~ WI Livestock and Meat Council Meeting & Hall of Fame Luncheon, Madison

### JUNE

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- 6 - 8 ~ World Pork Expo, Des Moines
- 9 ~ New Glarus Beer, Bacon, and Cheese Festival
- 13 ~ WPA Board of Directors Meeting
- 13 ~ Rock County PorkFest, Janesville

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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