



PORK HEADLINES

Leading Our Industry's Future Successes

JULY/AUGUST 2019



Keri Retallick

Executive Vice President

kretallick@wppa.org

From the state office:

Summer is in full swing, and Wisconsin State Fair is right around the corner. Thank you is hardly adequate to all of the volunteers that make the Pork Schoppe possible. We'll have highlights of State Fair in our next issue, but we have plenty of opportunities to visit with consumers and promote our product. Collectively, we will promote our industry by focusing on the We Care principles throughout the fair. The fair is the place for our exhibitors to showcase their work, and we wish them the best as they pursue their goals. Please come and visit us at the Pork Schoppe August 1-11.

Pork Schoppe Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers needed for August 6th PM shift: WPA is still searching for a group to take the August 6th shift at Wisconsin State Fair Pork Schoppe. \$300 for the group, State Fair admission ticket, parking reimbursed, T-shirt, hat, sandwich and beverages. Tons of fun. Please contact Keri at kretallick@wppa.org or call 608-723-7551.

CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 327, 131 S. Monroe St.

Lancaster, WI 53813

(608) 723-7551

www.wppa.org | Facebook.com/wipork

Beer, Bacon & Cheese. Yes, Please!



On June 8th, the National Pork Events trailer was in New Glarus, Wisconsin for the 2019 New Glarus Beer, Bacon and Cheese Festival. It was the perfect day for consumers to come out and experience the benefits of pork in a healthy diet. This event allowed staff and volunteers to share the pork story with many consumers who would

be otherwise unaware. The event trailer cooked about 175 pounds of product! Thank you to the Pork Events Trailer and local volunteers for participating in this event! The National Pork Events trailer also attended the Timber Rattlers' baseball game in Appleton, WI. While the weather was not ideal, the trailer received a good amount of traffic and cooked about 150 pounds of pork.

WPA participated in Wisconsin Farm Bureau's Ag Day in the Classroom conference on July 9th. The event provided an opportunity to showcase pork industry resources for teachers and volunteers involved in the program. Each of the participants received a bag full of materials to use in their classroom or other educational events. In addition, they received updates on WPA's virtual field trips and opportunities for grant funding.

Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom Program



Keri Retallick, WPA EVP, explains pork industry resources to Wisconsin Ag in the Classroom participants.



2019 Livestock Judging Results from Area Animal Science Days

(Madison) The 2019 Area Animal Science Days were held in Polk, Waupaca and Grant counties. Youth involved judged breeding and market classes of each of the following species, swine, beef, sheep and meat goats. Youth also answered a sets of species questions and seniors judges gave oral reasons on selected classes. rket classes of each of the following species, swine, beef, sheep and meat goats. Youth also answered a sets of species questions and seniors judges gave oral reasons on selected classes.

Congratulations again to all participants in this year's regional contests. The top Senior and Junior teams from each site earned the opportunity to compete at the State 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held on Monday, July 29th at the UW-Madison Stock Pavilion.

The contest site has pictures and scores from the event. <http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthlivestock/programs/area-animal-science-days/>

Youth Livestock Opportunity

Livestock facilities in Wisconsin available for a young person interested in hog production facility. Two opportunities in the state. One is a farrow-to-wean and the other is a 17 acre facility with a house, two barns and contract available to raise 50 pound pigs to finish weight. This unit holds 1450 head. If interested, contact wppa@wppa.org.

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Morgan Fitzsimmons currently serves as one of WPA's 2019 mentors. Check out her blog.

National Pork Industry Conference, July 9th Mobile Food Program

Wisconsin Pork Association partnered with National Pork Board to support the National Pork Industry Conference's mobile food package program on August 9th at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells. This is a premier pork industry conference attended by industry professionals throughout the nation. WPA supported the event and worked to secure a food bank partner. Over 175 youth packed hundreds of mobile food packages to be donated to the River Food Pantry. Smithfield Foods was a major sponsor of the event.



Fitzsimmons Travels to Thailand and Japan

Kevin Kelly said, "Travel is still the most intense mode of learning." After my time spent in Japan and Thailand, I certainly could not find a better quote to describe my time abroad. From learning about one of the largest swine producers in Thailand, to seeing Japanese swine farms up close and in person, I was able to learn so much about pork production in other countries and how the United States plays a part in that. After spending eight days in Thailand and five in Japan I was able to learn a lot about the culture, pork production, and how pork and culture influence each other. No matter where the group went there was always the chance to learn in these countries. Read more about her travels on her blog at <https://morganfitzsimmons.weebly.com/blog/discovering-the-pork-connections-in-japan-and-thailand>



Wisconsin Legislative Update: The State Budget Bill



By Jordan Lamb, DeWitt LLP

Wisconsin's Biennial Budget Moves to Governor's Desk.

On Tuesday, June 25, the Wisconsin State Assembly approved the biennial budget bill with a vote of 60-39. GOP Reps. Gundrum, Brandtjen, Ramthun joined all Dems voting "No" on the budget. The Assembly adopted one floor amendment, which further cut back on items in the bill that could be subject to a line item veto (see below) and added several provisions deemed necessary to get enough Republican votes to pass the bill in the Senate. On Wednesday, June 26, the Wisconsin State Senate approved the \$82 billion biennial budget on a 17-16 vote. GOP Sens. Dave Craig, of Big Bend, and Steve Nass, of Whitewater, joined all Dems in opposing the bill. Governor Evers "called" for the bill the next day, which means that he has until July 5 to sign, partially veto or entirely veto the bill.

Special Note on the Wisconsin Governor's Veto Power. This budget session has brought a lot of focus to the strong veto power held by our Governor. It is important to remember that the Governor may only partially veto a bill that spends money – this does not include a continuing appropriation or a provision setting bonding limits. The governor may veto any word in an appropriation bill, including action phrases and bill section titles; may veto any digit in the bill; and may reduce any appropriation amount by writing in a lower amount. Republicans are well-aware of those powers. Speaker of the State Assembly, Robin Vos, said Tuesday that they tried to make the budget as "veto-proof" as possible. For example, they made several, subtle changes to the language in the bill to specifically limit the Governor's veto power. One amendment changed the phrase "not to exceed" to "up to." Another amendment changed the phrase "may not" to "cannot" in several places in the bill.

No Wisconsin governor has ever partially vetoed current law text or numbers in an appropriation bill. The governor may partially veto only newly created or amended text or numbers that appear in the appropriation bill.

Agriculture Budget Items Adopted by the Legislature. At the time of this writing, Governor Evers had not yet acted on the biennial budget that was sent to him by the Legislature. The following items of interest to Wisconsin farmers were included in the budget proposal that was sent to the Governor for his consideration.

- UW System's Dairy Innovation Hub (UW-System). The legislature approved \$8 million for the UW System's Dairy Innovation Hub, which was originally proposed by Sen. Howard Marklein, R-Spring Green, and Rep. Travis Tranel, R-Cuba City, as a standalone bill. The original proposal was nearly \$20 million and authorized 80 new positions at UW-System.

(Continued) Legislature cut the proposal back to \$8 million and is holding onto the money until the UW comes back with a plan on how it will be spent.

- No CAFO Fee Increases – Positions Added (DNR). The legislature did NOT support the Governor's proposal to increase fees on CAFOs that are applying for WPDES permits, but they did approve 4.0 new positions at DNR to staff the CAFO program. Those four new positions include 1.0 engineer; 0.5 hydrogeologist; 1.0 central intake permit position; 0.5 complex permit reviewer and 1.0 permit reissuance coordinator.
- Producer-led Watershed Grant Program (DATCP). The legislature approved an additional \$250,000 per year for DATCP's producer-led watershed grant program over the Governor's original proposal. The statutory base for this program is \$250,000 annually. With the additional funding, this grant program is proposed to be \$500,000 per year or \$1 million over the biennium. Last session, the Legislature passed separate legislation, which increased the amount of funding available for these grants to \$1.5 million, so this is a slight decrease over the total funding in this program from last session.
- Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) (DATCP). Wisconsin's livestock premises registration program is administered by the WLIC. Funding for the WLIC is provided by the State through the DATCP budget. Both the Governor's budget and the legislature proposed \$350,000 annually or \$700,000 over the biennium for WLIC.
- Funding for UW School of Veterinary Medicine (UW-System). All building projects that are supported with state funds are approved by the JFC in a separate motion called the "capital budget." The legislature supported a nearly \$1.9 billion capital budget, which is about \$600 million less than what Gov. Tony Evers originally proposed. As a part of this proposal, they approved approximately \$90 million in bonding combined with \$38 million in private gifts to support UW-Madison's new School of Veterinary Medicine renovation.

ATCP 51 – Livestock Siting – Expected to go to DATCP Board July 10. A proposed revision to Wisconsin Administrative Code s. ATCP 51 is expected to be presented to the DATCP board at their meeting on July 10. DATCP will ask the Board to release the draft rule for public hearings. We understand that this revision will be based on recommendations from the Livestock Siting Technical Expert Committee. The Committee issued a final report on the rule this spring. As of the time of this writing, the draft rule revision had not yet been posted. WPA has been engaged in this process all along and we will be reviewing the draft rule very carefully when it is available.

USDA Offers Producers Options to Re-enroll or Extend Expiring CRP Contracts

WASHINGTON, June 21, 2019 – Farmers and ranchers with expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts may now re-enroll in certain CRP continuous signup practices or, if eligible, select a one-year contract extension. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) also is accepting offers from those who want to enroll for the first time in one of the country's largest conservation programs. FSA's 52nd signup for CRP runs from June 3 to August 23.

"Agricultural producers with expiring CRP contracts have set aside land to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health for at least a decade," said U.S. Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation Bill Northey. "We want to make sure they – and their neighbors who may not have a CRP contract – know they have opportunities within CRP to continue their valuable contribution to our country's conservation successes." FSA stopped accepting offers last fall for the CRP continuous signup when 2014 Farm Bill authority expired. The 2018 Farm Bill reauthorized the program this past December, and FSA has carefully analyzed the bill's language and determined that a limited signup prioritizing water-quality practices furthers conservation goals and makes sense for producers as FSA works to fully implement the program.

This year's CRP continuous signup includes such practices as grass waterways, filter strips, riparian buffers, wetland restoration and others. View a full list of practices approved for this signup. Continuous signup enrollment contracts last for 10 to 15 years. Soil rental rates are set at 90 percent of 2018 rates. Incentive payments are not offered for these practices.

Could Genome Editing Eliminate Need for Surgical Castration of Swine?

Recombinetics/Acceligen and Hendrix Genetics have successfully used a genome editing method to create swine that remain in a pre-pubertal state, thus eliminating the need for surgical castration, according to a release from the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research (FFAR). "The first litter of castration-free prototype piglets using commercially relevant genetics confirms the methodology is working," FFAR said. In 2017, Recombinetics, Inc., was awarded a FFAR grant to end surgical swine castration. Since then, Recombinetics/Acceligen and Hendrix Genetics, pioneering companies in swine genetics, responsible farm animal breeding and precision breeding technologies, formed the "Alliance to End Surgical Castration of Swine." They have developed an approach that prevents sexual maturation in swine without introducing any foreign material into the genes of pigs. (Farm Journal's PORK)

Hall of Fame Recipient

The 2019 Wisconsin Pork Association's Hall of Fame recipient is Gary Skaltizky of Waterloo. Gary and his wife, Diann, have raised Chester Whites for decades, and are huge proponents of youth activities throughout the year. They have supported the county fair and showed at Wisconsin State Fair for many years. The couple will be recognized at the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair. We would like to congratulate Gary and Diann and look forward to honoring them.

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Legislative Action Conference

State producer leaders are invited to participate in the National Pork Producers Council's (NPPC) upcoming Fall Legislative Action Conference scheduled for September 11th & 12th, 2019 in Washington, DC. This year's LAC will be critical in our efforts to continue aggressively advocating for pork producers. Although the nature of NPPC's issues in Washington is fluid, we will likely lobby on a number of topics such as; trade, Farm Bill implementation, African Swine Fever, and labor visa reform. We will also receive updates on many other matters such as; gene-editing regulation, cell cultured protein, and current litigation.

The event will kickoff with a breakfast and program on Wednesday, September 11th. Congressional visits will be held on Wednesday and Thursday. There will be a reception on Wednesday evening, September 11th. Interested persons should contact the state office at wppa@wppa.org or call the office at 608-723-7551.



WPA Pork Classic Golf Outing

Save the date for the annual Pork Classic golf outing to be held on Wednesday, September 4th. This year's outing will be held at the Pleasant View Golf Course in Middleton. In addition to playing 18 holes on a championship course with a view of the capitol skyline, the event will include a welcome gift, lunch, dinner, awards, raffle prizes and more.

The Pork Classic is planned by WPA for the purpose of allowing pork industry professionals to network and raise funds to support advocacy and legislative activities on behalf of the Wisconsin pork industry. Individuals or four-person teams may register and sponsorship opportunities are also available. Watch for more details to come soon, or reach out to the WPA office at 608-723-7551 for more info.

To register for the event, please return the WPA Pork Classic Mailer that you will be receiving in the mail or visit the WPA website to fill out the electronic form. Hope to see you all there for some networking and a great round of golf!



DOL Proposes to Help America's Farmers with Rule to Modernize and Improve the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Labor Certification Program

Furthering the agenda to help America's farmers, the Department of Labor (the Department), Employment and Training Administration and Wage and Hour Division, today is posting online a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to solicit public comment on proposed changes to improve the H-2A temporary agricultural labor certification program. These proposed changes would modernize the Department's H-2A regulations in a way that is responsive to stakeholder concerns and enhances employer access to a legal source of agricultural labor, while maintaining the program's protections for the U.S. workforce and enhancing enforcement against fraud and abuse.

The NPRM includes several major proposals that would streamline and simplify the H-2A application process, strengthen protections for U.S. and foreign workers, and ease unnecessary burdens on employers. For example, the NPRM would streamline the H-2A application process by mandating electronic filing of job orders and applications, promoting the use of digital signatures, and providing employers with the option of staggering the entry of H-2A workers on a single application.

The NPRM also proposes to strengthen protections for U.S. and foreign workers by enhancing standards applicable to rental housing and public accommodations, strengthening surety bond requirements, expanding the Department's authority to use enforcement tools like program debarment for substantial violations of program rules, and updating the methodologies used to determine the Adverse Effect Wage Rates and prevailing wages to ensure U.S. workers similarly employed are not adversely impacted.

Finally, the NPRM would expand access to the H-2A program by revising the definition of agricultural labor or services to include employers engaged in reforestation and pine straw activities, as workers performing these services share many of the same characteristics as traditional agricultural crews. The proposal would also codify and update procedures governing the certification for job opportunities in animal shearing, custom combining, beekeeping, and reforestation.

The Department is posting a copy of the NPRM in advance of its publication in the Federal Register.



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Pork Schoppe at Wisconsin State Fair

WPA has been busy preparing for the 2019 Pork Schoppe. Our kitchen set-up is scheduled for Saturday, July 27th. Many thanks to Jonathan Wyttenbach, Ray Ibeling, Mike & Judy Salter and Nathan Brickl for generously donating their time to help us get the kitchen up and running. A huge shout out to Mike and Judy Salter for their time in bringing the cooker and trailer and for helping with set-up on the Tuesday and Wednesday prior to the fair. Our thanks to the following managers that will be working the 2019 Wisconsin State Fair Pork Schoppe: Mike & Judy Salter, Randy Kleven, Amy and Al Ries, Ellie Ries, Jake Falk, Brian Klubertanz, Laura Bussian, Mark Bussian, Brie Zoch, Nathan Brickl, Joan Killoran and Barb Allen. Our thanks also to our mentors Jim Buttles and Morgan Fitzsimmons for taking time to work the event as well. It really takes a village, and we couldn't do it without all of our volunteers. Thank you!!!

Thursday, August 1

AM Lomira FFA, Dan Robinson

PM Prairie Pioneers 4H, Jennifer Samuels

Friday, August 2

AM Southside Eagle 4H, Sheila Haberman

PM UW-Madison Hmong American Student Assoc.

Saturday, August 3

AM Rock County, Randy Wileman

PM Rock County, Randy Wileman

Sunday, August 4

AM South Byron 4-H, Janel King

PM Wilmot Marketing & Bus Assoc., Marissa Huff

Monday, August 5

AM Fort Atkinson FFA, Jeff Agnew (1/2 shift)

AM Random Lake FFA, Whitney Rathke (1/2 shift)

PM Parkview FFA, Tjark Sattler

Tuesday, August 6

AM Dodge County, Dave Graff

PM **Open**

Wednesday, August 7

AM Pardeeville FFA, Amanda Seichter

PM Lake Mills FFA, Luke Wiedenfeld

Thursday, August 8

AM Grant County, Alicia Adams

AM Lafayette County, Paul Johnson

PM Prairie Pioneers 4H, Jennifer Samuels

Friday, August 9

AM Dane County, Dave & Mary Olson

PM Waukesha County 4H Rabbit Project, Patti Missall

Saturday, August 10

AM Tri-County Pork Producers, Ed Bublitz

PM Bethel 35, Tamara Kaddatz

Sunday, August 11

AM Green Lake County, Steve Kutz

PM Bethel 6, Tamara Kaddatz

SWIGG Study Completes the First Phase

MADISON — The Southwest Wisconsin Groundwater and Geology Study (SWIGG) of Grant, Iowa, and Lafayette Counties completed its first objective this spring: to assess the extent of well contamination in the three counties. The second and final round of broad groundwater sampling was collected April 12-13. Samples were collected from 539 randomly-selected private wells, a different group than the first round of sampling that occurred in November 2018.

Overall, 27% of wells tested in April did not meet health standards for total coliform, E. coli, or nitrate. Sixteen percent of the samples were positive for total coliform and 2 percent were positive for E. coli. Fifteen percent of samples exceeded the 10 parts-per-million health threshold for nitrate-nitrogen; the highest sample result was 67 ppm and the median was 3 ppm.

The percentage of wells positive for total coliform is lower than during the sampling event in November 2018, when 34% of wells were positive. Nitrate and E. coli results are similar to November when 16% of samples exceeded the threshold for nitrate and 4% were positive for E. coli.

“Finding fewer coliform detections in wells tested in the early spring is consistent with what other statewide surveys have reported,” said State Geologist Ken Bradbury, Director of the Wisconsin Geological and Natural History Survey. “This may be because bacteria die off during winter and in the winter months there are fewer contamination sources on the land surface.”

This study has provided the most robust assessment of groundwater quality in the three-county region to date. “We now have a solid assessment of private well contamination in southwest Wisconsin based on a large, representative sample of wells,” said microbiologist Mark Borchardt, a researcher with the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

Wells were selected randomly to minimize bias, and a large proportion of the private wells in the three counties were tested (8% of wells). The “snapshot” approach of collecting all samples at nearly the same time gives researchers greater capability to identify factors related to well contamination.

“We can no longer say we don't know the extent of the problem,” said Lynda Schweikert, Administrator of the Grant County Conservation, Sanitation, and Zoning Department. “Now we are asking, what are the causes of contamination?”



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CALENDAR

JULY

22	FSA Crop Reporting Deadline
23-25	Jefferson County Farm Tech Days
27	Pork Schoppe Kitchen Set-up

AUGUST

1-11	Wisconsin State Fair
14	WPA Board Meeting
18	Dodge County Pig Pals Swine Spectacular
22	Crawford County Porky Pig Swine Show

SEPTEMBER

4	WPA Pork Classic Golf Outing
11-12	Legislative Action Conference, DC

OCTOBER

1-31	October Pork Month
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608-574-1223 robertspurley@yahoo.com

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608-723-2692 wolfershannon@msn.com

NPPC Representative - AV Roth, Wauzeka

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