



# PORK HEADLINES

Leading Our Industry's Future Successes

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

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## From the Staff . . .

It has been a busy end to summer both in and out of the WPA office! The warmer months were finished out with the Pork Schoppe at the WI State Fair, a tailgate before the Packers vs. Bears football game at Lambeau Field, and a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit with our state legislators. The annual Pork Classic golf outing was also scheduled for early September, however, Mother Nature made a change to those plans. A big *Thank You* is owed to the many individuals who helped with the late summer events.

Up next is celebrating October as National Pork Month, the Badger Swine Symposium, and continuing producer outreach and programs to promote pork throughout the fall and winter seasons.

Have a safe and happy harvest,  
*Mandy*

### WPA STAFF

Mandy Masters, Program Director

### CONTACT INFORMATION

P.O. Box 327, 131 S. Monroe St.  
Lancaster, WI 53813  
(608) 723-7551 or 1-800-822-7675  
www.wppa.org | Facebook.com/wipork



*Football fans were treated to delicious grilled pork samples prior to the Green Bay Packers vs. Chicago Bears game at Lambeau Field. With help from the National Pork Board's WeCare<sup>SM</sup> trailer, volunteers served 150 pounds of pork loin to fans and encouraged them to cook pork at home to the proper 145° internal temperature. Many thanks to Mike & Judy Salter and the Ries Family for helping with this event.*

## Thank You Pork Schoppe Volunteers and Supporters

Wisconsin Pork Association would like to thank the many individuals and groups who volunteered their time at the Pork Schoppe during the Wisconsin State Fair. We greatly appreciate the time and effort each of our volunteers puts into the Pork Schoppe.

This year, volunteers at the Pork Schoppe helped serve over 16,000 butterfly pork chop sandwiches, more than 5,100 pork chops on a stick and 3,845 pork burgers. A new item was also introduced this year – bacon wrapped pork on a stick – and nearly 5000 pieces of the new menu item were sold.

Groups helping run the food stand included: Lomira FFA; Prairie Pioneers 4H; Southside Eagle 4H; Rock County Pork Producers; South Byron 4H; Wilmot Marketing & Business Association; Fort Atkinson FFA; Random Lake FFA; Parkview FFA; Dodge County Pork Producers; UW-Madison

*Continued on page 7*



## USDA Launches Trade Mitigation Programs

On September 4, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue launched the trade mitigation package aimed at assisting farmers suffering from damage due to trade retaliation by foreign nations. Producers of certain commodities can now sign up for the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), while USDA will also begin to purchase identified commodities under a food purchase and distribution program. Additionally, USDA has begun accepting proposals for the Agricultural Trade Promotion Program, which will help American farmers find and access new markets for their products. In total, USDA will authorize up to \$12 billion in programs, consistent with World Trade Organization obligations.

### Market Facilitation Program (MFP)

The sign-up period for the MFP is now open and runs through January 15, 2019, with information and instructions provided at [www.farmers.gov/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/mfp). Producers can also contact their local FSA office to sign up. The MFP provides payments to cotton, corn, dairy, hog, sorghum, soybean, and wheat producers who have been significantly impacted by actions of foreign governments resulting in the loss of traditional exports. Eligible producers should apply after harvest is complete, as payments will only be issued once production is reported. For pig farmers, payments will be based on inventory on a date producers choose between July 15 and August 15. A payment will be issued on 50 percent of the producer's total production, multiplied by the MFP rate (see table below) for a specific commodity. A second payment period, if warranted, will be determined by the USDA.

MFP payments are limited to a combined \$125,000 for corn, cotton, sorghum, soybeans, and wheat capped per person or legal entity. MFP payments are also limited to a combined \$125,000 for dairy and hog producers. Applicants must also have an average adjusted gross income for tax years 2014, 2015, and 2016 of less than \$900,000. Applicants must also comply with the provisions of the Highly Erodible Land and Wetland Conservation regulations.

Market Facilitation Program		
Commodity	Initial Payment Rate	Est. Initial Payment (\$1,000s)
Cotton	\$0.06/lb.	\$276,900
Corn	\$0.01/bu.	\$96,000
Dairy (milk)	\$0.12/cwt.	\$127,400
Pork (hogs)	\$8.00/head	\$290,300
Soybeans	\$1.65/bu.	\$3,629,700
Sorghum	\$0.86/bu.	\$156,800
Wheat	\$0.14/bu.	\$119,200
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$4,696,300</b>

## WPA Members Fly-In to D.C.

Wisconsin Pork Association members Mike Salter and Tom Knauer, along with WPA staff Mandy Masters, recently traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Pork Producers Council Legislative Action Conference. Nearly 100 producers from across the country attended the biannual fly-in and met with their congressional representatives.

Top pork industry priorities discussed during legislative visits included funding for a Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine bank and other initiatives to prevent and contain animal disease, visa reform to address a farm labor shortage and proper regulatory oversight of laboratory-produced cultured protein and gene editing in livestock production. Of course, attendees also stressed with their representatives the importance of ending current trade disputes and expanding export opportunities for U.S. pork. The event concluded with the ever-popular NPPC Congressional "Bacon Fest," which drew another large crowd of pork producers, members of Congress and staffers eager to enjoy the world's No. 1 protein.



## Rain Dampens Plans for Pork Classic Golf Outing

For the first time in 19 years of hosting the annual Pork Classic golf outing, the weather did not cooperate with WPA's plans and the event was rained out. The outing was scheduled to take place at Pleasant View golf course in Middleton on September 5th. Prior to the outing, much of the area received heavy rain and flooding, and additional rain the morning of the scheduled outing created unfavorable conditions on the course.

Although the event was canceled, WPA would like to recognize and thank each of the sponsors and teams who signed up to be part of the outing, including: DeWitt Ross & Stevens; Equity Cooperative Livestock; Johnsonville; Lynch Livestock, Inc.; Minitube USA; National Pork Board; National Pork Producers Council; Roth Feeder Pig; Vita Plus; Big Gain; F&D Farms; Genesis; Jones Auction & Realty; Magolski Farms; The Fore Loins (Stan Smith, John Koenig; Bill Popp, Bob Wieneke); Wisconsin Farm Bureau, and Wolf L&G Farms.

## Fall Harvest Weight Limits are in Effect

By Jordan Lamb, DeWitt Ross & Stevens

Wisconsin's seasonal harvest weight limit increases are in effect as of August 1, 2018 and will continue through December 31, 2018. In accordance with the fall harvest statute, from August 1 to December 31 of each year, no permit is required for the transportation of corn, soybeans, potatoes, vegetables, or cranberries from:

- the field to storage on the grower's owned or leased land
- from the field to initial storage at a location not owned or leased by the grower, or
- from the field to initial processing,

for vehicles or a combination of vehicles that exceeds the standard weight limitations under Wis. Stat. s. 348.15 by not more than 15 percent. See Wis. Stat. s. 348.17(5).

To qualify for this increased weight limit, the vehicle or vehicle combination must:

1. Have a registered gross weight of 50,000 pounds or more; and
2. Be a motor truck, farm truck, road tractor, truck tractor, or farm truck tractor or such a vehicle combined with a semitrailer, trailer, or farm trailer, when the vehicle or combination is a commercial motor vehicle operated on a highway. See Wis. Stat. s. 348.17(5).

Note, however, that this increased weight limit does not apply to the national system of interstate and defense highways, except for the I 39 corridor and the I 41 corridor.

## Badger Swine Symposium Scheduled for Nov. 9

Wisconsin Pork Association and the UW-Extension Swine Team invite all pork producers and industry friends to attend the annual Badger Swine Symposium. This year's symposium will be held Friday, November 9 at the Arlington Ag Research Station Public Events Center. There is no cost to attend and lunch will be provided. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude by 3:00 p.m.

Topics on the program agenda include: Swine Health Rule Updates; Heat-induced Infertility in Boars; CRISPR Gene Editing; Dietary Ca and P Requirements for Sows; Using 'Big Data' Analysis for Management Decisions; Meat Science & Animal Biologics Discovery Program Opportunities; and Veterinary Feed Directive and Feed Manufacturing Quality Control. A tour of the UW Feed Mill will also be offered.

The Badger Swine Symposium is free to attend thanks to sponsorship from the animal sciences departments at UW-Madison, Platteville, and River Falls, UW-Extension Swine Team, WPA, and the Pork Checkoff. If you plan to attend the event, please RSVP by November 2 by contacting the WPA office at 1-800-822-7675, by email at [wppa@wppa.org](mailto:wppa@wppa.org), or sign up online at [www.wppa.org/badgerswine](http://www.wppa.org/badgerswine).



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# NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS COUNCIL STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

## U.S., China Trade Dispute Escalates

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in September released a list of approximately \$200 billion of Chinese goods subject to an additional U.S. import tariff. The new 10 percent tariff became effective Sept. 24. Beginning Jan. 1, 2019, the tariff will increase to 25 percent. In response, the Chinese government indicated it will impose additional tariffs on \$60 billion of U.S. goods exported to China. U.S. pork is on two Chinese retaliation lists, suffering from significant punitive tariffs. NPPC is urging the Trump administration to end trade disputes as soon as possible, so the U.S. pork industry can send product to its No. 3 export market.

## U.S., Korea Expected to Sign Revised Trade Deal

President Trump has announced that the United States and South Korea soon will sign the revised free trade agreement between the countries. The agreement, which was finalized earlier this year, could be signed as early as Sept. 25, during the United Nations General Assembly meeting, according to President Trump. The U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement, or KORUS, was one of several trade agreements scrutinized by the president during his 2016 election campaign. NPPC was pleased with the outcome of the renegotiations, with the new deal having little impact on agriculture. Most U.S. pork will continue to flow to South Korea with no tariff. (Prior to KORUS, Korean duties on U.S. chilled and frozen pork were 22.5 percent and 25 percent, respectively.) Last year, the United States shipped \$475 million of pork to South Korea – a 30 percent increase over 2016 – making it the No. 5 U.S. pork export market.

## NPPC Pushes for Action to Prevent U.S. ASF Outbreak

With multiple cases of African Swine Fever (ASF) confirmed in China, the U.S. pork industry is taking steps to protect America's pork producers. ASF is a highly contagious disease affecting only pigs and has a high mortality rate. It is endemic in many parts of the world.

The presence of ASF in China is of particular concern because of the high volume of trade that country does with the United States and because it exports to

America several goods that can harbor the ASF virus, such as amino acids, minerals, vitamins and soybean cakes. If the United States were to get the disease, U.S. pork export markets would close immediately. Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes estimates ASF would cost the pork industry \$8 billion in the first year of an outbreak.

NPPC is working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections, to communicate the risks to livestock feed importers and to prevent the virus from entering the country via Chinese feed products. To help in those efforts, NPPC is asking as part of the 2018 Farm Bill for \$30 million for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which does animal disease diagnostics, and \$70 million in block grants for state animal-health agencies for efforts to prevent diseases, in addition to \$150 million for a Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine bank.

## FMCSA Extends Public Comment Period on Hours-of-Service Rules

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) has extended the deadline for submitting public comments on revising current Hours-of-Service (HOS) rules, which limit certain commercial truckers to 11 hours of driving time and 14 consecutive hours of on-duty time in any 24-hour period. Once drivers reach that limit, they must pull over and wait 10 hours before driving again. Comments now are due by Oct. 10.

In response to congressional, industry and public concerns about the incompatibility of current HOS rules for industry-specific truck drivers, including livestock haulers, the FMCSA agreed to consider changes to the regulation in four areas: expanding the current 100 air-mile "short-haul" exemption from 12 hours on-duty to 14 hours on-duty; extending the current 14-hour on-duty limitation by up to two hours when a truck driver encounters adverse driving conditions; revising the current mandatory 30-minute break for truck drivers after eight hours of continuous driving; and reinstating the option for splitting the required 10-hour off-duty break for drivers operating trucks that are equipped with a sleeper-berth compartment.

NPPC continues to seek a limited exemption for livestock haulers from the DOT's Electronic Logging Device (ELD) mandate, which requires truckers to replace their paper driving logs with electronic ones. A fiscal 2018 federal spending law delayed the mandate for livestock truckers until Oct. 1, 2018.

## Judge Lifts Gag Order in N.C. Nuisance Suits

U.S. District Court Judge Earl Britt lifted a gag order on communications related to nuisance lawsuits filed against more than two dozen North Carolina hogs farms. Britt issued the gag

*Continued on page 5*

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# STRATEGIC INVESTMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

*Continued from page 4*

order in late June as the second nuisance trial was wrapping up. He imposed it on the parties, lawyers and potential witnesses in the lawsuits. The judge said a “significant increase in trial publicity” and the “volume and scope of prejudicial publicity” about the first two cases – one decided in early May and the other two days after the gag order was implemented – could taint future cases. Britt lifted the order before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va., could rule on a petition to overturn and vacate it.

In early August, NPPC and the North Carolina Pork Council (NCPC) filed a friend-of-the-court brief with Court of Appeals, asking it to overrule the District Court’s prior restraint on speech, noting that “All but the most carefully crafted, narrow gag orders are unconstitutional.” NPPC and NCPC argued that there is no compelling need for the gag order, the District Court did not consider alternatives to the order – including the jury selection process or jury instructions – the order is overbroad and vague, and it won’t be effective. On the latter point, they said it’s “not reasonable to think that any gag order will reduce coverage of these cases or blunt the public’s interest” in them.

## **Pork Producers Propound on Pork Priorities**

About 100 pork producers and pork industry leaders gathered in Washington, D.C. for NPPC’s fall legislative conference. The biannual fly-in gives producers an opportunity to lobby their members of Congress on important industry issues.

During dozens of visits, producers discussed with their senators, representatives and their staff NPPC’s top priorities, including the need for a resolution to ongoing trade disputes, funding for a FMD vaccine bank, visa reform to address a farm labor shortage and proper regulatory oversight of laboratory-produced cultured protein and gene editing in livestock production.

“Our No. 1 request is ending trade disputes that have so far cost producers as much as \$2 billion,” said NPPC President Jim Heimerl, a producer from Johnstown, Ohio. “But our other issues are just as important; positive action on them would go a long way to assuaging pork producers’ collective anxiety from the trade disputes. The fly-in let producers communicate that to Congress.”

On the FMD vaccine bank, producers asked lawmakers to include in the Farm Bill now being finalized by a Senate-House conference committee funding of \$250 million annually for the five years of the Farm Bill. That would fund not only the vaccine bank but the network of laboratories that conduct disease diagnostics and block grants for states’ disease prevention efforts.

Producers urged their senators and representatives to support legislation that would expand or replace the existing H-2A seasonal visa to allow agricultural employers to hire year-round foreign workers. Many parts of rural America are dealing with severe labor shortages. Lawmakers also were asked to weigh in on giving the U.S. Department of Agriculture, rather than the Food and Drug Administration, regulatory oversight of laboratory-produced cultured protein and gene editing of livestock.

## **USDA Mitigation Program Provides Unprecedented Aid for U.S. Pork**

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s relief program includes unprecedented aid for U.S. pork, including \$559 million of pork purchases, the largest share of the Agricultural Marketing Service’s food assistance program. The Market Facilitation Program also provides assistance by paying \$8 per head on 50 percent of a producer’s Aug. 1, 2018, inventory. U.S. pork producers are receiving the second highest share of this element of the relief program. Further details on the programs can be found at [www.farmers.gov/manage](http://www.farmers.gov/manage). NPPC supports USDA assistance, developed in response to trade retaliation faced by U.S. agriculture, but continues to advocate for an end to trade disputes that are causing financial harm to farmers.

## **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.



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# WPA Endorses Candidates for Nov. 6 Election

The Wisconsin Pork Association Board of Directors announced they are endorsing the following pro-livestock and proagriculture/agri-business incumbents up for election on November 6. You can help support your candidates by displaying yard signs and other campaign materials, volunteering with a campaign committee, making a campaign donation, and turning out to vote on November 6. Wisconsin Pork Association does have a pledge program in place for supporting candidates; if you would like information on this program, please call the WPA office at 608-723-7551.

**Governor:** Governor Scott Walker (R)

## Incumbents in the State Senate:

Sen. Devon LeMahieu (R-Oostburg) 9th Senate District  
Sen. Scott Fitzgerald (R-Juneau) 13th Senate District  
Sen. Janis Ringhand (D-Evansville) 15th Senate District  
Sen. Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green) 17th Senate District  
Sen. Roger Roth (R-Appleton) 19th Senate District  
Sen. Jon Erpenbach (D-Middleton) 27th Senate District  
Sen. Jerry Petrowski (R-Marathon) 29th Senate District

## Incumbents in the State Assembly:

Rep. Joel Kitchens (R-Sturgeon Bay) 1st Assembly District  
Rep. Jim Steineke (R-Kaukauna) 5th Assembly District  
Rep. Gary Tauchen (R-Bonduel) 6th Assembly District  
Rep. Jason Fields (D-Milwaukee) 11th Assembly District  
Rep. Joe Sanfelippo (R-New Berlin) 15th Assembly District  
Rep. Evan Goyke (D-Milwaukee) 18th Assembly District  
Rep. Terry Katsma (R-Oostburg) 26th Assembly District  
Rep. Tyler Vorpapel (R-Plymouth) 27th Assembly District  
Rep. Rob Stafsholt (R-New Richmond) 29th Assembly District  
Rep. Amy Loudenbeck (R-Clinton) 31st Assembly District  
Rep. Tyler August (R-Lake Geneva) 32nd Assembly District  
Rep. Cody Horlacher (R-Mukwonago) 33rd Assembly District  
Rep. Rob Swearingen (R-Rhineland) 34th Assembly District  
Rep. Mary Felzkowski (R-Irma) 35th Assembly District  
Rep. Jeff Mursau (R-Crivitz) 36th Assembly District  
Rep. John Jagler (R-Watertown) 37th Assembly District  
Rep. Mark Born (R-Beaver Dam) 39th Assembly District  
Rep. Kevin Petersen (R-Waupaca) 40th Assembly District  
Rep. Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) 41st Assembly District  
Rep. Jon Plumer (R-Lodi) 42nd Assembly District  
Rep. Don Vruwink (D-Milton) 43rd Assembly District  
Rep. Deb Kolste (D-Janesville) 44th Assembly District  
Rep. Mark Spreitzer (D-Beloit) 45th Assembly District  
Rep. Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City) 49th Assembly District  
Rep. Todd Novak (R-Dodgeville) 51st Assembly District  
Rep. Jeremy Thiesfeldt (R-Fond du Lac) 52nd Assembly District  
Rep. Michael Schraa (R-Oshkosh) 53rd Assembly District  
Rep. Samatha Kerkman (R-Salem) 61st Assembly District

Rep. Robin Vos (R-Rochester) 63rd Assembly District  
Rep. Rob Summerfield (R-Bloomer) 67th Assembly District  
Rep. Bob Kulp (R-Stratford) 69th Assembly District  
Rep. Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah) 70th Assembly District  
Rep. Katrina Shankland (D-Stevens Point) 71st District  
Rep. Scott Krug (R-Nekoosa) 72nd Assembly District  
Rep. Romaine Quinn (R-Barron) 75th Assembly District  
Rep. Dave Considine (D-Baraboo) 81st Assembly District  
Rep. Ken Skowronski (R-Franklin) 82nd Assembly District  
Rep. Patrick Snyder (R-Schofield) 85th Assembly District  
Rep. John Spiros (R-Marshfield) 86th Assembly District  
Rep. James Edming (R-Glen Flora) 87th Assembly District  
Rep. John Macco (R-Ledgeview) 88th Assembly District  
Rep. John Nygren (R-Marinette) 89th Assembly District  
Rep. Treig Pronschinske (R-Modovi) 92nd Assembly District  
Rep. Warren Petryk (R-Eleva) 93rd Assembly District  
Rep. Steve Doyle (D-Onalaska) 94th Assembly District

## Pork Schoppe

*Continued from front*

Alpha Kappa Delta Phi; Pardeeville FFA; Lake Mills FFA; Grant County Pork Promoters; Lafayette County Pork Producers; Dane County Pork Producers; Waukesha County 4H Rabbit Project; Tri-County Pork Producers; Bethel 35; Green Lake County Pork Producers; Wytttenbach Family; Salter Family; and Schultz Family.

WPA would also like to thank the individuals who helped manage the volunteer groups and helped with setting up and tearing down the stand: Mike & Judy Salter; Jonathan Wytttenbach; Ray Ibeling; Jodi Sanders; Randy Kleven; Al, Amy, and Ellie Ries; Caitlyn Wileman; Shelby Veum; Brian Klubertanz; Laura Bussian; Doug & Janice Steinback; Nathan Brickl; Joan Killoran; Barb Allen; Charlie Stephens; and Brittini Hemauer.

In addition, we send our thanks to everyone who helped promote the Pork Schoppe and made purchases from the stand during the fair.



*Prairie Pioneers 4H Club*



*Green Lake County Pork Producers*



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## CALENDAR

### OCTOBER

1-30 ~ National Pork Month

### NOVEMBER

6 ~ Election Day  
7 ~ WPA Board of Directors Meeting  
9 ~ Badger Swine Symposium, Arlington  
22 - 23 ~ Thanksgiving Holiday, WPA Office Closed

### DECEMBER

12 ~ WPA Board of Directors Meeting  
12 ~ UW-Discovery Farms Annual Meeting, WI Dells

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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920-250-5065      magolski727@gmail.com

### **Vice-President - Jonathan Wytttenbach, Sauk City**

608-347-6135      maizenbacon@yahoo.com

### **Secretary - Brian Klubertanz, Waterloo**

920-296-0599      klubertb@hotmail.com

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920-739-0403      ikehalter@aol.com

### **Nathan Brickl, Sauk City**

608-588-9625      nbrickl@hanorusa.com

### **Ray Ibeling, Clinton**

608-751-3513      lbelingfamily3@aol.com

### **Tom Knauer, Avalon**

608-883-2838      tjknauer@gmail.com

### **Bob Spurley, Linden**

608-574-1223      robertspurley@yahoo.com

### **Shannon Wolf, Lancaster**

608-723-2692      wolfershannon@msn.com

### **NPPC Representative - AV Roth, Wauzeka**

608-476-2377      avhroth@aol.com