

PORK Headlines

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Successful Week at Legislative Action Conference

Two producers from Wisconsin attended the Legislative Action Conference (LAC) in Washington D.C. on March 28th - 30th, 2023.

We would like to thank A.V. Roth and Aubrey Doherty for taking time out of their busy schedules to attend. While there, they discussed pertinent issues such as the Farm Bill, trade, labor, and continued funding for foreign animal disease prevention.

Conferences like LAC are a great opportunity for producers and state associations to build relationships with our congressional leaders while teaching them about the significance of the swine industry and the issues that our producers face.



Congressman Glenn Grothman

March 30 at 1:06 PM · 🌐

Appreciate [Wisconsin Pork Association](#) stopping by my office to discuss the safety needs and priorities of #WI pork producers.

Become a Wisconsin Pork Association Member

Our members are key to the success of our organization! We invite you to explore the membership options available to youth, pork producers, and allied industry.

Membership benefits:

- Receive regular communications on important industry topics (Pork Express email, Headlines newsletter, Call to Action, etc.)
- Help determine WPA policy positions
- Local, state, and national leadership opportunities
- Educational programs and opportunities
- Pork industry networking
- Industry discounts

Membership options:

- Non-voting producer \$0
- Voting Producer \$50
- Producer family member \$10 / person
- Allied industry individual \$100
- Allied industry company \$250
- SIP Investor \$.15/ \$100 of market value → → → → → →

To become a member, visit our website at www.wppa.org.

Strategic Investment Program (SIP)

The Strategic Investment Program (SIP) is the primary source of funds for the National Pork Producers Council. SIP allows NPPC and the Wisconsin Pork Association to fight for reasonable legislation and regulation, develop revenue and market opportunities, and proactively address issues of industry and consumer concern.

As an investor, you will have a voice in NPPC policy development. To participate, producers agree to contribute \$.15/\$100 of market value. A significant share of the program dollars is returned to support the state organization. (Please note that this voluntary rate has increased from \$.10 to \$.15 cents while the mandatory checkoff rate decreased from \$.40 down to \$.35.)

Producers may become an SIP investor by filling out the Wisconsin Pork Association membership form and selecting the "SIP" option. If you have any questions, contact the WPA office at 608-723-7551.



WPS Farm Show Recap: "Grow New Ideas"

The WPS Farm Show was held on March 28th- 30th at the EAA Grounds in Oshkosh, WI. This event is an opportunity for agricultural businesses and the community to check out the latest in farm equipment, services, and technology from 400 exhibitors throughout the U.S. and Canada. During the three-day event, WPA sold 1,773 sandwiches with approximately 20,000 visitors attending the show. We also debuted our "Squealer" sandwich which was a pork burger topped with BBQ pulled pork and it was a big hit!

Many thanks to our volunteers that helped to make this event possible and a big success: Ed Bublitz, Don Hahn, Jerry & Sandy Bradt, Mike Salter, Steve Kutz, Brock Decker, Al Ries, Alyssa Swanke, Maddi Wackett, Marissa Wedde, Steph Wedde, Nicole Swanke, Linda & Duane Nitz, Ginger Quick, Harold Sly, Dave Wheeler, Brad Lux, John Quinn, Jeff Morris and Brian Klubertanz.

National Pork Industry Forum

Christina Meylor, Jeff Morris, and A.V. Roth were the Wisconsin delegates for the Pork Industry Forum that took place March 8-10th, 2023, in Orlando, FL.

At this event, delegates attended multiple sessions focused on legislation and state programs and discussed pork industry priorities. Thank you, Christina, Jeff, and A.V. for being such great advocates for the swine industry and for proudly representing Wisconsin!



Legislative Update



By Jordan Lamb, The Welch Group

WPA Supports Funding for Critical Agricultural Road Improvements

The WPA and the Wisconsin Agriculture Coalition are asking the legislature to support \$150 million over the next two years to provide grants to local governments for critical agricultural road improvements. Nationally, agricultural products are the single largest user of freight services. However, one of the biggest hurdles for Wisconsin farmers is restrictions on roads that link their farms to our state and national highway systems. Hundreds of roads and bridges in Wisconsin are currently posted with weight restrictions, which forces farmers to operate trucks with partial loads or find lengthy alternative routes.

Legislation authored by Representative Travis Tranel (R-Cuba City), Representative Nancy VanderMeer (R-Tomah), Senator Howard Marklein (R-Spring Green), Senator Joan Ballweg (R-Markesan) and Senator Cory Tomczyk (Mosinee) would direct the Wisconsin Department of Transportation to establish a grant program to provide local road improvement grants to improve critical agricultural routes on local roads and bridges.

This legislation (LRB-2553) would create a state-funded grant program to upgrade local roads and bridges that are critical links between farmers, their fields, processing facilities, and the businesses that provide essential feed and supplies. This program is modeled after the existing Local Roads Improvement Program (LRIP) and is designed to direct money to local roads and bridges used by farmers every day.

The stand-alone legislation creates the agricultural road improvement program, but the funding for the grant program would be provided in the 2023-25 biennial budget bill. The Ag Coalition supports passage of this legislation AND funding the program with \$150 million in one-time money in the budget bill to provide local governments with resources to make significant infrastructure upgrades.

The WPA's advocacy team is working with the legislative sponsors and the Wisconsin Ag Coalition to prioritize this issue in the 2023-25 biennial budget process.

Gov. Evers, DATCP Announce Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program Grant Recipients

MADISON — Gov. Tony Evers, together with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection (DATCP), announced that 20 recipients are receiving grant funding for the 2023 Commercial Nitrogen Optimization Pilot Program (NOPP). These grants aim to refine and enhance the understanding of new methods that optimize commercial nitrogen applied to agricultural fields, helping to protect vital soil and water resources.

The NOPP was designed to encourage agricultural producers to develop innovative approaches to optimize the application of commercial nitrogen for a duration of at least two growing seasons. The selected producers must collaborate with a University of Wisconsin (UW) System institution, which will monitor the grant project on-site and conduct commercial nitrogen optimization field studies. For the full story and list of recipients, please visit

<https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/CommercialNitrogenOptimizationPilotGrantProgram.aspx> .

Plan to Attend Upcoming Pork Quality Seminar

Jeff Morris, UW-Extension Swine Outreach Specialist, has organized a program that offers a series of swine and pork-focused educational seminars over the next twelve months. The first seminar will focus on Pork Quality. Topics to be covered include live hog evaluation, nutrition to maximize carcass quality, deworming, feeder space and water requirements, direct marketing, and carcass evaluation. Stay tuned for information regarding future educational seminars.

Date: Wednesday, June 21st, 2023

Time: Registration is at 9:00 a.m. with lunch provided

Location: UW Meat Science & Animal Biologics Discovery Building – 1933 Observatory Dr. Madison, WI 53706

Seeking Volunteers for Wisconsin Farm Technology Days - July 18-20th

WPA is looking for volunteers to help serve pork sandwiches at Wisconsin Farm Technology Days on July 18th- 20th, 2023, in Baraboo, WI. Serving hours will be from 9:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. We hope to have at least 8 people each day.

This is a three-day outdoor event showcasing the latest developments in production agriculture, including practical applications and recent research and technological developments. This is the only farm show of its size in the United States that is organized and run entirely by volunteers. As the largest outdoor agricultural event in the state, it welcomes more than 45,000 attendees, with more than 500 commercial and educational vendors.

Please let us know if you are available to help by calling the office at 608-723-7551 or emailing wppa@wppa.org.

Wisconsin State Fair Pork Schoppe Volunteers Needed

The Wisconsin State Fair will be held August 3rd- 13th, 2023. WPA is looking for volunteers to help run the Pork Schoppe, which is our largest fundraiser of the year. This is a great opportunity for us to network with consumers, promote the swine industry, and showcase delicious pork products! All volunteers will receive complimentary admission tickets, a hat and t-shirt, a free meal, plus the group will receive any tips they collect during their shift as well as some financial compensation for their time.



If you or a group you know may be interested in volunteering, please let us know by calling the office at 608-723-7551 or emailing wppa@wppa.org.

Accepting Wisconsin State Fair Hall of Fame Nominations

WPA is seeking nominations for the Wisconsin State Fair Swine Barn Hall of Fame award. This award is given annually and recognizes an outstanding seedstock breeder who has dedicated considerable effort in the advancement of a breed and industry, and who has been an avid Wisconsin State Fair supporter and exhibitor throughout the years. The presentation will be held during the 2022 Wisconsin State Fair, August 3rd-13th.

Please cast your nominations by **June 1st, 2023**. They can be submitted to our office by calling 608-723-7551, emailing wppa@wppa.org or filling out the form on our website at www.wppa.org/wsf-hall-of-fame-awards/.

2022 Hall of Fame Award Recipient: Bob Ellingson

Bob Ellingson of Poplar Grove, IL, passed away on April 4, 2022. Bob grew up on a dairy farm with his three brothers and was proud of being a livestock man and animal lover. His comment was, "He might forget a person, but he would never forget an animal." He showed registered Chester White hogs at the Wisconsin State Fair and the Illinois State Fair from 1975 to 2022. He especially enjoyed having his son Mike, and his two grandsons, Justin, and Jared, assist in showing the pigs. Bob is missed by the entire industry.

WPA Welcomes New Program & Marketing Director

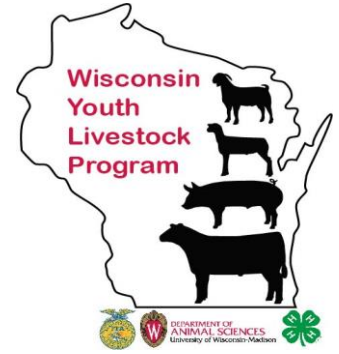
Wisconsin Pork Association recently hired Morgan Worek as the new Program & Marketing Director. Originally from Mineral Point, WI, Morgan graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in animal science. She went on to work for Hog Slat Inc. and was more recently employed with Silver Creek Family Farms in Darlington, WI.

She currently resides in Mineral Point with her husband, Jeff, her son, Wes, and baby #2 on the way! Morgan is excited to combine her experiences in production and customer service to serve the producers of Wisconsin and is looking forward to meeting our producers and members! You may contact her via email mworek@wppa.org or cell phone 608-553-2196.



Wisconsin Animal Science Virtual Educational Webinars

This series is offered annually in connection with the University of Wisconsin Madison Animal & Dairy Sciences Department, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and Division of Extension. The Wisconsin Youth Livestock Program (WYLP) offered live virtual Zoom educational programs throughout the spring of 2023. The topics were for youth and adults alike and occurred on the first Monday of the month from January through March. This year's sessions offered focused on why participating in knowledge and judging teams is important, beef live/carcass evaluation & cookery, and reproductive technologies in agriculture.



These sessions count as an educational requirement for youth livestock exhibitors!

On the website listed below, there is an Educational Verification Form that youth can print out, complete, and turn in to their county fair and/or livestock committee to verify your participation. Questions? Contact Bernie O'Rourke, UW- Madison Animal & Dairy Science Extension Youth Livestock Specialist at (608) 263-4304 or borourke2@wisc.edu. Webinars and educational forms can be found at this link: <https://livestock.extension.wisc.edu/articles/animalsciences-education-series/>.

Swine Testing Reimbursement Program

WPA is offering rebates to pork producers to help offset costs of testing for Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) and Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDv). Testing is required to comply with Wisconsin's Animal Health rule that took effect in March 2018. The rule requires farms with pigs to test for PRRS and PEDv when moving from one premise to another within Wisconsin or for pigs coming into the state. Testing is not required for pigs moving directly to harvest.

Producers are eligible for test rebates of \$100 per test if it is a PCR test and if they submit their test results with their rebate form, or \$25 if it is not a PCR test. The results will only be used to aggregate data and no individual results will be shared. Funding is available on a first come-first serve basis. Producers may apply for one grant each quarter of the year.

More information and reimbursement forms can be found on our website at www.wppa.org/swine-testing-reimbursement/ or you can email wppa@wppa.org to have one sent to you. Forms are due by December 1st, 2023.

WPA Online Clothing Store Now Open!

WPA now has an online clothing store available for you to purchase WPA swag! To see the items and to place your order, visit: <https://wpa2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>.

**Clothing store closes
May 14th!**

Note: We plan to re-open the store later so you can still purchase items throughout the year.



Putting mRNA Vaccine Rumors to Rest

In January, a false claim was made saying producers are required to inject livestock with mRNA vaccines. Certain advocates opposed to mRNA vaccines are concerned that they are in use and development in livestock. They think that, when used, these vaccines alter the DNA of the animals they're used on, that they're present in the food, and pose a risk to human health.

These false accusations have now made their way to some state legislatures resulting in bill proposals that would require labeling on food items from animals treated with mRNA vaccines.

It is of utmost importance that we, as producers and industry stakeholders, become well educated on the topic to debunk these myths surrounding the use of vaccines.

Please visit our website to get the full story and information: www.wppa.org/livestock-and-mrna-vaccines/.

Enroll Today in Key Pork Producer Programs

1. U.S. Swine Health Improvement Program (SHIP)

US SHIP aims to establish a similar platform for safeguarding, improving, and representing the health status of swine across participating farm sites, supply chains, states, and regions. Such a working system is needed to support the current and future health assurance needs of the 21st century US pork industry.

The US SHIP certification aims to mitigate risks of disease introduction and provide a practical means for demonstrating evidence of freedom of disease (outside of foreign animal disease control areas) in support of ongoing interstate commerce and a pathway towards the resumption of international trade over the course of a trade impacting disease response and recovery period.

WPA highly encourages **all producers to enroll** each of their farms in the SHIP program. For more information and to enroll, visit www.wppa.org or call the state office.



2. Secure Pork Supply Plan (SPS)

If foot and mouth disease (FMD), classical swine fever (CSF), or African swine fever (ASF) is found in United States livestock, Regulatory Officials will limit the movement of animals and animal products to try and control the spread of these very contagious animal diseases.

FMD, CSF, and ASF are not public health or food safety concerns. Meat will still be safe to eat.

The Secure Pork Supply (SPS) Continuity of Business Plan provides opportunities to voluntarily prepare before an outbreak. This will better position pork premises with animals that have no evidence of infection to:

- Limit exposure of their animals through enhanced biosecurity,
- Move animals to processing or another pork production premises under a movement permit issued by Regulatory Officials, and
- Maintain business continuity for the swine industry, including producers, haulers, and packers during an FMD, CSF, and ASF outbreak.

Visit www.securepork.org to access valuable resources such as a biosecurity checklist, farm signage, training videos, and more!



3. Pork Cares Farm Impact Report Program

The Pork Cares Farm Impact Report program is providing pork producers with sustainability reports of their operations and creating a national sustainability report for the swine industry. Sustainability is a big topic across the agricultural industry, and pork producers have the chance to document their sustainability through the Pork Cares Farm Impact Report program by the Pork Checkoff.

The program helps producers collect data from their operations and create a sustainability report specifically for them. Upon completion, producers will get a fairly simple, easy to understand, two-page report that they can share with anybody. The reports show the conservation practices on the operation, manure application and savings, soil conditioning index, environmental outcomes, management practice impacts and erosion average. The reports also include a Sustainable Continuous Improvement Plan, that recommends ways for the producer to improve their operation's sustainability.

For more information or to get started, contact WPA at wppa@wppa.org or call the office at 608-723-7551.



Helping You Understand the Commitment of Modern Pig Farmers



Food Safety →

Providing safe, nutritious food is our most important responsibility. Food safety is top of mind in everything we do on the farm.



Animal Well-being →

Pig farmers are committed to animal well-being. Safe food begins with healthy, safe animals and the best possible care.



Our People →

Effective employee education and training are crucial in creating a safe, ethical workplace.



Public Health →

Pig Farmers use rigorously tested technologies to ensure that pork is high quality and safe.



Environment →

Over the past six decades, pig farming has significantly reduced its environmental impact.



Our Community →

As good neighbors and responsible citizens, pig farmers are dedicated to giving back and making our communities even stronger.



As the #1 Farm Insurer in Wisconsin, we understand your farm is more than your business, it's your way of life. We offer a range of coverage to protect what you work hard for.

**TOGETHER WE KEEP
WISCONSIN STRONG**



Visit RuralMutual.com to request a quote and reach out to your local agent.



Wisconsin Pork Association

P.O. Box 327

Lancaster, WI 53813

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Permit No. 91

Calendar of Events

May

- 16- Swine Health Committee Meeting- 3-5 p.m. – Zoom
- 31- Youth Committee Meeting- 11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Zoom
- 31- Memorial Day - WPA Office Closed

June

- 7-9- World Pork Expo- Des Moines, IA
- 13- Producer Outreach Meeting- 10 a.m.-Noon - Location TBA
- 13- Board of Directors Meeting- Noon-3 p.m. - Location TBA
- 21- Pork Quality Seminar- 9 a.m.- UW-Madison Meat Science and Animal Biologics Discovery Building
- 21- Rock Co. Pork Chop Dinner -Fairgrounds, Janesville- 4-8 p.m.

July

- 4- Fourth of July Holiday- WPA Office Closed
- 18-20- Wisconsin Farm Technology Days- 9 a.m.-4 p.m.-Baraboo

August

- 3-13- Wisconsin State Fair- West Allis, WI
- 15- Swine Reproduction Seminar- Time & Location TBA
- 16- Southeast Regional Meeting- 6:30-8:30 p.m.- Location TBA
- 17- Northeast Regional Meeting- 6:30-8:30 p.m.- Location TBA
- 22- Southwest Regional Meeting- 6:30-8:30 p.m.- Location TBA
- 23- Northwest Regional Meeting- 6:30-8:30 p.m.- Location TBA

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