

WPA Speaker Biographies

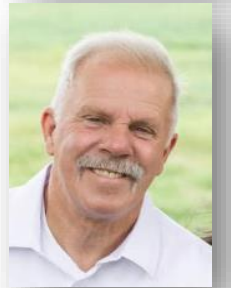
Chase Adams serves as the Senior Director of Congressional Relations for the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC). In his role, Chase works closely with all NPPC issue managers to ensure maximum success of NPPC initiatives and its advocacy agenda on Capitol Hill. He also spends time creating and maintaining relationships with members of Congress to advance the pork industry priorities. Chase joined NPPC with over a decade of agriculture policy experience. He also worked at Adams Law, Prof LLC where he served as a staff attorney. Originally from South Dakota, Adams attended Black Hills State University with a B.A. in political science and graduated with a J.D. from the University of South Dakota, where he remains an active member of the State Bar.



Nic Rue is a Vice President of Swine Lending at Compeer Financial. Prior to joining Compeer, Nic led a team that financed large agriculture business producers and broader capital markets with a focus on pork production and processing. He has been with our team since 2021 and with the Farm Credit System since 2004. Since working with the Farm Credit system, Nic has held various positions throughout his career which include sales, credit, and audit. Nic earned his bachelor's degree in Agricultural Business from UW- River Falls and is also a graduate of the Pacific Coast Graduate School of Banking. Nic and his wife Carrie have 4 kids and reside on a farm in southwest Wisconsin.



Mike Berget is the owner of Berget Farms and Silver Creek Family Farms located in southwest Wisconsin. Berget Farms is a row crop operation that has a 1,500 head commercial sow division, trucking business and grain operation. Mike is a forward-thinker who always strives to improve the family operation. He has been highly proactive in establishing sustainability programs, biosecurity protocols, promoting animal husbandry, efficiency, and creating a welcoming family-oriented atmosphere for their employees at the farm. Berget Farms utilizes manure as an organic fertilizer source and practices several different production techniques to ensure the longevity and health of their animals, soil, land, and air.



Dr. Cesar Corzo is an Associate Professor and the Allen D. Leman Chair in Swine Health and Productivity at the University of Minnesota, College of Veterinary Medicine. He has over 20 years of experience working in the swine industry. His research focuses on understanding the epidemiological features of swine infectious diseases to develop methodologies to prevent, control and ultimately eliminate pathogens from pig populations. His research involves understanding factors related to the occurrence of PRRSv, PEDv, and Senecavirus. He leads the Morrison Swine Health Monitoring Project (MSHMP), a project funded by the Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) that monitors high impact diseases and develops tools for FAD preparedness.



Harold Lee is a Production Specialist for Great Plains Management, a Division of Hueber, LLC. He lives in LaMars, IA, with his wife, Tammy, and three children. He is the author of "A Diary of a PEDv Outbreak," published in National Hog Farmer in February 2014. He has done consulting work for the Agriculture and Horticulture Development Board (AHDB) in the U.K. along with U.S. swine genetic companies. He is recipient of the 2014 Iowa Master Pork Producer award. Harold has been a member of the Great Plains Management team since August of 2015 and has 30+ years of experience in the swine industry. Harold conducts biosecurity training and audits as part of his duties as well.



Holly Cook is the National Pork Producers Council's Staff Economist and is responsible for providing economic support to NPPC staff. She collects and analyzes data related to hog prices, production, profitability, inventories, pork price spreads, national employment, food prices, and exports. Cook also conducts economic research related to the impacts of proposed policies and regulations on the pork industry and develops resources for staff and stakeholders. Cook has extensive knowledge of the agriculture industry from growing up on a farrow to finish swine operation in Winthrop, Iowa. Cook holds a Master of Science in agriculture economics from Iowa State University.



Luke Wall is a Regional Director of Producer Services for the National Pork Producers Council, serving Illinois, Missouri, and Wisconsin. Working directly with pork producers, Wall seeks to increase awareness of NPPC programs and current policy priorities within the pork industry. He also represents NPPC at various producer functions. Before joining NPPC in March 2023, Wall worked as a Regional Account Manager for Zoetis focusing on swine health. He received a B.A. in Agriculture Science from Western Illinois University. Growing up in Henry County, Illinois, the "Hog Capital of the World," Wall has been involved in agriculture his entire life. He continues to raise livestock on the family farm with his wife and two daughters.



Courtney Knupp is the Vice President of international market development for the National Pork Board. In her role, Courtney's focus is to establish pork as the global protein of choice through marketing and promotion. She collaborates with the U.S. Meat Export Federation and the National Pork Producers Council to research and develop new markets and expand the customer base for U.S. pork.

