

PORK Headlines

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Wisconsin State Fair Pork Schoppe Fast Approaching

The Wisconsin State Fair will be held from August 1st—August 11th, 2024. Make sure to stop by the Pork Schoppe between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m. each day to get a delicious butterfly pork chop sandwich, pork burger, or a pork chop on a stick! As one of our largest events of the year, the Pork Schoppe offers a great opportunity for us to engage with consumers, promote pork, and showcase our producers and industry. We hope to see you there!



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25th Annual Pork Classic Golf Outing Big Success

On Friday, June 21st, WPA members and supporters gathered at the Lake Wisconsin Country Club for the 25th annual Pork Classic Golf Outing in Prairie du Sac, WI. We had great weather, a large turnout, and a fun time was had by all!

The race for first place came down a tie breaker and was ultimately won by People's State Bank. Members of that team were Tom Vondrum, Duane Rogers, Rick Benson, and Brad Schneider (pictured middle left). In a close second place was the Swinging Sausages which included team members Caleb Priske, Tommy Schutz, John Sebert, and Cory Fitzgerald (pictured bottom left). After golf, we had a reception with awards, delicious appetizers, 50/50 raffle, door prizes, a live auction, and celebrated WPA President, Christina Meylor's birthday.

We are so thankful to all of our sponsors and participants for helping to make this event possible. Proceeds generated from this event will be used for industry issues and programming for our producers. Thank you to our generous sponsors: Wolf L&G Farms, Roth Feeder Pig, National Pork Producers Council, Premier Co-op, Compeer Financial, Minitube USA, Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation, National Pork Board, Vita Plus, Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Assn., GenePro, Inc., The Meat Schoppe, Johnsonville, Badger's Best, Zoetis, The Welch Group, Hanor, and Heinold.

Thank you to Morgan Hart, Bailey Fritsch, the Meylor Family, the Worek Family, Lake Wisconsin Country Club, and Emma Wedig for donating to the live auction. Thank you to our live auction buyers Christina Meylor, Jim Quackenbush, Mike Berget, Brad Schneider, Fred Gay, Jamie Yeager, Joe Bradford, Tom Vondrum, Hut Amand, and Tommy Schutz. We thank the staff at the golf course for their hospitality and support.



Summer Intern Update

Hi, I am Victorria Meylor, the summer intern for WPA. I started on June 3rd and have had a busy schedule thus far. I got to attend the World Pork Expo and compete in the Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet. This was a great opportunity to dive in and learn about important policy issues. Expo overall was a great networking and educational event. Next, I attended the Beer, Bacon, and Cheese Fest in New Glarus and had fun networking and promoting pork. I also attended the WPA board meeting at Johnsonville and participated in the tour of the plant. Additionally, I attended an animal mortality workshop which was very insightful. Finally, I helped organize the annual golf outing which was a fun event that gave me the chance to meet fellow producers and industry members. Upcoming events I am looking forward to are NPIC, a leadership conference, and our inaugural Young Leaders' Program.

I enjoy being involved in WPA and love the pork industry. I want to be able to meet as many producers as possible, so for my special project I will be interviewing producers and compiling content into a video that celebrates and highlights Wisconsin's pig farmers in addition to creating education and promotion materials for state fair and more. If you see me at any of the events please come introduce yourself!



NPPC Continues to Work Towards Solutions for Farm Labor

As rural populations continue to decline in rural America, labor issues have become a hurdle for the agriculture industry. With many rural counties losing population to urban centers, the number of available workers for agricultural jobs has also declined. As an answer to the dwindling number of available workers, agriculture has turned to immigrant farm workers to provide the labor force necessary. However, there are many legal matters that complicate the employment process for both workers and employers, namely in the form of visa related issues.

The H-2A visa program is a seasonal program, so it is not available to our industry. NPPC is working towards reforming this program to make it available year round. The TN visas are another program that is designed to increase the available workforce. Producers have been pushing for this reform because of the lack of access of a workforce in the rural areas.

The process of this reform can be tedious, but NPPC is continuing to work to find solutions. The political discussion of immigration can slow this process, but NPPC have had positive engagements in the white house. It is important to share your personal story with lawmakers about positive impacts of H-2A visa workers to help them understand that these workers are not part of the large immigration issue.

Farm Bill Progress Being Made...Slowly but Surely

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) is pleased to announce the U.S. House Agriculture Committee has passed their 2024 Farm Bill, which supported all of producers' farm bill requests, including a federal fix to the host of Prop. 12 issues plaguing producers and consumers.

"The 2024 Farm Bill is a golden opportunity to address a top issue for pork producers across the country – California Prop. 12 – and I'm pleased to see the U.S. House Agriculture Committee seize the opportunity to stop a potential 50-state patchwork of differing on-farm regulations," said NPPC President Lori Stevermer, a pork producer from Easton, MN.

"At a time when bipartisanship is often a four-letter word in Washington, we applaud the House Agriculture Committee for working together to deliver a farm bill that validates America's pork producers' needs." The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) also supports the 2024 Farm Bill framework introduced by U.S. Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR).

"On behalf of America's 60,000+ pork producers, we thank Ranking Member Boozman for a farm bill framework that listens to, and answers producers' calls for foreign animal disease prevention resources, market access expansion, relief from burdensome multi-state regulations, and more," said NPPC President Lori Stevermer, a pork producer from Easton, MN, "After a successful markup of the House Agriculture Committee's Farm Bill, we urge swift action by Chairwoman Stabenow and Ranking Member Boozman to protect producers from a patchwork of regulations across 50 states and provide certainty to the food supply chain." (NPPC)



WPA Board Tours Johnsonville

WPA Board members were given the opportunity to tour the Johnsonville processing plant in Watertown, WI, for their board meeting in June. It was a very informative tour and a great learning opportunity for our Board. We thank Matt Crimmins and Felipe Vasquez for their generosity and for taking time out of their busy schedules to host us. We are proud to have a company like Johnsonville in our state and are grateful for their continued support and partnership of WPA.



Register Today for WPA Young Leaders' Program July 16, 2024

The Wisconsin Pork Association is excited to announce a new opportunity for youth ages 13-18 as of January 1, 2024, who are interested in agriculture, specifically the swine industry- the WPA Young Leaders' Program. This one-day event will take place on July 16th, 2024, at the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Pioneer Farm.

This program is designed for young people who want to better understand Wisconsin's pork industry and expand their network of agricultural professionals in the state. Participants will grow their knowledge of pork production, diverse career opportunities, agricultural advocacy, professionalism and more.

Participants will have a full day of experiences that will position them for career and personal success. They will have the opportunity to collaborate with other young swine and agriculture enthusiasts, tour the UW- Platteville Swine Learning Center, partake in culinary activities, network with industry professionals to explore career opportunities, become familiar with offerings and experiences that our Wisconsin universities and technical schools have to offer, as well as participate in unique recreational experiences.

WPA is dedicated to exposing young people to career and education opportunities to set them up for career success. Keri Retallick, WPA's Executive Vice President stated, "WPA's mission is to promote and protect our industry to ensure its success now and in the future. When our youth committee came up with this idea, we were ecstatic. What better way to serve our purpose than by developing talented, passionate young people who will be the industry's future leaders. We feel that we have organized a robust program and are excited to engage with young people while showcasing all that Wisconsin's agriculture and swine industry has to offer them."

For more information and to register for the Young Leaders' Program, email wppa@wppa.org, or call the WPA office at 608-723-7551. visit the WPA website at www.wppa.org/youth/young-leaders-program. Registration is \$10 per person.



Mark Your Calendars Swine Reproduction Workshop July 23rd, 2024

Join WPA and UW-Extension for a Swine Reproduction Seminar on July 23rd, 2024, at Minitube USA's headquarters in Verona, WI. Attendees will gain valuable hands-on experience and education surrounding the reproductive cycle of swine including semen storage and handling, demonstration of artificial insemination techniques, demonstration of collection method, and any other reproduction highlights. Additionally, there will be training on nutrition and health management, and a discussion about biosecurity and UW SHIP enrollment. This event will begin at noon with lunch, then attendees will tour the Minitube facility beginning at 1:00 p.m. Following the tour there will be demonstrations and other reproduction information presented and the workshop will wrap up by 4:00 p.m.



Catastrophic Animal Mortality Planning Workshops

The Division of Animal Health at DATCP will be conducting two more regional workshops on Catastrophic Animal Mortality Planning. The purpose of these workshops is to provide producers practical tips and information on planning for unexpected mass mortalities of their livestock or poultry whether by foreign animal disease, tornado, building collapse, etc.

While the focus of the classes is on larger producers, particularly those classified as CAFOs, smaller and medium sized producers are also welcome. Dairy, beef, swine, sheep, goat, and poultry are welcome. Each session is approximately four hours in length and will be held from 10:00 am to 2:00 p.m. each day. Remaining dates and locations include:

August 13, 2024 – Green Bay (STEM Building at UW GB)

August 14, 2024 – Eau Claire (Extension Building)

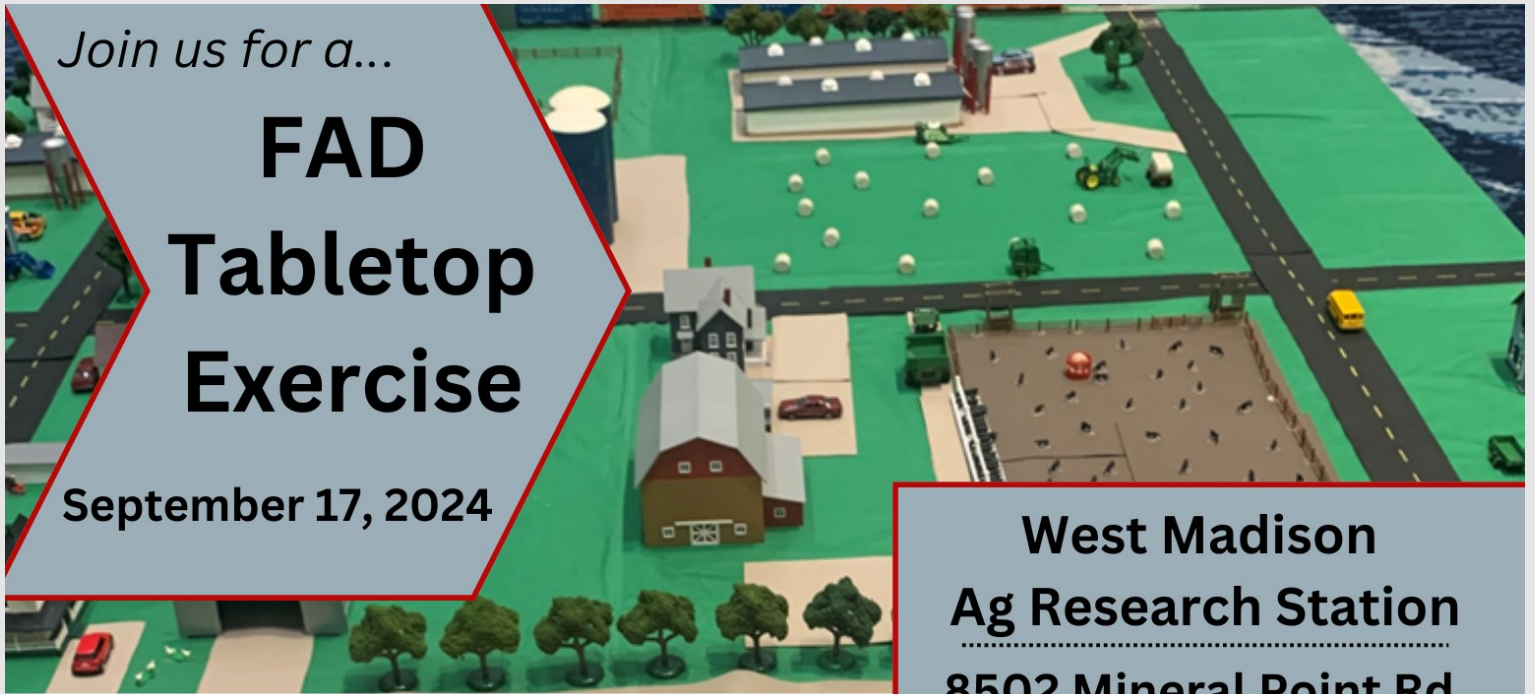
To register, email kurte.grajkowski@wisconsin.gov or call 608-640-7556.



Join us for a...

FAD Tabletop Exercise

September 17, 2024



**West Madison
Ag Research Station**
.....
**8502 Mineral Point Rd.
Verona, WI 53593**

September 17, 2024

Why You Should Attend

- + Understand how an outbreak affects both the commercial and show pig industries
- + Pigs don't move if a foreign animal disease occurs. Learn vital steps to protect and prepare swine producers.
- + Learn your role in helping keep ASF out and your pigs safe.
- + You are a crucial part in getting the swine industry back to business if ASF strikes. Prepare now.

**Free to
attend!**

Agenda

- 8:30 a.m. Registration
- 9:00 a.m. Classroom session
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch (Provided)
- 1:00 p.m. Tabletop Exercise
- 4:00 p.m. Finish

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Register

 www.wppa.org/farmers/tabletop-exercise

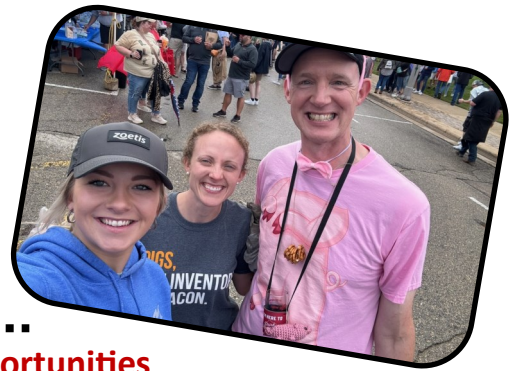
 608-723-7551

 wppa@wppa.org

**Register by
Sept. 10**

New Glarus Beer, Bacon, and Cheese Fest

WPA attended the annual Beer, Bacon and Cheese Fest which took place on June 8th in New Glarus, WI. This popular event attracts over 2,000 people from across the Midwest. WPA handed out a variety of snack stick samples which had guests begging for more! As you can see by the photo, we weren't the only ones who loves pigs! Events like these are a great opportunity to promote our products and industry and network with consumers!



World Pork Expo Attendees Gain Valuable Insight and Opportunities

WPA members made the trip down to Des Moines, Iowa, to attend the World Pork Expo June 5-6th. They took full advantage of all the networking and educational opportunities available to them. Additionally, Victorria Meylor competed in the first Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet, hosted by NPPC. This event gave young people the opportunity to discuss hot industry topics and develop proposed solutions and action items for NPPC to consider. Furthermore, members attended seminars hosted by both National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council to hear about their current focuses and work. One highlight was the Beagle Brigade demonstrations put on by the U.S. Customs and Border Control which showcased the work being done to protect the U.S. from foreign animal disease. Overall, it was a great week full of fun and education, and we are already looking forward to next year.



Northcentral Technical College Announces Pasture to Plate Butchery Program

Northcentral Technical College (NTC) proudly announces the grand opening of its innovative, fully farm-integrated Pasture to Plate butchery program, positioning NTC and Wausau to educate the next generation of meat processors for the State. This new program, complete with a 1,300 square foot 'cold lab', underscores NTC's commitment to providing cutting-edge training that meets the evolving needs of the agricultural and culinary industries.

The Pasture to Plate Certificate is designed to equip students with comprehensive knowledge and hands-on experience in every aspect of the meat production process, from sourcing livestock to humane harvest to preparing cuts for consumption to retail sales. Through a combination of classroom instruction, practical training and field experiences, students will gain proficiency in humane handling and slaughter under inspection, meat processing, sausage making, HACCP principles and butcher shop marketing and management skills.

Applications are currently being accepted for the Pasture to Plate Butchery Certificate for the upcoming academic year. Tuition may be partially or fully reimbursed by State grants. For more information or to apply, visit their website at www.ntc.edu/academics-training/programs/all/certificate/pasture-plate-butchery.

Silver Creek Family Farm Featured in “SwineWeb” for Robot Investment

In the world of hog farming, efficiency and a positive working environment aren't just goals; they're necessities. At Silver Creek Farms in Darlington, Wisconsin, the challenges of power washing a sow barn while juggling other tasks are well understood. In June, they were highlighted in SwineWeb for their investment in a power washing robot. Power washing has always been a dreaded task on the farm. When they discovered Washpower, they knew it was the solution they had been searching for.



Jefferson County Day on the Farm

Hosted by Kutz Family Dairy, the Jefferson County Day on the Farm took place on May 1st and was a great event. Around 1,000 fourth grade students, parents and chaperones got the opportunity to learn about different commodities and areas of agriculture. Wisconsin Pork Association was present to teach about the swine industry and the benefits of pork for nutrition. The kids were also very excited to get to see live pigs!

2024 National Pork Industry Conference

The National Pork Industry Conference is a three day event at the Kalahari Resort in the Wisconsin Dells. More than 900 attendees will have the opportunity to network with participants representing production systems in North America. These covers topics in management, nutrition, health, finance, human resources, and more. Furthermore, NPIC will be showcasing over 25 highly qualified speakers to bring their expertise to the mainstage and over 10 different breakout sessions. For more information and register at www.porkconference.com

Thank You 2024 WPA Sponsors!

- | | |
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SAVE THE DATE:

- Young Leaders' Program July 16
- Reproduction Workshop July 23
- Tabletop Exercise September 17

Calendar of Events

July

- 4- Independence Day- WPA Office Closed
- 7-10- National Pork Industry Conference- Wisconsin Dells, WI
- 16- Young Leaders' Program- Platteville, WI
- 17- Board of Directors meeting on Zoom
- 23- Reproduction Workshop- Minitube USA - Verona, WI

August

- 1-11 State Fair- West Allis, WI
- 13-15 Farm Technology Days- Cadott, WI

September

- 2- Labor Day- Office is Closed
- 3-5- SHIP House of Delegates Meeting- Bloomington, MN
- 17- Tabletop Exercise- West Madison Ag Research Center- Verona, WI



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