



Pork Headlines

July/August 2015

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Make Plans to Visit the Pork Schoppe

The WPA Pork Schoppe will be open for business again during the Wisconsin State Fair, August 6-16. You can find the Pork Schoppe on the Northeast end of the Wisconsin Products Pavilion, on the corner of Grandstand Avenue and Third Street. Look for the big white tent, our pork truck, and, of course, the delicious smells from our grill!

The Pork Schoppe is a food stand where we sell our original butterfly pork chop sandwiches, pork burgers, a pork chop on a stick, and other items to people attending the fair. The Pork Schoppe serves as a fundraiser for WPA and volunteer groups help run the stand. If you are interested in volunteering or have other questions about the Pork Schoppe, contact the WPA office at 608-723-7551.



Photo: John Hart, AP

Biennial Budget Complete

By Jordan Lamb, DeWitt Ross & Stevens

On Sunday, July 12, Governor Walker signed the 2015-17 biennial budget bill into law. The bill contains a number of provisions that are critical for Wisconsin farmers. The following provides a summary of some of the issues more important for Wisconsin agriculture.

- DATCP Board and DNR Board Preserved. The budget bill that was initially proposed by Governor Walker proposed the elimination of the citizen-member DATCP Board and citizen-member DNR Board, replacing them with advisory councils. The Legislature deleted this provision from the budget. Accordingly, both the DATCP Board and the DNR Board continue as citizen boards.
- Livestock Premises Registration Program Funded. The budget bill continues to fund the Livestock

Premises Registration program at the Wisconsin Livestock Identification Consortium (WLIC) with \$250,000 annually. However, the bill does eliminate the one vacant position at DATCP that had existed should that position need to be utilized for this program. (Note: The DATCP position has not been used for this program in the past, as all operations to-date have been conducted by WLIC.)

- Veterinary Examining Board (VEB) Moves to DATCP. The VEB will move from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) to DATCP. DATCP already houses the State Veterinarian and the Division of Animal Health.
- Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab Stays at UW-Madison. As proposed, the Governor's budget would have moved the Wisconsin Veterinary Diagnostic Lab (WVDL) from UW-Madison to DATCP. However, in the final budget, the WVDL will remain attached to the University of Wisconsin.

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Albers Wins Swine Production - Entrepreneurship Award

Sally Albers of the Sauk Prairie FFA Chapter was named the 2015 winner of the State FFA Swine Production-Entrepreneurship Proficiency Award. This award recognizes the student who best demonstrates an understanding of the swine production industry as well as marketing.

Each year, Albers purchases about six pigs and raises them to market weight. She's discovered the best ways to market her pigs are by showing them at the Sauk County Fair and contacting family and friends. Each year Sally tries to reach out to new buyers to expand her client base and advertise her business. She's also learned how to maintain her pigs' health by monitoring them daily.

Sally performs daily checks on her pigs to look for changes in their breathing, coloring, mobility, and energy levels. Because of her dedication and continued passion Sally has grown her SAE into a successful business.

Ten state finalists in this award area received cash awards made possible by state-level sponsorship from the Wisconsin Pork Association. Other finalists were: Cassy Bonnin, Bonduel; Joseph Bradley, Randolph Cambria-Friesland; Jim Buttles, Glenwood City; Alex Hurtz, Cashton; Natalie Siedschlag, Watertown; Ashley Wery, Southern Door; Austin Hovarter, Waupaca; Katie Fitzsimmons, Mineral Point; Niklaus Marx, Sauk Prairie.

Clothier to be Inducted into Hall of Fame

Bill Clothier of Clinton will be inducted into the Wisconsin State Fair Hall of Fame on Friday, August 7 at 12:30 pm in the Swine Barn at the Wisconsin State Fair.

Each year, Wisconsin Pork Association recognizes an outstanding individual who has demonstrated a long time commitment to the Wisconsin State Fair open or junior shows and to developing a quality breeding program by inducting them into the Hall of Fame.

Past recipients of the award are: John Wollin; James Walsh; Lyle Nelson; Don Lang; Gerald McElroy; Earl Skalitzky; Grenview Farms; LaVern & Marilyn Weller; Schuster Brothers; Ralph Wilson; James Furlong Jr.; William Schomberg; Mike & Donna Lindow; Wayne Fowler; George Holst; Francis Fahey; David Gill; Gary Brewer; Paul George; Erv Nuttleman; Roger Guse; and Dennis Jeffers.



Albers, center, poses with 2014-2015 Wisconsin FFA Vice-President Hallie Kopczynski and WPA staff Mandy Masters. Albers also served on the 2014-2015 State FFA officer team and was selected to be the 2015-2016 Wisconsin FFA president.

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Wehler Honored for Contributions to Pork Industry

The Wisconsin Pork Association recently held a reception honoring Mike Wehler and the contributions he made to Wisconsin Pork Association as Executive Vice President. Wehler was also presented with Wisconsin Pork Association's Agri-Communicator Award.

Mike has been on the WPA staff since 2005 and recently retired in December 2014.

Over those years, he has shared his depth of knowledge on a vast number of state and federal regulatory and legislative issues. From the Wisconsin state budget, to rule making through DNR and DATCP, his voice has carried through to protect the state's pork producers. He has continued to strengthen the relationship WPA has with the departments of agriculture and natural resources, and university and extension systems, in many cases helping



them better understand hog farming practices. He also played a key role in Wisconsin's ag coalition, working with the other ag groups to find common ground and to strengthen agriculture's voice in state issues.

Mike has also continued to provide leadership to a number of state and national organizations. He has served on the US Pork Center of

Excellence board of directors, and was a key individual in getting the USPCE formed. He's been engaged on sustainability issues for agriculture,

including serving on the producer board for the National Institute for Sustainability in Agriculture, and helping to get livestock representation in the conversation. He has also been involved in forming the Wisconsin Animal Agriculture Sustainability Initiative. Finally, he serves on the Discovery

Farms steering committee.

Mike helped to lead the Wisconsin Pork Association through a long range plan, which continues to have impacts today. The goal of the board was to establish the framework for re-growth of Wisconsin's pork industry, and there is ongoing interest in expansion projects in the state.

Prior to his joining the WPA staff, Mike had dedicated his skills to both state and national pork organizations as a producer leader. He served as both the president of the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board, and was inducted into the Pork Industry Hall of Fame in 2004. It was under his leadership that the Pork Quality Assurance program was established. Of great significance to the national organization's future viability was action initiated, under Wehler's leadership, to establish a long-range funding plan so that NPPC could more effectively address both checkoff and public policy issues.

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OBAMA SIGNS TPA; NPPC URGES FINALIZATION OF TPP

Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) recently passed in the Senate, and was signed by President Obama. The legislation grants the president authority to enter and finalize free trade agreements. TPA defines objectives and priorities for trade agreements the United States negotiates and establishes consultation and notification requirements for the president to follow throughout the negotiation process. Once trade negotiators finalize a deal, Congress gets to review it and vote – without amendments – yes or no on it. NPPC is now calling on U.S. trade negotiators to conclude the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), an Asia-Pacific regional trade deal. The TPP, which includes the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries and on which negotiations are nearing conclusion, would generate 10,000 U.S. jobs tied to pork exports, according to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes. The U.S. pork industry would see exponential growth in exports to the TPP countries. NPPC was instrumental in the passage of TPA, leading the agricultural industry's efforts on it.

SENATE AG COMMITTEE HOLDS HEARING ON 'COOL,' TRADE RETALIATION

The Senate Agriculture Committee recently held a hearing on the U.S. Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) law and efforts to avoid trade retaliation from Canada and Mexico, which object to the meat labeling provisions of the statute. Canada and Mexico asked the World Trade Organization (WTO) to authorize about \$3.2

billion a year in retaliatory tariffs against U.S. goods exported to their countries, following the international trade body's recent ruling that COOL discriminates against their livestock. In written testimony submitted to the committee, NPPC said, "Because the damage [from retaliation] to U.S. exports will be multiplied across the economy, the economic effect will greatly exceed whatever retaliation is ultimately authorized by the WTO and will hurt many Americans who had nothing to do with implementing the COOL law." The organization is urging the Senate to follow the lead of the House by repealing the COOL labeling provisions for beef, chicken and pork. The lower chamber June 10 approved repeal legislation on a 300-131 vote.

NEW GUIDANCE WILL HELP EXPORTS

The United Nations' food-safety standard-setting body recently finalized global guidelines that provide a way for countries to define negligible risk for trichinae and establish methods for monitoring risk over time. NPPC and the National Pork Board provided scientific input on the international guidance, which will help increase U.S. pork exports by hundreds of millions of dollars annually. A number of countries require testing for trichinae as a precondition to accepting exports of fresh chilled U.S. pork despite the fact that the United States is at negligible risk for the parasite. Trichinae is nearly non-existent in the U.S. pork supply because of increased knowledge of risk factors, adoption of controlled management practices and thorough biosecurity protocols, but many U.S. trading partners still have



concerns over trichinae because of its prevalence in their domestic swine herds, which can result in severe human health issues. Dr. Ray Gamble, past president of the International Commission on Trichinellosis, has estimated the prevalence of trichinae in the U.S. commercial swine herd at 1-in-300 million, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes the U.S. commercial herd as low risk. The guidance approved by the Codex commission allows countries to establish a negligible risk "compartment," which must include controlled management conditions for swine herds, ongoing verification of the status of the compartment and a response plan for deviations from negligible risk status.

MIDWEST STATES VOTE TO INVESTIGATE HSUS FUND-RAISING TACTICS

The Midwest Legislative Conference of the Council of State Governments this week approved a resolution encouraging the attorneys general of its 11 states to investigate the fundraising activities of the Humane Society of the United States (HSUS). The conference passed the resolution at its annual meeting, noting that the animal-rights group's materials are "full of dogs and cats, giving the impression that this is the primary focus of HSUS; however, only 1 percent of the money raised by HSUS is given to pet shelters (according to its tax returns) and HSUS runs no pet shelters and

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SIP Updates

Continued from page 4

according to the HSUS President, only 20 percent of the organization's budget goes to companion animal issues ...”

SIP

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.

Biennial Budget

Continued from front

- UW Discovery Farms Preserved. The Legislature voted to retain the program and funding for UW Discovery Farms. This program will continue its on-farm research that is critical to assist farmers in meeting water quality goals.

- Farmer-Led Watershed Grant Program Created. The Governor's proposed budget created a new farmer-led watershed grant program at DATCP. This program is designed to enhance nonpoint source pollution abatement by funding projects developed by farmers. The program is funded at \$250,000 annually but requires matching funds provided by grant recipients and also caps the maximum fiscal year grant award at \$20,000 per recipient.

- Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program (ACCP) Fund Transferred. The 2015-17 biennial budget contained a transfer of \$2 million from the ACCP Fund to fund

county conservation staff. These funds were generated by fertilizer tonnage and pesticide registration fees.

- Manufacturing and Agriculture Income Tax Credit Implementation Slowed. The implementation of the MAC credit is slightly delayed. The bill reduces the MAC percentage from 5.526% to 5.025% for tax year 2015, but retains the full implementation of the credit at 7.5% for tax year 2016. The credit was reduced in order to pay for numerous other tax changes including the increase in the marriage credit and the federalization of the alternative minimum tax.

In addition, the 2015-17 biennial budget provided a significant cut in funding to the University of Wisconsin System. Overall, the 2015-17 biennial budget reduced state funding to the UW System by about \$250 million. The Legislature also froze tuition for two more years. The effect of these cuts on the agricultural colleges is yet to be determined.

Finally, the Legislature struggled to come to agreement on funding transportation projects in this budget bill. The final budget did not contain any significant revenue increases to the transportation fund, including no increases to either the gas tax or registration fees. The bill authorizes \$850,213,600 in transportation revenue bonds to fund road projects. This is a decrease in the proposed bonding authorization. Accordingly, funding for the north leg of the Zoo Interchange project was deleted along with several other highway projects and several major highway projects have been delayed for two years.

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We CareSM Trailer Visits New Glarus



The National Pork Board's We CareSM Trailer stopped in New Glarus on Saturday, June 13 for the annual Beer, Bacon, and Cheese Festival. The event drew over 2500 attendees who were able to sample grilled pork loin, receive pork

recipes and valuable coupons, and visit with Wisconsin pig farmers. Above, WPA President Mike Beisbier and member Larry Eakins take a break from serving pork loin samples and smile for the camera.

Pork Classic Golf Outing

The 16th annual Pork Classic golf outing will be held Wednesday, September 2 at Christmas Mountain Village near Wisconsin Dells.

The Pork Classic is planned by WPA for the purpose of allowing industry professionals to network and raise funds to support advocacy and legislative activities on behalf of the Wisconsin pork industry.

Four-person teams may register or individuals may sign up and we'll put together a team for you. Registration includes 18 holes golf, cart, promotional gift, light lunch, reception and dinner, along with hole, team, and door prizes. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Please refer to the registration form on page 7 for more info or call the WPA office at 608-723-7551 with questions.

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Pork Classic Registration Form

Registration due by **August 14th** unless otherwise noted.

Sponsor Registration

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UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST

- 6-16 ~ Wisconsin State Fair, Pork Schoppe Food Stand
- 18 ~ WPA Board of Directors Conference Call
- 25-27 ~ Farm Technology Days, Sun Prairie

SEPTEMBER

- 2 ~ Pork Classic Golf Outing, Wisconsin Dells
- 7 ~ Labor Day, WPA Office Closed
- 9 ~ WPA Board of Directors Meeting
- 15-17 ~ Fall Legislative Action Conference, Washington D.C.

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