



MI PORK SAMPLER

4-H Alumni, Raise Your Hands!

Are you a 4-H alumni? Do you know someone who is?

This spring, Michigan Pork Producers Association is asking its members to raise their hand in support of one of its long-time partners: MSU Extension and their youth development program, Michigan 4-H. This key program provides kids with the opportunity to learn by doing, grow from failure and develop the skills they need to handle whatever life throws their way. No one knows this better than 4-H friends and alumni who have experienced these programs firsthand, and that is why we are asking these alums to join in Raising Your Hand for 4-H and registering as 4-H alumni.

By raising your hand for 4-H, you'll be paying it forward to the next generation of 4-H'ers and helping to bring the same opportunities you enjoyed to additional kids in our state. Now through June 30, every alumni hand raised will count as a vote for their state with cash prizes of \$20,000, \$10,000 and \$5,000 available to the top three states. In addition to helping Michigan 4-H win a cash prize to support their programming, your registration will also connect you with the National and Michigan 4-H alumni communities where you will receive valuable information about upcoming events, programs and other opportunities.

With long-standing connections to our agricultural community, there are no doubt many 4-H alums throughout the Michigan Pork Industry. However, the opportunity to support Michigan 4-H is not limited only to past 4-H'ers: 4-H parents, volunteers and other supporters can also raise their hand for 4-H to show their 4-H pride! We hope you will join in empowering kids across Michigan by raising your hand for 4-H and providing youth with 4-H hands-on learning that teaches them responsibility, compassion, respect and the value of hard work. Together we can grow the next generation of true leaders! **Visit 4-h.org/raise-your-hand/**



Public Notice by MPPA and the National Pork Board

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2018 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday, June 14, 2017 in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of Michigan Pork Producers Association in the GreenStone Farm Credit Services Building at 3515 West Road, Room 112, East Lansing, MI 48823. All Michigan pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted. For more information, contact Michigan Pork Producers Association, 3515 West Road, Suite B, East Lansing, MI 48823, 517-853-3782.



Capital Update

USDA URGING FARMERS TO PARTICIPATE IN 2017 AGRICULTURE CENSUS

America's farmers and ranchers soon will be able to take part in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census is a complete count of all U.S. farms, ranches, and those who operate them. It will be mailed at the end of this year. The census highlights land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. Producers who are new to farming or did not receive a Census of Agriculture in 2012 still have time to sign up to receive the 2017 census report form by clicking here before the end of June. NASS defines a farm as any place from which \$1,000 or more of agricultural products were produced and sold, or normally would have been sold, during the census year. For more information about the 2017 Census of Agriculture and to see how census data are used, visit www.agcensus.usda.gov or call (800) 727-9540.

'GIPSA' RULE AGAIN DELAYED; NPPC TO URGE REGULATION'S WITHDRAW

The Trump administration recently further delayed the effective date of a regulation related to the buying and selling of livestock, a move applauded by NPPC, which opposes the Obama-era rule. The so-called Farmer Fair Practices Rules, written by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), includes two proposed regulations and an interim final rule, the latter of which now is set to become effective Oct. 19. Originally, it would have been implemented Feb. 21, but President Trump – just days into his presidency – extended the public comment deadline on the Farmer Fair Practices Rules and delayed the interim final rule's effective date to April 22. That now has been pushed back by 180 days. USDA also proposed a new rule to determine the fate

of the interim final rule, setting a 60-day comment period – from April 12 to June 12 – on whether to further delay or withdraw it. The interim final rule would broaden the scope of the Packers and Stockyards Act (PSA) of 1921 related to using “unfair, unjustly discriminatory or deceptive practices” and to giving “undue or unreasonable preferences or advantages.” Specifically, the regulation would deem such actions per se violations of federal law even if they didn't harm competition or cause competitive injury, prerequisites for winning PSA cases. USDA in 2010 proposed several PSA provisions – collectively known as the GIPSA Rule – that Congress mandated in the 2008 Farm Bill; eliminating the need to prove a competitive injury to win a PSA lawsuit was not one of them. In fact, Congress rejected such a “no competitive injury” provision during debate on the Farm Bill. Additionally, eight federal appeals courts have held that harm to competition must be an element of a PSA case. NPPC has argued that the interim final rule would prompt an explosion in PSA lawsuits by turning every contract dispute into a federal case subject to triple damages and that the inevitable costs associated with that legal uncertainty could lead to further vertical integration of the pork industry, driving packers to own more of their own hogs. An Informa Economics study found that the GIPSA Rule today would cost the U.S. pork industry \$420 million annually – more than \$4 per hog – with most of the costs related to PSA lawsuits brought under the “no competitive injury” provision included in the interim final rule. NPPC will be asking pork producers to submit comments to USDA, urging it to withdraw the interim final rule.

FDA EXTENDS COMMENT PERIOD FOR GENE EDITING REGULATION

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration this week extended the industry comment period for regulations it is considering for gene editing of farm animals. The comment deadline was extended from April 19 to June 19, 2017.



Pork Checkoff

Meet the 2017 Pig Farmers of Tomorrow

Few people who meet Kyle Coble forget him. After all, how many people introduce themselves as a personal dietitian for pigs?

“I look for outreach possibilities every day,” said Coble, senior manager of production strategies and swine nutritionist for New Fashion Pork, Inc. in Jackson, Minnesota. “I travel quite a bit and striking up a conversation at airports or on a hotel shuttle can be quite effective.”

Turning his job description into a conversation starter fits Coble’s new role as one of the Pork Checkoff’s 2017 Pig Farmers of Tomorrow. This award recognizes three future farm leaders, ages 18-29, who intend to make pig farming their life’s work and who are committed to raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles.

Joining Coble are Idaho’s Logan Thornton and Minnesota’s Maddie Schafer. The winners will speak at Pork Checkoff events and provide content on #RealPigFarming, which is the pork industry’s social media program.

“A key Checkoff responsibility is to train and motivate future pork industry leaders,” said National Pork Board President Jan Archer, Goldsboro, North Carolina. “This award recognizes and inspires young people who are investing time and energy into responsible pig farming.”

Coble Shares Science

Coble has studied the nutritional and management needs of pigs for more than 10 years.

“I tell consumers how science and innovation keep America’s pork industry firing on all cylinders, from the



nutritional needs of pigs to better ways to protect their health,” Coble said.

“Trust but verify” is part of this, he said. Auditors visit each New Fashion Pork grow/finish site, as well as sow farms, once each quarter to assess the implementation of the company’s standard operating procedures and protocols.

“We trust that our producers and employees are doing the right thing, but we verify that the process is done correctly,” Coble said.

While Coble shares these stories through scientific publications, such as the Journal of Animal Science and ag media, he looks forward to connecting with consumers as a Pig Farmer of Tomorrow.

“I’m excited to introduce the public to different types of pig farmers,” said Coble. “For instance, I use math and statistics every day to help our team decide which production practices help us provide safe, wholesome and affordable protein.”

Pig Farmer of Tomorrow Maddie Schafer: Schafer Finds Common Ground with Consumers

How can pig farmers connect with non-farm audiences? Schafer, who is the seventh generation of her family to farm near Goodhue, Minnesota, takes every opportunity to start conversations about farming and food, including posting on social media, visiting elementary school classrooms or conversing one-on-one.



“These connections help dispel misconceptions about our farming practices,” said Schafer, who is excited to make new connections as a Pig Farmer of Tomorrow. “I want to show how much my family cares about raising healthy pigs and supplying healthy food so consumers can raise healthy families.”

The Schafers operate a 1,600-sow unit, a 600-sow unit

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and seven replacement gilt development barns. Animal care is the We Care ethical principle that means the most to Schafer.

“It doesn’t matter how well we do all of the other things if we don’t first take care of the animals,” said Schafer, whose family works closely with veterinarians to ensure proper animal care. “We must begin with good people and train them to make sound decisions about animal care.”

She added, “As farmers, we aren’t working for the weekend, because the pigs still need to be taken care of when the weekend comes around. We never stop looking for ways to continuously improve our farm and animal care.”

Pig Farmer of Tomorrow Logan Thornton: Thornton Raises Next Generation on the Farm

The ever-evolving nature of pig farming appeals to Thornton, who runs a farrow-to-finish farm near Kuna, Idaho.

“Raising pigs is all I have ever thought about doing,” said Thornton, who markets 3,000 pigs per year. “Growing up on the farm molded me into who I am, and I’m thankful every day for the opportunity to raise my kids the same way.”

The Thorntons have a farrowing/nursery barn and use hoop barns to finish pigs and for sow gestation. Showing daily life on the farm via Facebook and Twitter helps Thornton build trust with consumers.

“My family and I care for each pig individually,” Thornton said. “Raising healthy pigs is important to us.”

Through social media, Thornton talks about various aspects of the farm, including show pigs, Berkshires, commercial crossbreds, feed sales and breeding stock. He also shares about the family’s feed mill, including how grain is procured and how custom batches are mixed for pigs’ needs.

“It’s important to show consumers that we take pride in providing safe, high-quality food,” Thornton said. “It’s exciting to team with the other winners to show the dedicated, young presence that will keep the pork industry strong for years to come.”

