



MI PORK SAMPLER

Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship deadline May 31

Since 2000, the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund (MYLSF) has awarded more than \$360,000 in scholarships and educational awards to outstanding youth who have exhibited at the premier livestock events in the state of Michigan.

To be eligible for either the Michigan Youth Livestock Scholarship Fund general scholarship or the statewide scholarship, the applicant must be a resident of Michigan and a graduating high school senior or a high school graduate continuing their education at an accredited institution in the year in which they are applying.

For the general MYLSF scholarship, the applicant must be a youth exhibitor at the Michigan Livestock Expo, the Michigan Dairy Expo or the former Michigan State Fair, for a minimum of three calendar years prior to the year of application. For the statewide scholarship, an applicant must be a youth exhibitor at a local, county, or statewide exhibition for a minimum of three years prior to the year of application.

Specific proceeds from the Michigan Livestock Expo Sale-Abration auction as well as charitable donations help fund the scholarships. The fund is governed by an 10-member board comprised of volunteers from Michigan's agricultural community, with the corpus of the fund held at the Battle Creek Community Foundation.

Applications and qualification requirements for the MYLSF and the statewide scholarship can be obtained at www.michigan.gov/mda-mylsf. Applications must be postmarked no later than May 31, 2015. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Haarer, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development's Producer Security Section Manager, at 517-284-5642 or Ernie Birchmeier, Michigan Farm Bureau's Livestock & Dairy Specialist, at 517-323-7000.

Free Post-mortem Exams Offered at MSU

The Michigan State University Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health (DCPAH) is offering gross post-mortem examinations free of charge for Michigan pork producers. Up to 30 gross post-mortems will be done at no cost to producers on a first-come, first-served basis. Please call the lab at (517) 353-1683 to check availability and make arrangements before bringing in an animal. Animals should be delivered to DCPAH at 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI, 48910.

MPPA website takes on fresh look



Michigan Pork Producers Association launched a new look for our website in April with an updated layout and a mobile-friendly design. The website will offer visitors updated information and an easy way to navigate through information. Check us out at www.mipork.org.



NPPC Welcomes Legislation to Renew TPA

NPPC welcomed the recent introduction of bipartisan legislation granting the president trade promotion authority (TPA) and urged its quick approval by Congress. TPA will help finalize free trade agreements that boost U.S. exports and create U.S. jobs. Sens. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, and Ron Wyden, D-Ore., chairman and ranking member, respectively, of the Finance Committee, introduced the TPA legislation, which defines U.S. negotiating objectives and priorities for trade agreements and establishes consultation and notification requirements for the president to follow throughout the negotiation process. [A House bill is expected to be introduced soon.] Once trade negotiators finalize a deal, Congress gets to review it and vote yes or no – without amendments – on it. Congress has granted TPA to every president since 1974, with the most recent law being approved in August 2002 and expiring June 30, 2007. The main reason TPA is needed now is for concluding the Trans-Pacific Partnership negotiations among the United States and 11 Pacific Rim countries. That deal would be the most significant commercial opportunity ever for U.S. pork producers, generating more than 10,000 pork industry jobs.



FSIS to Begin Pork Plant Sampling

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Food Safety Inspection Service (FSIS) announced recently that inspectors soon will begin sampling pork for Salmonella as part of the nationwide raw pork products exploratory sampling project (RPPEESP). Plants that produce raw pork products with an average daily production volume of greater than 1,000 lbs. will be eligible to participate in the project.

Environmental Groups File Suit to Enforce Reporting Rule on Famers

NPPC is reviewing a lawsuit filed this week by a coalition of environmental groups against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for not enforcing on agricultural operations the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The law requires businesses that use and release hazardous and toxic chemicals to report them so the information can be used by state and local governments and first responders in any emergency at the facilities. Until 2009, the EPCRA did not apply to most farming operations. Earthjustice filed the suit on behalf of the Center for Food Safety, Environmental Integrity Project, Humane Society of the United States, Sierra Club and Waterkeeper Alliance. It asks the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit in Washington, D.C., to re-open a 2008 case the groups filed to force EPA to apply EPCRA to large livestock operations. In 2006, nearly 1,900 pork producers and other livestock and poultry farmers entered into a series of legally binding consent agreements with EPA, settling what the agency believed were issues with air emissions associated with livestock production. Part of the agreements was a study of emissions from farms. Purdue University conducted the study and gave the data to EPA, which has been reviewing it and working to develop a tool producers can use to estimate air emissions. That process was impeded by the same activist groups when they opposed efforts by the livestock industry to help set up a science advisor panel of experts in animal systems to assist with EPA’s effort. The agency’s existing science advisory board issued findings on the emissions data in 2013, and EPA is expected to release its conclusions by the end of the year.



Pork Checkoff

Search Begins for America's Pig Farmer of the Year

America's Pig Farmer of the Year award program, is accepting applications from now until May 17 at americaspigfarmer.com. The award honors the U.S. pork producer who best excels at raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles and wants to share how he or she does that with the public.

"This new award brings to life the National Pork Board's new strategic plan by building consumer trust through on-farm transparency and accountability," said Brad Greenway, National Pork Board vice president and pig farmer from Mitchell, S.D. "The ideal candidate will have a focus on environmental sustainability, as well as animal welfare, production efficiency, the adoption of best practices and a commitment to continuous improvement."

Objective, third-party judges, including Iowa farmer and celebrity Chris Soules (The Bachelor, Dancing with the Stars), will help determine the final award recipient, with the winner announced during National Pork Month in October. The public will also have an opportunity to vote on the winning pig farmer through the Pork Checkoff's social media outlets. In September, short video clips of the finalists will be displayed at americaspigfarmer.com, where people can vote for their favorite farmer.

For more information, visit americaspigfarmer.com or the link on pork.org.

NPB Embraces Steps to Curb Antibiotic Resistance

The National Pork Board applauds the White House action plan for combatting antibiotic-resistant bacteria. The Pork Checkoff, which is funded directly by America's 62,000 pig farmers, could expand its existing research to address this growing consumer issue if the additional commitment of \$1.2 billion is realized.

"Our industry pledges to go above and beyond

simply complying with federal guidance," said Chris Hodges, chief executive officer of the National Pork Board. "The Pork Checkoff has deployed millions of producer dollars to fund antimicrobial research for well over a decade and, as noted in the White House statement, is one of the leading agricultural organizations to lead research efforts. Any additional dollars earmarked for research could serve to address the risk posed to animal and human health by antibiotic resistant bacteria."

The U.S. pork industry has previously funded studies conducted in support of the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring System (NARMS) – a collaborative effort focused on improving animal and public health. Previous NARMS research has studied the epidemiology of antimicrobial resistance. Minimizing resistance is a long-standing priority of the Checkoff's producer, public health and workplace safety programs.

Additionally, the Pork Quality Assurance[®] Plus (PQA Plus[®]) program conducts on-farm assessments and provides guidance on best practices. PQA Plus participation includes mandatory veterinary oversight and compliance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requirements to maintain current medical records on the farm.

The National Pork Board also shares its information and research with U.S. retailers and foodservice companies. Through this collaboration, the Checkoff underscores the safeguards already in place for antibiotic use in pork production and helps prepare these companies to provide information to inquiring consumers.

Responsible antibiotic use – as demonstrated by a farmer working with a swine veterinarian – combined with proper diet and nutrition, access to fresh water, vaccinations, barn sanitation and biosecurity, all serve to protect pig health and promote food safety.

"We have always been focused on improving pork's safety, quality and nutritional value," Hodges said. "Keeping pigs healthy is an important facet of our work and an area where both consumers and pork producers can agree."

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In this issue:

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gets fresh look

NPB searches for National
Pig Farmer of the year

New hire at MPPA

Introducing Emily Walker as Program Director at Michigan Pork Producers Association



Hello Michigan Pork Producers! My name is Emily Walker and I am excited to announce that I was recently hired as the Program Director at Michigan Pork Producers Association.

As Program Director, I will be responsible for educational programs such as PQA Plus as well as using MPPA's online presence to communicate with both producers and consumers. I am excited to continue learning about the pork industry and to be available as a resource for farmers and the public.

My love for animals and passion for agriculture began when I was very young. I grew up on a family hobby farm in West Branch, Mich. where I raised livestock ranging from goats to pigs to beef and was involved in 4-H and FFA. I served as the Michigan FFA State Vice President while attending Michigan State University. I received a degree in Environmental Studies and Agriscience with a concentration in communications.

After college, I worked as a journalist for a weekly newspaper where I was able to share my agricultural interests with the community. I look forward to continuing to share my passion for agriculture with the pork industry and agriculturalists across the state of Michigan.

If you have any questions or anything I can help with, please contact me at walker@mipork.org or 517-853-3782.