

# MI Pork Sampler

February 2013



## Statewide Meeting's Theme Announced: New Pork Products, From Farmers, For Consumers

The challenge to produce pork products which satisfy the increasingly diverse consumer continues. Farmers play an important role in meeting this challenge, along with packers, processors, retailers and restaurateurs.

At the 2013 Statewide Pork Information Meetings, hosted by the Michigan Pork Producers Association and Michigan State University Extension (MSUE), MSUE Specialists Sarah Wells, Dr. Jeannine Schwehofer, and Dr. Dale Rozeboom will be sharing information that will help producers know the value of different parts of a carcass. In addition, they will discuss the value of further processing, the importance of 'label recognition' (big/less common names), and the influence of different consumption preferences of different ethnic groups.

This presentation will also help farmers become more aware of how the characteristics of pork food products may be influenced, in part, by their farming practices.

### Statewide Meeting Schedule:

March 25<sup>th</sup> Dowagiac

26<sup>th</sup> Grand Rapids

27<sup>th</sup> Jackson

28<sup>th</sup> Bridgeport

**For further details look for a registration brochure coming to your mail soon!**

*The MI Pork Sampler is MPPA's new publication that will help you fill up on state and national pork news in between Michigan Pork helpings!*

### Using Monensin to Control Foam in Swine Manure Pits By: Jerry May and Dale Rozeboom, MSU Extension

Under slat manure foam in manure pits on swine farms is not a new phenomenon but has become an increasing issue and concern in recent years. University of Minnesota research in 2010 showed 25% of the swine barns in the Midwest exhibited at least some foam. The percent of swine barns in Michigan experiencing foam may be lower than other areas but it is becoming a significant problem.

Foam may take up to 3 to 4 feet of pit space and creates an animal and human hazard in the area above the slats. Manure foam contains up to 70% methane. If released in the air space above the slats the methane becomes a fire and explosion hazard. Since fall 2011 there have been at least four reported foam related barn fires in Michigan.

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(Above) Photo credit: D. Schmidt, UMN

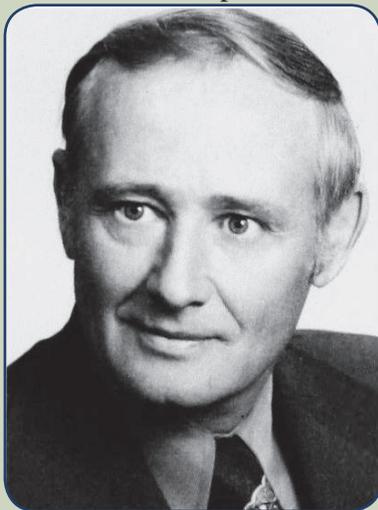
## NPPC Update...

### Farm Bill Extension Approved

As part of a large “fiscal cliff” deal, Congress approved an extension of the 2008 Farm Bill. In doing so, lawmakers averted a “dairy crisis” that would have doubled milk prices, sending them back to the terms of the 1949 Farm Bill. The nine-month extension will continue most farm programs, including funding for the Market Access Program (MAP) and Foreign Market Development (FMD) program, which help facilitate the sale of U.S. pork in international markets. Funding for MAP and FMD will be authorized at existing levels of \$200 million and \$34.5 million, respectively. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Frank Lucas, R-Okla., said he plans to begin markup of a new five-year Farm Bill in late February. In related news, Thad Cochran, R-Miss., will replace Pat Roberts, R-Kan., as the ranking member on the Senate Agriculture Committee. The Northern grower-favoring commodity title in the Senate’s version of the Farm Bill passed by that body last year is likely to change in the next Farm Bill given Cochran’s Southern allegiance. Roberts will move to the Senate Rules Committee as ranking member.

### Former NPPC President Passes Away

Former NPPC President John Soorholtz passed away on December 28<sup>th</sup>. A hog farmer from Melbourne, Iowa, Soorholtz also served as president of the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the Iowa Hampshire Association. He was the first chairman of the Iowa Beginning Family Farm Loan Program, a member of the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Advisory Committee and chairman of the Purebred Swine Council. Among his awards, Soorholtz was named Iowa Master Pork



*(Above) Former NPPC President John Soorholtz*

Producer in 1971 and received the National Hog Farmer award for outstanding work in the hog industry in 1977. As an Iowa state senator from 1983 to 1992, Soorholtz successfully managed a number of bills important to pork producers through the legislative process, including ones related to the Pork Check-Off, pseudorabies and the Iowa Beginning Family Farm Loan Program. In 2010 he was elected to NPPC’s Hall of Fame.

**Don’t forget to attend the 2013 Pork Conference on February 21<sup>st</sup>, visit [www.mipork.org](http://www.mipork.org) for details.**

### Russia Restricts U.S. Pork

In mid-December Russia announced that any meat containing the feed additive ractopamine will be at risk of destruction or re-export because it violates Custom Union (Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan) regulations. Russia will now require pork imports from the United States to show documentation that the pork does not contain ractopamine residues. The U.S. Department of Agriculture, however, does not have a testing and certification program in place to detect ractopamine residues in pork or beef because the feed additive has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration as a safe product. Ractopamine improves the feed efficiency, growth rate and lean carcass percentage of live hogs and cattle. Earlier this year, the U.N.’s Codex Alimentarius, which sets international standards for food safety, approved a maximum residue limit (MRL) for ractopamine, which U.S. pork meets. Only 41 percent of U.S. pork plants are currently eligible to export to Russia because of the imposition of non-science-based trade barriers such as zero tolerance on pathogens in raw products, a standard no country in the world can meet. A ractopamine ban would further disrupt U.S. pork sales to Russia

## Checkoff News...

### Checkoff Offers Tools to Help Producers if a Crisis or Emergency Hits

The Pork Checkoff recently introduced two new tools to help pork producers in the event of a crisis or emergency on their farm. The Farm-level Crisis Response Plan template and Emergency Action Plan, provide customizable, step-by-step guides to help producers be prepared and stay on track in their commitment to providing a safe, quality product.

"Whether you have a large or small farm, you can never be too prepared for a crisis or emergency," said Derrick Sleezer, a pork producer from Cherokee, Iowa, and member of the National Pork Board. "The two new Checkoff-funded tools allow producers to fill in the blanks and tailor each plan to his or her operation, providing a clear plan of action in an otherwise challenging time."

The Farm-Level Crisis Response Plan template provides a framework for evaluating the risk of on-farm crisis situations, identifying prevention measures and responding effectively should a crisis occur. The electronic planning tool outlines five crisis response steps, as well as how to assess the intensity level of a crisis.

The plan includes guidance in assembling, preparing and activating a crisis team; assessing areas of vulnerability; determining the most important communication audiences; capturing information needed to make timely, accurate decisions; and taking steps to control the situation using hour-by-hour checklists. The tool is designed for confidential use and is available through a downloadable version at [pork.org/farmlevelcrisisplan](http://pork.org/farmlevelcrisisplan) or on a cd through the Pork Service Center (800) 456-7675.

The Emergency Action Plan is a valuable tool to reduce the impact of an emergency on a producer's farm. The electronic tool provides an outline for producers to create a customized plan for their operation, including operation information, site contacts, a hazard plan and a maintenance/training calendar that can be customized for each farm site and hazard type. It is available at <http://eap.pork.org> as a download or on a cd through the Pork Service Center (800) 456-7675.

### New Booklet Summarizes Checkoff-funded Research Spanning Nine Years

The Pork Checkoff recently distributed the General Swine Disease & Foreign Animal Disease Research booklet to over 42,000 pork producers and allied industry members across the country. The 43-page booklet is intended to serve as an informational resource to producers, veterinarians and veterinary researchers about Checkoff-funded research conducted over nine years. The research focused on endemic (domestic) swine diseases and foreign animal diseases. You can view the web version of the booklet at [pork.org](http://pork.org).

### 2013 Environmental Steward Applications and Nominations Due March 31<sup>st</sup>

Each year, the pork industry honors pork operations for their outstanding environmental management by naming them Environmental Stewards. The recognition program helps foster greater public awareness and appreciation for pork producers' commitment to managing their pork operations in harmony with nature and their communities.

The program is open to pork producers with all types and sizes of operations who demonstrate their positive contribution to the environment. Producers can apply or be nominated by state pork producer groups, Extension agents, swine veterinarians and other industry representatives. The deadline for applications or nominations for the class of 2013 Environmental Stewards is March 31<sup>st</sup>. Contact Michigan Pork Producers Association for assistance or for more information.





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Producers across the Midwest are reporting good success controlling under slat manure foam using monensin. Monensin may be purchased as either Rumensin® 90 or Coban® 90. Both are over the counter Type A medications and may be purchased by producers without a license. Rumensin® 90 is labeled for improved feed efficiency and control of coccidiosis in beef and for improved feed efficiency in milking dairy cows and dry cows. Coban® 90 is labeled for the control of coccidiosis in non-laying chickens, turkeys and quail. Neither product is labeled as a pit additive.

When added directly into stored swine manure field evidence has shown 5 lbs. of Rumensin® 90 or Coban® 90 per 100,000 gallons of manure will control and reduce manure foam. Add the product through the slats at several locations over the pit. Producers have reported that when the dry product is added directly to the pit the light granules may be hanging up on the foam and not reaching the manure. Better success has been achieved by either mixing the product with water (it will not dissolve) or by pouring water over the area of the slats where the product was added to wash it down to the manure. Neither Rumensin® 90 or Coban® 90 are labeled to be fed to swine and at high levels may

be lethal to pigs. Use extreme caution to ensure all the product is cleaned from the slat surface and not consumed by pigs.

According to the Material Safety Data Sheet when handling these products wear protective clothing, impervious gloves and a dust mask. Immediately wash with soap and water after handling monensin products. If accidental eye contact occurs immediately rinse with water.

The University of Minnesota has conducted research on foaming pits. For more information on using monensin to treat foaming pits see their fact sheet “Recommendations for Actively Foaming Pits” at: [http://www.mnpork.com/FileLibrary/States/MN/MPB%20Research/2012/Adding\\_monensin\\_to\\_swine\\_deep\\_pit\\_%20foaming.pdf](http://www.mnpork.com/FileLibrary/States/MN/MPB%20Research/2012/Adding_monensin_to_swine_deep_pit_%20foaming.pdf). If you have questions about using monensin to control the foaming of manure pits in your swine operation, feel free to contact Jerry May (989/ 875-5233) or Dale Rozeboom (517/355-8398).

*Rumensin® 90 and Coban® 90 are products of Elanco Animal Health, Greenfield, IN*