



# MI PORK SAMPLER

## Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development Elects New Officers



*Bob Kennedy, Dru Montri and Fred Walcott have been elected as the officers for the 2016-2017 Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development.*

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development elected new officers for the 2016-2017 year during its regularly scheduled meeting held at Constitution Hall in downtown Lansing.

The new slate of officers is:

**Chair: Fred Walcott**

Walcott was appointed to the Commission on January 5, 2013 by Governor Rick Snyder and became chair on January 27, 2016. Walcott works alongside his parents and two sisters on their family farm - Valley View Pork, LLC - a 4,000 acre farm raising hogs, producing corn, wheat, and soybeans. Walcott also serves on the Michigan Pork Producers Association Board of Directors.

His term expires December 31, 2016.

**Vice Chair: Dru Montri**

Montri was appointed to the commission on January

30, 2014, by Governor Rick Snyder and became Vice Chair on January 27, 2016. Montri owns and operates Ten Hens Farm, a year-round farm in Bath. Montri is also committed to regional food system work. She has been the director of the Michigan Farmers Market Association since its inception in 2006.

**Secretary: Bob Kennedy**

Kennedy was appointed to the commission on January 11, 2011, by Governor Rick Snyder and became Secretary on January 27, 2016. Kennedy works for The Anderson's as their Area Manager. He also owns and lives on a small farm in Saginaw County with his wife and two children, and is an active hunter and fisherman.

"I appreciate the enthusiasm of these individuals to serve Michigan's growing food and agricultural community," said Jamie Clover Adams, director, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. "The state's food and agriculture economy is ripe with opportunity and the members of the Commission are partners in helping those opportunities bear fruit."

The Michigan Commission of Agriculture and Rural Development is a bipartisan board appointed by the Governor with the responsibility to recommend and, in some cases, determine, policy on food, agriculture, and rural development issues.

The Commission holds monthly meetings, with the exception of May and October, or as it deems necessary, and meetings are open to the public. Citizens and organizations wishing to observe or discuss matters under the Commission's jurisdiction are encouraged to attend.



### NPPC Urges Congress, Administration to Improve FMD Vaccine Bank

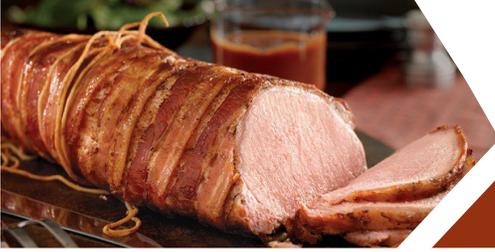
Citing the seriousness of the disease and the devastation it could cause the U.S. livestock industry, NPPC urged congressional lawmakers and the Obama administration to make dealing with an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) a priority. FMD, a foreign animal disease endemic in Africa, Asia, South America and the Middle East, can affect all cloven-hoofed animals, including pigs, cattle and sheep. While it rarely infects humans and isn't a food safety issue, an outbreak in North America, which currently is free of it, could negatively affect meat exports and domestic meat sales. NPPC immediate past president Dr. Howard Hill, a veterinarian and pork producer from Cambridge, Iowa, testified on the country's preparedness for an FMD outbreak before the House Committee on Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture. To deal with any foreign animal disease outbreak, the U.S. pork industry has been working with the U.S. Department of Agriculture on a "Secure Pork Supply" plan, which would enhance coordination and communication among producers and federal, state and local government officials, support continuity of operations for producers and accelerate disease response. Part of that response would be vaccinating susceptible animals. But, pointed out NPPC's Hill, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) currently doesn't have enough vaccine or the ability to obtain it to adequately deal with an FMD outbreak. He said improving the vaccine bank will require:

- Contracting with an offshore, vendor-maintained vaccine antigen bank that would have available antigen concentrate to protect against all 23 of the most common FMD types currently circulating in the world.
- Maintaining a vendor-managed inventory of 10 million doses of vaccine, which is the estimated need for the first two weeks of an outbreak.
- Contracting with an international manufacturer or manufacturers for the surge capacity to produce at least 40 million doses.

U.S. law prohibits live FMD virus from being on the U.S. mainland, so APHIS contracts with foreign vaccine production companies to produce finished vaccine from the antigen stored at Plum Island Animal Disease Center, off the coast of Long Island, N.Y. But only a limited number of FMD strains are covered by the antigen stored at Plum Island, and under current production contracts, only 2.5 million doses of vaccine could be produced within three weeks of an outbreak.

### COOL Repeal Rulemaking Now Under Review

The regulatory rulemaking for the removal of Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) requirements for beef and pork muscle cuts, ground beef and ground pork has been logged at the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for review. Congress in December approved a fiscal 2016 catch-all federal spending bill that included repeal of the meat labeling provision of the COOL law, avoiding trade retaliation from Canada and Mexico. OMB must review all regulations before they are implemented. The COOL statute required meat to be labeled with the country where the animal from which it was derived was born, raised and harvested. (It also applies to fish, shellfish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables and certain nuts.) Canada and Mexico brought cases against COOL to the World Trade Organization, which ruled that it violated U.S. international trade obligations, discriminating against Canadian and Mexican livestock sent to the United States to be fed out and processed. The decision authorized Canada and Mexico to put retaliatory tariffs on U.S. goods going to those countries – the No. 1 and No. 2 U.S. export markets. In December, the WTO set the retaliation level at more than \$1 billion annually. Repeal of the labeling provision for pork and beef came the day – Dec. 18 – those tariffs could have been applied to a host of U.S. exports going to Canada and Mexico. that should drive federal, institutional or consumer shifts away from meat as the major protein source in diets, and they do not include extraneous matters, such as requiring food producers to meet sustainability standards or taxing certain foods as a way to reduce their consumption.



## Pork Checkoff

### National Pork Industry Forum to Be Held March 3-5

Delegates from across the United States will gather in Indianapolis, March 3-5 for the annual National Pork Industry Forum.

The 15 producers who serve as members of the National Pork Board and Pork Checkoff staff leadership will hear directly from the forum delegates appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack. Each year the Pork Act Delegates confer, vote on resolutions and advisements and provide valuable direction on the important issues facing pork producers and the industry.

The theme for the annual pork forum – Inspiration Starts Here – is in reference to the passionate pork producers, savvy retailers and creative cooks who are all ready to share pork’s story of inspiration who have helped fuel the incredible demand that has been seen domestically and internationally for U.S. pork.

“As we continue our work on the 2020 strategic plan that is centered on the goals of building consumer trust, driving sustainable production and growing consumer demand, our work at Pork Forum has never been more important,” said Derrick Sleezer, president of the National Pork Board and a producer from Cherokee, Iowa. “Pork producers, processors, food service and retail leaders will need to work together to focus on elevating pork as the global protein of source by continuously and cooperatively working to do what’s right for people, pigs and the planet.”

In advance of the annual meeting, members of the National Pork Board also will convene their March board meeting. The agenda for that meeting will include updates on 2016 plans to enhance pork demand, increase market opportunities, improve pork production practices and invest in research priorities.

Included on the 2016 Pork Forum agenda will be opportunities for pork producers to become trained in the pork industry’s Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA Plus®) certification process, as well as learn more about pork industry programs.

The full agenda is available at [www.porkindustryforum.com](http://www.porkindustryforum.com). As the event draws near, the website will be updated with current information and links to the Pork Forum manual and videos of candidates nominated for industry positions.

Michigan’s delegates to the National Pork Board Delegate Meeting include: Erin Ehinger of Holland; Joel Phelps of Allendale; and Andy White of Jones. Michigan’s Delegate to the NPPC Delegate Meeting is Joel Phelps of Allendale. Dale Norton of Bronson, will also be attending as Immediate Past President of the National Pork Board.

### Stay up-to-date on the latest Seneca Valley Virus information

What do you need to know about Seneca Valley Virus (SVV)? SVV is not new to the United States, but due to limited cases in the past, most producers and even veterinarians are unfamiliar with the virus.

Most cases occur between spring and fall, but 2015 was an unusual year, with nearly 10-fold increase in reported cases. For perspective, so far in 2015, 20-30 cases of SVV have been confirmed across the U.S. The incidence is low but it is much higher than the 2 or 3 sporadic cases per year that is our historical experience.

The Swine Health Information Center is funding research and epi investigations to help us understand more about this virus and be better prepared and informed if we continue to see new cases.

Infected pigs develop blisters around the nose, mouth and hooves. Lameness is common, and general symptoms of illness, such as fever, lethargy and anorexia, may occur. The clinical signs are indistinguishable from foot-and-mouth disease virus, a trade-limiting disease of pigs, and the only way to tell them apart is through laboratory testing ordered by an animal health official.

To protect the pork industry, producers should always report cases of blisters in pigs to their herd veterinarian or directly to their state animal health official.

**For the latest information, go to [swinehealth.org/fact-sheets/](http://swinehealth.org/fact-sheets/).**

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Prepare for New  
Antibiotic Regulations

## Producers Urged to Take Action Now to Prepare for Antibiotic Changes Taking Effect January 2017

Animal health experts are urging producers to ensure that they're ready before the Food and Drug Administration's new antibiotic regulations taking effect January 1, 2017.

A veterinary feed directive (VFD) order is a written statement issued by a licensed veterinarian that gives producers permission to use feed that contains antibiotics, as it is written by the licensed veterinarian. A requirement of the new VFD policy is that a Veterinarian Client Patient Relationship (VCPR) must be in place.

"If they haven't already done so, producers should sit down with their veterinarians and determine what they need to do to comply with the VFD

and prescription requirement for water-based medications," said Jennifer Koeman, DVM, Pork Checkoff's director of producer and public health.

Recordkeeping of on-farm antibiotic use will be pivotal in the success of the new regulations, Koeman said. "It's a critical step, but one most producers should be familiar with thanks to their certification in the Pork Quality Assurance® Plus program, she said. "However, requirements, such as keeping original copies of VFDs for two years will be adjustments."

To help prepare for the upcoming changes, producers can visit the Antibiotics Resource Center at [pork.org/antibiotics](http://pork.org/antibiotics) for more information and resources about responsible antibiotic use on the farm.

**For more information about how the new Veterinary Feed Directive regulations will affect pork production in Michigan, producers, retailers, mill operators and veterinarians should visit the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development website at [www.michigan.gov/vfd](http://www.michigan.gov/vfd).**