

# MI Pork Sampler

January 2015



## Carla Wardin, Keynote Speaker at Michigan Pork and Poultry Symposium

The first Michigan Pork and Poultry Symposium is being held on February 19, 2015 at The Lansing Center in Lansing, Mich. The Symposium is a collaboration between Michigan Pork Producers Association, Michigan Allied Poultry Industry and Michigan State University Extension.

Presentations at the event will focus on “Pleasing our Customer,” helping producers gain knowledge that will assist them in providing a growing human population an environmentally-safe, socially-acceptable, low-cost source of meat. Please see pages 3 and 4 in for a full agenda and registration. Registration information is also located at [www.mipork.org](http://www.mipork.org).

Carla Wardin (*pictured right*), the keynote speaker for the Symposium luncheon, is a recent winner of the Faces of Farming and Ranching contest, a nationwide search launched to help put real faces on agriculture. Through Faces of Farming and Ranching, Carla will be an active participant in the national dialogue about food production. She will share her personal story and experiences through public appearances, events, media interviews and social media.

Carla and her husband Kris are the sole owners of Evergreen Dairy. She is the sixth generation to be farming on her family’s farm in St Johns, Mich. Carla and Kris recently expanded their herd and now milk 400 cows. They also grow crops to feed their cattle on 850 acres of corn, alfalfa, and pasture. Carla blogs about the farm at Truth or Dairy ([http://truthordairy.](http://truthordairy.blogspot.com/)

The MIPorkSampler helps you fill upon state and national pork news in between Michigan Pork helpings!



[truthordairy.blogspot.com/](http://truthordairy.blogspot.com/)), goes into the schools to teach about farming, and enjoys giving tours. Before returning to the farm, Carla got her MA from Michigan State University in English literature, taught at Bradley University and Northern Illinois University, and worked in marketing for Caterpillar and TechSmith Corporation. She’s the author of two books and the couple has three sons - 7-year-old twins and a 4-year-old.

You can learn more about Carla at her blog, on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/TruthOrDairy](http://www.facebook.com/TruthOrDairy) or follow her on Twitter at [@carlashelley](https://twitter.com/carlashelley).

# Announcement from the MSU Extension Pork Team..

## SowBridge and PorkBridge Program Registrations Now Open

By: Ron Bates, Michigan State University and Sherry Hoyer, Iowa State University

Registrations for two successful distance education programs for specific segments of the pork industry are now open at Iowa State University. SowBridge, for people who work with boars, sows and their litters, begins its seventh year, and PorkBridge, for those affiliated with grow-finish facilities, begins its ninth year, both in early February 2015.

Michigan State University (MSU) animal science professor and extension swine specialist Ron Bates said suggestions from subscribers help maintain the value of both programs for future participants.

“Each year we ask participants in both programs for suggestions on topics and speakers, and are happy to provide current content on topics that people are interested in,” Bates said.

“These programs provide our subscribers with the opportunity to hear directly from experts on topics of current interest, and to contact those experts following the individual sessions.” Ron Bates, who also is the Michigan contact for the programs, said the programs offer accurate and timely information on a variety of topics through a regular schedule. In addition, the registration fee has not increased for either program.

“SowBridge participants pay just \$250 for the twelve monthly sessions in that program, and PorkBridge costs \$125 for the six sessions held every other month for a year,” Bates said.



“And, for each program, entities with more than one location may pay lower fees for each subsequent registration from that same entity.”

Each registration provides access to one phone line per session and all program materials for each registration. Bates said materials, delivery process, and program costs are slightly different for those with non-U.S. mailing addresses, and encouraged potential subscribers from outside the U.S. to contact Sherry Hoyer at the Iowa Pork Industry Center (IPIC) by phone at 515-294-4496 or email [shoyer@iastate.edu](mailto:shoyer@iastate.edu) for more information.

Since the registration deadline was January 16, people may miss some of the live presentations depending on when they register. However, all registrants will have access to the internet based materials for all sessions, including audio download files. Before each session, subscribers will receive an email message with links to download the materials for that session. This is a change from delivery for past years.

“We’re trying to be more efficient with our resources and materials,” Bates said.

“Some survey participants told us they don’t want or need CDs, and we know that many computers no longer have CD drives. However, subscribers can still receive the CDs by marking that box on the registration form.”

Most participants will call a toll-free conference line to listen to and interact with presenters. SowBridge sessions are held on the first Wednesday of each month at 12:30 a.m. Eastern Time and lasts approximately 45 minutes. PorkBridge sessions generally are set for the first Thursday of every other month, beginning at noon Central Time and lasting for about 90 min.

The audio portion of all sessions for both programs is recorded and links to download those recordings are sent to all subscribers for that specific program after each session.

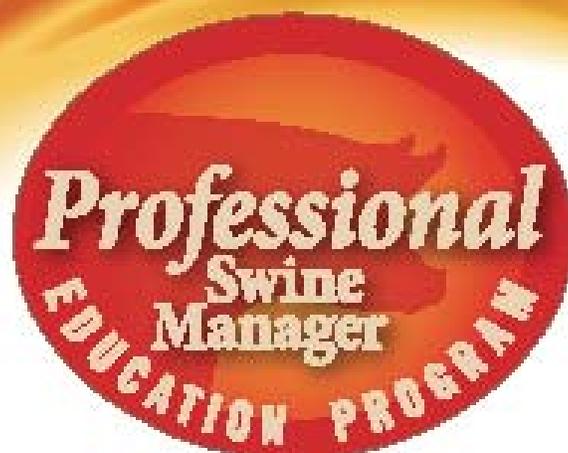
More information on SowBridge, including a link to the program brochure, is available on the IPIC website, <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/sowbridge.html>. The website also has a section for PorkBridge including that brochure, <http://www.ipic.iastate.edu/porkbridge.html>. People wanting more information on either program can call IPIC at 515-294-4496.

SowBridge is sponsored by a group of 11 state universities – including MSU – from the major swine producing states.





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