



MI PORK SAMPLER

4-H livestock and veterinary science workshops return in February

Don't let the winter weather keep you inside. Take advantage of the great educational learning opportunities offered through Michigan State University Extension and Michigan 4-H. If you are looking for a wonderful weekend of learning, we have just the opportunity for you. The 4-H Veterinary Science Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop and 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine Teen and Adult Leaders Workshop are back to back educational events held Feb. 19-21, 2016, at Kettunen Center in Tustin, Michigan.

The 2016 Veterinary Science Workshop will be held the evening of Friday, Feb. 19, beginning with interactive veterinary case studies led by MSU College of Veterinary Medicine students. Saturday breakout sessions feature 12 veterinarians and veterinary students on topics of biosecurity, emergency care, international studies, genetics, careers and much more. The workshop concludes at 4 p.m. Saturday with an "Ask the Veterinarian" question and answer session.

We are excited about the session offerings for this year's workshop, but hearing from attendees truly tells the story of how impactful the event is. A 2015 Van Buren County youth participant commented, "This 4-H workshop was extremely beneficial because I learned a lot about other opportunities in the veterinary science career field. This has been a very fun workshop and I am looking forward to coming back next year."

When the veterinary science workshop closes, the fun continues with a quick break for outdoor activities before the livestock workshop begins. The 2016 Beef, Sheep and Swine Workshop features engaging activities Saturday night, including a career panel lead by faculty from the Department of Animal Science. To keep momentum moving, Sunday kicks off with county exchange for the adult attendees and leadership development sessions for youth. The day continues with eight breakout sessions on topics of nutrition and feeding animals, marketing, management, animal selection and more.



These workshops are open to teen and adult leaders ages 13 (as of Jan. 1, 2016) and older. Choose which workshop or attend both to continue your science exploration as you are asking questions and discovering answers. You're sure to have a great learning experience while also meeting other youth and leaders with similar project interests. Whichever workshop you attend, you are guaranteed to depart the conference with new resources in hand and increased knowledge.

The cost to attend each workshop is \$58 for 4-H members and volunteers. This is a reduced rate thanks to the generosity of Greenstone Farm Credit Services and Michigan Pork Producers Association. Non-members and other interested adults are also invited to attend for a fee of \$105. Registration includes meals, lodging and resources. The deadline to register for this event is Feb. 7, 2016.

Plan on attending one or both of these great learning experiences! To register, please visit the 4-H Beef, Sheep and Swine and 4-H Veterinary Science registration page at events.anr.msu.edu/event.cfm?folder=4HBeefSheepSwineandVetScience.

This article was published by Michigan State University Extension.



House Votes to Block Wotus Rule

The House of Representatives recently voted to block the controversial Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule. House lawmakers approved on a 253-168 vote a joint resolution sponsored by Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, that overrules the Clean Water Act (CWA) regulation. The resolution passed the Senate in November by a vote of 53-44. The WOTUS regulation was proposed in April 2014 by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to clarify the agencies' authority under the CWA over various waters. That jurisdiction – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – included “navigable” waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters. The rule broadened that to include, among other water bodies, upstream waters and intermittent and ephemeral streams such as the kind farmers use for drainage and irrigation. It also encompassed lands adjacent to such waters. A federal appeals court temporarily halted implementation of the rule, which took effect Aug. 28, 2015. NPPC and other agricultural organizations in a lawsuit against the WOTUS rule filed in July alleged, among other things, that EPA engaged in an advocacy campaign during the comment period, a violation of the federal Administrative Procedures Act. A U.S. Government Accountability Office investigation determined that the EPA illegally spent taxpayer dollars on “propaganda” and “grassroots lobbying efforts” in an effort to build support for the rule. As expected, President Obama vetoed the resolution, January 19.

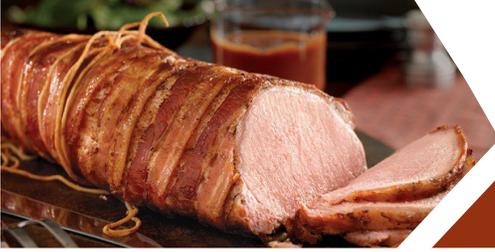
Chipotle's Own Stakeholders File Lawsuit

Chipotle, the fast-food firm that has been highly critical of modern agricultural production and that touts its “locally sourced” meat and produce, is subject to a lawsuit filed by its own shareholders. The shareholders allege in the suit, filed in Manhattan federal court, that Chipotle executives made false or misleading statements about the company's quality control operations and ability to

protect the public from food-borne illnesses. The suit seeks class action status. Chipotle's stock continues to plunge, with shares recently falling to a one-year low of \$413.29. The lawsuit comes on the heels of a federal criminal investigation filed Jan. 5 by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and a U.S. attorney in California over an August norovirus outbreak at a restaurant in Simi Valley, Calif. The restaurant chain also has been dealing since October with two multi-state E.coli outbreaks.

New Dietary Guidelines Keep Meat on the Plate, Focus on Diet, Nutrition

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services recently released the final 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans, and NPPC voiced support for them. A review of the guidelines shows they are narrowly focused on nutrition – much more so than previous iterations. The recommendation on consuming protein calls for “a variety of protein foods, including seafood, lean meats and poultry, eggs, legumes (beans and peas), and nuts, seeds, and soy products.” The Recommended Daily Allowances (RDAs) of various food groups are largely unchanged from the 2010 guidelines. The guidelines do recommend that less than 10 percent of daily calories come from saturated fat and call out meat, processed meat and meat dishes as major sources of saturated fat. But the guidelines indicate that sticking to the RDAs should meet the recommendation on saturated fat. The guidelines also note that people aren't getting enough potassium, calcium, vitamin D, iron and dietary fiber and single out meat as the best source of iron and pork as a source of vitamin D. The bottom line: Meat remains an important part of the American diet. The 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans do not contain any provisions 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

Pork Checkoff Opens Nominations for the 2016 America's Pig Farmer of the YearSM Award

The National Pork Board is accepting applications for its 2016 America's Pig Farmer of the YearSM award through March 13 at americaspigfarmer.com. The award recognizes a U.S. pork producer who demonstrates excellence in raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles and in sharing his or her story with the public.

Keith Schoettmer, a pig farmer from Indiana and the first America's Pig Farmer of the Year, has participated in several events since being named America's Pig Farmer of the Year in October. This has included taking part in a media tour in New York City and speaking at a congressional briefing in Washington, D.C., hosted by the American Humane Association.

Third-party judges again will help determine the final award recipient, with the winner announced during National Pork Month this October. The U.S. public also will play a role in the final outcome by viewing short video clips of the award finalists on their farms at americaspigfarmer.com and by voting for finalists through the Pork Checkoff's social media outlets.

"This award brings to life the National Pork Board's commitment to building consumer trust through on-farm transparency and accountability," said National Pork Board President Derrick Sleezer, who is a pig farmer from Cherokee, Iowa. "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. I encourage pork producers to consider nominating an outstanding candidate."

While nominations are being accepted now through March 13, any U.S. pig farmer, who is 30 years of age or older on Jan. 1, 2016, can apply Feb. 1 through March 13. Instructions and frequently asked questions can be found at americaspigfarmer.com or via a link on pork.org.

Pork Crisis Alert Text Service Announced

The National Pork Board introduced a pork industry crisis text news service, Pork Crisis Alert, which will immediately deliver essential information to U.S. pork producers in the event of a major industry-wide emergency.

"Every day, America's pork producers are busy on their farms and may not always have immediate access to information that could impact their operation," said Derrick Sleezer, National Pork Board president. "Disease outbreaks and other emergency situations can spread quickly, so America's pig farmers need a news service to notify them immediately and enable them to take early action to safeguard their farms."

When a pork industry-wide emergency is declared, Pork Crisis Alert will text instructions to farmers alerting them on how to access information and other critical resources online or by calling the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675. Pork Crisis Alert is just one element of the Pork Checkoff's overall risk management program, defined in the strategic plan introduced early in 2015.

Pork Crisis Alert texts will be used strictly in the event of a true industry-wide emergency and will never be used for activities unrelated to emergency communications. This database of subscribers will never be used for marketing or shared with any third parties. The system will also be tested twice each year to ensure operational accuracy for the pig farmers who enroll in the program.

"It's easy to sign up by texting 'PorkCrisis' to 97296," Sleezer said. "I encourage all pork producers and farm employees to opt-in to receive these important alerts. The program is like insurance in the sense that, while we hope we never need it, it is reassuring to have state-of-the-art communications resources at our fingertips."

The service is free of charge to all participants, however, message and data rates may apply, depending on the individual's personal or business cellular phone plan.

For more information about Pork Crisis Alerts, please call the Pork Checkoff Service Center, (800) 456-7675. Those who opt in may cancel at any time. For terms and privacy policies, visit www.pork.org/sms/terms.

Follow us on:



In this issue:

Livestock Workshops
Return in February

New Dietary Guidelines

Pork Crisis Text Service
Announced

You're Invited to the 2016
Pork Symposium

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Lansing, Mich.
Permit # 689

You're Invited!

We would like to remind you the 2016 Michigan Pork Symposium will be held Tuesday, February 23, 2016 at the Lansing Center in downtown Lansing!

This year's event will focus on educating pork producers about continued improvement in good pork production practices which are directed towards animal health and food safety.

The morning program also includes two presentations by MSU research groups having received funding by the Michigan Pork Producers Association. Enhancing the preparedness of the Michigan pork industry for a highly-consequential disease outbreak has been the objection of a secure pork supply planning project entitled "Michigan Pork Industry Awareness, Preparedness, Response and Recovery." Secondly, Dr. Melissa Millerick-May, Elizabeth Ferry, Dr. Madonna Benjamin and Gerald May will be presenting findings from their study of the "Aerosol Spread of PEDv during Manure Handling."

In the afternoon equally important information, coming from MSU researchers and educators, will be made available to attendees. In recent times, MSU has received excellent support for projects that have

resulted in practical implication for Michigan farmers and citizens. The afternoon session is planned to be like the old "Swine Day" program, with short presentations and posters featuring useful research results and ideas with farmers.

This year's event will highlight the most MSU research in a decade or two!

The symposium will also include a banquet luncheon and awards program. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., with the program beginning at 9:00 a.m. Activities should conclude around 4:00 p.m. All attendees are encouraged to attend the Taste of Elegance reception held following the symposium. Taste of Elegance features chefs from across the state competing for the best pork entree.

For more information about the agenda or registration for the symposium, please visit our website www.mipork.org under the "News and Events" tab. With questions, please call Michigan Pork Producers at 517-853-3782 or contact Dr. Dale Rozeboom at rozeboom@msu.edu or 517-355-8298.