



MI PORK SAMPLER

U.S. Pig Farmers Celebrate Progress on Antibiotic Stewardship

American pig farmers have a long history of doing what's best for their animals, their customers and their communities. This commitment matched nicely with the goals of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) annual celebration, Get Smart About Antibiotics Week (Nov. 14-20), and demonstrated why it's so critical to use antibiotics wisely to safeguard the health and well-being of people, animals and the environment.

"The Get Smart About Antibiotics Week is a good time to reflect on our long history of accomplishments in the antibiotics area, such as using these medications responsibly and embracing the updated Pork Quality AssuranceSM Plus certification program," said National Pork Board President Jan Archer, a pig farmer from North Carolina. "As pig farmers, we are aware of the challenge of antibiotic resistance and are dedicated to working hard to preserve the effectiveness of antibiotics, both on the farm and in human medicine."

According to the CDC, the 2016 Get Smart About Antibiotics Week marked an important year because Congress has allocated \$160 million in new funding for the agency to implement its activities listed in the National Action Plan for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria (CARB). The CDC is using this funding to accelerate outbreak detection and prevention, to support innovative research and to inform providers and the general public about antibiotic resistance and appropriate antibiotic use.

"The single most important action to slow the development and spread of antibiotic-resistant infections is for every one of us to improve the way antibiotics are prescribed and used," said Dr. Lauri Hicks, director for the CDC's Office of Antibiotic Stewardship. "If we don't take better care of the antibiotics we have today – if we aren't better stewards of them – we may lose these antibiotics and the next ones that come along."

The National Pork Board's three-point antibiotic stewardship plan focuses on promoting research, increasing pig farmer education and communicating with consumers in 2016 and beyond. The Antibiotic Resource Center, found at pork.org/antibiotics, is an example of efforts to assist farmers and others who want to learn more about responsible on-farm antibiotic use.

In another demonstration of its commitment to the complex issue of antibiotic resistance, the National Pork Board hosted a national dialogue earlier this year called Resistance: The Antibiotic Challenge. The Washington, D.C., event brought together key opinion leaders from human health, animal health, government, pharmaceutical, retail and consumer segments to discuss the challenge of responsible antibiotic use in the 21st century. Another joint dialog occurred recently in Denver when the National Pork Board and the American Public Health Association discussed the shared responsibility of reducing the need for antibiotics.

"We are always seeking ways to do what's right for our animals, our consumers and the environment," Archer said. "We are looking for new ways to reduce the overall need for antibiotics, but we need to retain them as essential tools for veterinarians who work hand-in-hand with farmers to raise healthy livestock and produce safe food."

Financially, the farmer-led board has invested more than \$6 million in Pork Checkoff funds in antibiotic-related research since 2000, with \$750,000 spent this year alone in five research priority areas specifically aimed at reducing antibiotic resistance and finding antibiotic alternatives.

"Real change is underway on pig farms across America, with farmers and their veterinarians shaping the discussion around responsible antibiotic use," Archer said. "As the FDA prepares to implement the new, more stringent rules, such as the upcoming ban on using medically important antibiotics for growth promotion in food animals, we'll be ready."



Capital Update

TPP Prospects Grim

Potential for passage of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) in the “lame duck” session of Congress all but came to a halt when Donald Trump was elected president of the United States in an upset over Hillary Clinton. Throughout his campaign, Trump has been an outspoken opponent of the 12-country deal, which includes the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam. “I think the TPP is dead, and there will be blood all over the floor if somebody tries to move that through the Congress anytime soon,” Trump confidant Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., echoed Sessions’ statement. “It’s certainly not going to get brought up this year,” he said. Still, there is hope for TPP in other parts of the world. Japan’s lower house of Parliament recently passed the TPP. Japan’s upper house has to give final approval, which could happen soon. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is scheduled to meet with Trump. President Obama will also be meeting with leaders from the 11 other TPP countries at the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Peru.

NPPC Asks Court to Throw Out ‘WOTUS’ Rule

NPPC joined dozens of other agricultural organizations, businesses and municipalities in asking a federal court to throw out a Clean Water Act rule that would give the government broad jurisdiction over land and water. The Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, which took effect Aug. 28, 2015, 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 over various waters. That jurisdiction – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – had included “navigable” waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters. But the regulation 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 covered lands adjacent to such waters. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit in Cincinnati

last October issued a stay on implementation of the regulation until disposition of numerous lawsuits against it. Those suits were consolidated in the 6th Circuit, where NPPC and the other groups now are arguing that: the agencies promulgated the WOTUS rule without following federal rulemaking procedures; the regulation is arbitrary and capricious or contrary to law; and the agencies exceeded their authority under the Clean Water Act and the U.S. Constitution. While it could be more than several months before the court renders a decision in the case, in issuing the stay last October, it found there was a substantial likelihood that in writing the WOTUS rule EPA and the Corps of Engineers failed to comply with the Supreme Court’s instructions in previous Clean Water Act cases and that the agencies’ actions in the rulemaking process were “facially suspect.” On the latter point, the groups in their brief to the court said EPA and the Corps of Engineers failed to reopen the public comment period after making fundamental changes to the proposed rule and withheld until after the comment period closed the scientific report on which the rule rested. The agencies also refused to conduct required economic and environmental analyses, engaged in a propaganda campaign to promote the rule and rebuke its critics and illegally lobbied against congressional efforts to stop implementation of the rule.

Pork Producer Named ‘Face of Farming’

U.S. Farmers and Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) recently announced Lauren Schwab, a pork producer from Ohio, as one of its “Face of Farming & Ranching” winners. Schwab, along with four others, will get the opportunity to share her personal farming story on a national stage with consumers, influencers and end users to help gain confidence in U.S. food and agriculture. Schwab is a week-one specialist and farrowing house manager on her family’s 1200-sow breed-to-wean pig farm. USFRA Chairman Brad Greenway congratulated the winners saying, “Agriculture today is driven by technology and an unparalleled commitment to animal care, and this group of exceptional farmers and ranchers are such an accurate portrayal of the entire agricultural community.”



Pork Checkoff

South Dakota Farmer Named America's Pig Farmer of the Year

The National Pork Board announced that Brad Greenway, a pig farmer from Mitchell, South Dakota, has been named the 2016 America's Pig Farmer of the YearSM by achieving the highest score from a third-party judging panel and online voting. The award recognizes a pig farmer who excels at raising pigs using the We CareSM ethical principles and who connects with today's consumers about how pork is produced.



"We are pleased to have Brad represent America's pig farmers. He embodies the very best in pig farming," said Jan Archer, National Pork Board president. "It's important that we share with today's consumers how we raise their food in an ethical and transparent way. Brad's interest in sharing his farm's story – and putting a face on today's pig farming – will help us reach this goal."

Greenway has focused on doing what's right for people, pigs and the planet on his family farm for the last 40 years. He and his wife, Peggy, own two wean-to-finish pig barns. They also raise beef cattle and grow corn, soybeans, wheat and alfalfa.

"I look forward to sharing my personal farm story with consumers to help them understand the care that goes into raising pigs today," said Greenway. "I am proud of my industry and the hard work my fellow farmers put into producing safe, high-quality food, and in caring for animals and the environment every day."

Greenway was named America's Pig Farmer of the Year following a third-party audit of on-farm practices and conducting a series of written and oral interviews by subject-matter experts. He has achieved excellence

in all aspects of pig farming, including animal care, environmental stewardship, employee work environment and outstanding community service.

To learn more about Greenway's farm and the America's Pig Farmer of the Year Award, visit www.americaspigfarmer.com.

Be Ready: Do a Test Run for the Upcoming Antibiotic Changes

This year, there's a new item to put on your fall preparation list – a review of your swine antibiotics use and a test run of acquiring a veterinary feed directive (VFD).

On Jan. 1, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will implement new regulations for antibiotic use on the farm. Specifically, medically important (to human health) antibiotics will no longer be available for growth promotion uses in food-animal production. They will be used only to treat, control or prevent specific diseases under veterinary guidance.

Both feed-grade and water-based treatments will be affected, and over-the-counter sales of medically important antibiotics will end.

"To access feed-grade antibiotics, producers will need to obtain a VFD and a prescription for water medications for a specific group of pigs," said the Pork Checkoff's Dave Pyburn.

"To obtain a VFD, a valid veterinary-client-patient relationship will be needed," Pyburn said. "A pork producer must have a working relationship with a veterinarian, and the veterinarian must be familiar with the herd's production and health profile."

Pyburn advises producers to work with their veterinarian, feed mills and distributors.

"It's a good idea to do a VFD test run this fall to ensure that everyone is prepared," he said.

More details on the antibiotics use changes are available from the Pork Checkoff at pork.org/antibiotics.

Follow us on:



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

In this issue:

Pig Farmers Celebrate
Antibiotic Stewardship

TPP Prospects Grim

MPPA Award
Nominations

Now Accepting 2017 MPPA Award Nominations

Do you know someone that does an outstanding job in the pork industry?

MPPA is looking for nominations for the 2017 Master Pork Producer, Distinguished Service, Contract Grower and Swine Herd Manager/Employee Awards.

The winner of each award will be recognized at the MPPA Awards Luncheon on February 16 at the Lansing Center, Lansing, MI

**Please email the nomination to schmitt@mipork.org or send or fax the information to: Michigan Pork Producers Association
3515 West Road, Suite B
East Lansing, MI 48823
Fax: 517-853-3785**

All nominations must be in by December 1, 2016.

Now accepting 2017 MPPA Scholarship Applications

The Michigan Pork Producers Association awards over \$3000 annually in scholarships to high school seniors, college freshmen, sophomores or junior students. There are two scholarships available: the IAT Swine Management Scholarship for those pursuing or currently in Michigan State University's Swine Tech Program and the Michigan Pork Industry Scholarship for those pursuing or currently in a Bachelors program at any college. The interviews take place on January 28, 2017 at the Green and White show held at the MSU Pavilion in East Lansing.

The deadline to apply for the 2017 IAT Swine Management Scholarship or the 2017 Michigan Pork Industry Scholarship is January 20, 2017.

The applications are available at www.mipork.org/michigan-pork-industry-scholarship/

Please contact Emily Schmitt with questions at schmitt@mipork.org or 517-853-3782.