



# MI PORK SAMPLER

## NPPC Launches 'Keep America First In Agriculture' Campaign

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) launched "Keep America First in Agriculture," a new campaign to highlight the importance of establishing a proper regulatory framework for gene editing in American livestock.

Gene editing technology, which introduces useful genetic variation into food animal breeding programs, promises significant animal health benefits, including a natural immunity to disease and a reduction in the need for antibiotic use.

"Gene editing is a huge step forward for America's farmers, as it offers a powerful new way to combat animal disease," said Dr. Dan Kovich, NPPC's director of Science & Technology. "With gene editing, livestock breeders can knock out specific genes that make animals vulnerable to viral infections. Healthier animals benefit both farmers and consumers," he said.

While countries like Canada, Brazil and Argentina are moving quickly on this advancement to gain competitive advantage in the market, the U.S. is running the risk of falling far behind as a result of a regulatory seize by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Under FDA regulation, gene editing faces an impractical, lengthy and expensive approval process, threatening hundreds of thousands of jobs and nearly six percent of U.S. Gross Domestic Product.

Additionally, the FDA's regulation inaccurately classifies livestock as drugs and farms as drug-manufacturing facilities, creating significant challenges for the international trade in animals and animal products.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is the only agency prepared to effectively regulate this new technology. It already has a review process in place for genetic editing in plants under its Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), which can easily be adopted for livestock. The USDA also has the understanding and history of working directly with livestock and agriculture, unlike the FDA, which regulates packaged food, drugs and medical devices.

"Allowing the FDA to regulate gene editing could drive elite animal breeding out of the U.S., long the international leader, and place U.S. producers at a potentially catastrophic competitive disadvantage with foreign competitors," said Dr. Bradley Wolter, a leading pork producer and President of The Maschhoffs, a company that produces over 4 million market hogs per year. "International competitors that commercialize this technology will gain as much as a 15 percent production efficiency advantage over U.S. pork. It's critical that America remains the global leader in agricultural innovation and gives regulatory oversight to the USDA, the agency that is most equipped to do so."

NPPC began its "Keep America First in Agriculture" campaign by hosting a media teleconference with leading researchers, veterinarians, producers and industry experts, including Dr. Alison Van Eenennaam, Animal Biotechnology and Genomics Extension Specialist, University of California, Davis; Dr. Kovich; Andrew Bailey, NPPC Lead Counsel for Science and Technology; and Dr. Wolter.

To learn more about "Keep America First in Agriculture," visit [www.nppc.org/kafa](http://www.nppc.org/kafa).



## Capital Update

### USDA ANNOUNCES SECOND TRADE RELIEF PACKAGE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced details of its second program providing trade retaliation relief to American farmers. Eligible U.S. pork producers will receive \$11 per head based on inventory between April 1-May 15, 2019. The USDA also announced it will make pork purchases of \$208 million to support its programs for the food insecure. “U.S. pork producers are highly dependent on export markets, shipping more than 25 percent of production to foreign markets. We are grateful to the Trump administration for providing partial relief as hog farmers have incurred significant losses due to trade disputes that have lingered for more than a year,” said NPPC President David Herring. USDA’s second trade retaliation relief package is valued at \$16 billion, with \$14.5 billion dedicated to producer payments, \$1.4 billion for commodity purchases and \$100 million through its Agricultural Trade Promotion Program to help U.S. farmers and ranchers identify and access new export markets. Sign up for the program began July 29 and ends Dec. 6, 2019. For more information, visit: [www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp](http://www.farmers.gov/manage/mfp).

### NPPC HIGHLIGHTS NEED FOR LABOR REFORM

There is a severe shortage of labor in the pork industry both on farm and in packing plants, and that’s why NPPC is actively advocating for reform of the H-2A visa program, NPPC Vice President and Counsel, Global Government Affairs Nick Giordano wrote in a “Meat of the Matter.” Despite growing opportunities for employment and rapid wage growth, the pork sector struggles to find workers. Our production is a year-round endeavor and due to its seasonality component, pig farmers are unable to secure their workforce needs through the H-2A visa program. Agricultural visa reform is clearly needed. Agricultural visa programs should be designed with the flexibility to meet the needs of all agricultural producers—from fruit and vegetable farmers to dairy and pig farmers. Year-round labor needs should be a primary focus of any H-2A reform or the foundation of any new program.

### FINAL WOTUS RULE SENT TO OMB FOR REVIEW

EPA’s final rule on a new Waters of the United States (WOTUS) regulation was sent to the White House’s Office of Management and Budget. The regulation would replace the WOTUS rule issued in 2015 by the Obama administration’s U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. That measure gave EPA broad jurisdiction over U.S. waters 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. Prior to the 2015 rule, EPA’s jurisdiction over waterways – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – included “navigable” waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters. Since the day it was first proposed, NPPC has been one of the primary organizations leading opposition against the WOTUS rule, which is a land grab that promotes federal control over private property, grows the size of government and allows activists to extort and micromanage all kinds of farming and business activities.

### THAILAND MAY LOSE TRADE BENEFITS

Thailand could lose U.S. trade benefits unless it removes barriers to U.S. pork exports, Politico reported. The two nations met under the U.S.-Thailand Trade and Investment Framework Agreement to discuss the bilateral trade relationship, including the importance of Thailand taking action to reduce the U.S. trade in goods deficit and address the pressing trade concerns at the heart of the ongoing Generalized System of Preferences reviews of pork market access and worker rights in Thailand. The pork market access review began in May 2018, after NPPC lodged a complaint. Thailand has a number of trade barriers that operate as a de facto ban on U.S. pork exports. It has been unresponsive to calls from the U.S. to lift the restrictions and, in fact, has continued to ramp up import protections for pork in recent years.



## Pork Checkoff

### Registration Open for Second Pig Welfare Symposium

The National Pork Board has announced that its second Pig Welfare Symposium will take place Nov. 13-14 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The biennial forum is designed to help improve the well-being of pigs by disseminating recent research findings and recommendations, raising awareness of current and emerging issues and identifying potential solutions.

The symposium will provide presentations from experts on past, current and future animal welfare issues, including looking at the evolution of animal welfare in the supply chain and understanding consumer choices. The speakers will offer their perspectives on how the pork industry can continue to evolve to meet the needs of animals, producers and consumers.

“The Pig Welfare Symposium doesn’t just ‘talk’ about pig welfare, it provides hands-on experiences to take back to the farm,” said Ashley DeDecker, director of production research with Smithfield Foods and chair of the Pork Checkoff’s Animal Welfare Committee. “The symposium also brings difficult, but important topics to the forefront of conversation, making it a must-attend event.”

Aside from the main speaker agenda, the two-day symposium also will offer optional hands-on interactive workshops for an additional fee. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about low-stress pig handling, foreign animal disease preparation, day-1 pig care and other topics. For the first time, a Spanish-only pre-event, Improving Pig Welfare on Farm, also will be offered.

Symposium attendees will have the chance to visit with experts at various technical exhibits and to interact with the professionals and students who will participate in the event’s poster sessions.

The cost to attend is \$200 per person. A reduced student rate and virtual attendance options also are being offered. For more information, go to [pork.org/pws](http://pork.org/pws).

### National Pork Board Names Dr. Jerry Flint to Leadership Team

The National Pork Board named Jerry Flint as vice president of engagement and outreach. Flint, who has a doctorate in crop science from the University of Kentucky, joins the Pork Checkoff from Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, Iowa.

Flint was born and raised on his family’s farm in western Ohio and has spent his career in agriculture with progressive leadership roles in production agriculture, science, research, biotechnology and sustainability. He joined Corteva in 2010 and held positions specifically linked to global business management, sustainability, external relations, regulatory approvals and product research and development.

“Jerry is a widely-respected agricultural leader, scientist and driver of change through continuous improvement in all aspects of ag production and he understands the bottom-line business environment in which our pork producers operate,” said Bill Even, chief executive officer of the National Pork Board.

Prior to Corteva, Flint was director of regulatory affairs at Monsanto, which included spending three years in Singapore leading technology research and development in the Asia Pacific region.

Flint currently serves on the Dean’s Advisory Council for the College of Agriculture at Purdue University. Flint is also the past president of the American Seed Trade Association, past chair of the Biotech Innovation Organization Food and Agriculture Governing Board and has served on the USDA Agriculture Advisory Council.

He has both a Doctorate and a Master of Science degree in crop science from the University of Kentucky (Lexington) and an undergraduate degree in agriculture from Purdue University (West Lafayette, Indiana). Jerry and his wife Dayna live in Des Moines, Iowa.

Follow us on:



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

In this issue:

Keep America First in  
Agriculture

USDA Announces Second  
Trade Relief Package

2019 Taste of Elegance



Please Join Us for the 29th Annual

TASTE *of Elegance*™

A chef competition featuring pork entrees



October 15, 2019



Michigan Restaurant and Lodging Show:

Suburban Collection Showplace, 46100 Grand River Ave, Novi, MI 48374

Visit [www.mrlashow.org/index.php/compete/taste-of-elegance](http://www.mrlashow.org/index.php/compete/taste-of-elegance) for more information. With questions, contact MPPA at 517-853-3782 or [schmitt@mipork.org](mailto:schmitt@mipork.org).