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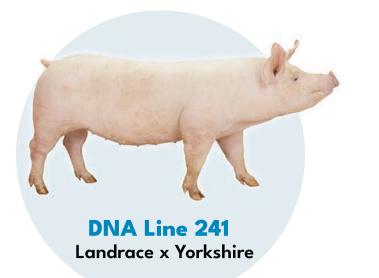
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The Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) publishes the Minnesota Pork Congress Magazine. For more information on future tradeshows and exhibiting opportunities, contact the MPPA office at (507) 345-8814 or email mnpork@mnpork.com

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On the Cover

Swine Manager of the year, Adam Ziemke, caring for his pigs.

"STOP FIGHTING ON THE WAY TO THE FUNERAL HOME"

Presented by Family Business Consultant, **JOLENE BROWN**



EVENT DETAILS:

Monday Feb. 20, 2023 8:30am

Mayo Clinic Health System Event Center 1 Civic Center Plaza, Mankato, MN 56001 \$25 per attendee

WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

This event is for farmers, small businesses, business partners, and families exploring succession planning options. All parties involved in your succession planning are encouraged to attend.



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MPPA Staff



Jill Resler
Chief Executive
Officer



Administrative
Assistant



Katelyn Gradert

Director of

Communications



Lauren Servick

Director of Marketing
and Public Policy
Engagement



Pam VoelkelDirector of Events
and Promotions

National Pork Producers Council Staff



Brad Schmidt

Director of

Producer Services

Minnesota SIP

and Partners









MPB Board of Directors

The 12-member Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) Board of Directors represents the variety of pig farms found throughout the state. Each elected representative serves on the board of directors for three-year terms and may not serve more than three consecutive terms. Checkoff dollars are spent on defined objectives aligning with Minnesota Pork's strategic plan, and guided by the board focusing on promotion, education, and research. *No funds may be used for lobbying or to influence government policy.*

The board member's primary duties include:

- Overseeing the investment of pork checkoff dollars on behalf of Minnesota's pig farmers
- Increasing domestic pork sales through checkoff-funded promotions through consumer, retail, and food service outreach
- Allocating research funds for all areas of pork production, processing and human nutrition
- Investing research dollars in animal welfare, environment, and production studies to help producers meet the challenges of responsible pork production
- Funding seminars, workshops, videos, and digital tools available for all Minnesota producers to remain competitive
- Collaborating with chefs, dietitians, teachers, and other food trend influencers to demonstrate how pork fits into a healthy diet

MPB Board of Directors:

Mike Boerboom. Chris Compart, Marshall Nicollet Brad Hennen. Brian Johnson. Ghent Walnut Grove Amber Portner. Roger Punt, Sleepy Eye Prinsburg Brian Schwartz, Todd Selvik, Waseca Sleepy Eye

Meg Freking, Jackson Mary Langhorst, Lafayette Abbie Redalen, Chatfield Myrna Welter, Stewartville Ex Officio NPB Board Member

Dale Stevermer, Easton



Back Row L to R: Brian Johnson, Chris Compart, Todd Selvik, Brad Hennen, Roger Punt, Mike Boerboom, Brian Schwartz Front Row L to R: Mary Langhorst, Myrna Welter, Amber Portner, Abbie Redalen, Meg Freking

MPPA Board of Directors

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) Board of Directors, comprised of nine members, represents the association in various capacities at many functions throughout the year. The board members are elected to three-year terms. No more than two executive board members can be from the same county, and board members may not serve more than three consecutive terms.

The board member's primary duties include:

- Promoting MPPA policy positions at the local and state levels
- Working with the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) on federal level policy
- Interacting with government agencies on issues important to the association
- Listening and relaying members' ideas and opinions to the full board and staff
- Representing the MPPA at NPPC meetings and at other legislative, commodity, business, and industry events
- Recommending and overseeing MPPA investments and budgets

MPPA Board of Directors:

John Anderson,	Adam Barka,	Vince Baack,	Ex Offico
Belgrade	Sleepy Eye	Jackson	NPPC Board Members
Bill Drager,	Todd Marotz,	Michael Mouw,	Lori Stevermer,
Mankato	Sleepy Eye	Sioux Falls	Easton
Brandon Schafer,	Tim Schwartz,	Daryl Timmerman,	Terry Wolters,
Goodhue	Sleepy Eye	North Mankato	Pipestone



Retiring BOARD MEMBERS

MPB Retiring Board Members







Brian Johnson



Mary Langhorst

MPPA Retiring Board Members



Adam Barka



Bill Drager



Todd Marotz



Mike Mouw



Brandon Schafer



Tim Schwartz

The Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) and Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) recognizes several individuals this year for their service on one of the boards of directors. We are grateful to Meg Freking, Brian Johnson, and Mary Langhorst on the MPB board, and Adam Barka, Bill Drager, Todd Marotz, Mike Mouw, Brandon Schafer, and Tim Schwartz on the MPPA board for their service. All from diverse backgrounds in the Minnesota Pork industry, each of them led the board sharing their knowledge and expertise while overseeing the investment of mandatory checkoff dollars and voluntary non-checkoff dollars.

As members of the MPB board of directors, farmers and industry representatives oversee investments made in

the areas of research, promotion, and education. The MPPA board members work to direct public policy, issues management, legislative activities, and lobbying on behalf of MPPA members. All board members are critical to developing priorities and giving direction to the organization's strategic plan. Thank you, Meg, Brian, Mary, Adam, Bill, Todd, Mike, Brandon, and Tim for your leadership and service to Minnesota's pig farmers.

Each of the outlined retiring board members served on the board for a varying amount of time, from one year to nine years; each ran for a spot on the board for a different reason; and each acknowledged something different that they learned or found the most rewarding about their experience.

At the 2023 annual meeting held on February 20, prior to the Minnesota Pork Congress, twelve board members will be elected to the Minnesota Pork Board of Directors. The two separate boards of directors will be combined into one consolidated board that will oversee the management of the two organizations. The boards believe these changes will improve the efficiency and reduce administrative and overhead expenses while continuing to maintain the two organizations as separate entities.





"My biggest joy of serving with MPPA was the three trips to Washington, D.C., I had the opportunity to attend and engage at the LAC Conferences. It was a huge eye-opening experience to see the hard yet rewarding work our national and state teams do to benefit our pork industry. It became very clear after those visits how important it is to have our voices heard...No Voice = No Action." - Mike Mouw

"I have enjoyed the time to gain additional perspectives from all the different producers I have been able to meet and work with. I believe in the 9 years I have served, we have faced many different issues and have been able to move the industry, association, and Board forward to a better place. I was part of 3 different strategic planning processes that has provided greater awareness of the industry and personally how I can be more effective in my own work." – Adam Barka

"If I had to choose one item as the most rewarding during my tenure of service, I would say it was working through the Strategic Plan One Board initiative. Many hours of deliberation and input were required to prepare the organizational structure for the future. I believe the MN pork industry and stakeholders will benefit as a result of the work that was done." - Tim Schwartz

"It has been a great pleasure for me to see the way the staff leads our industry interests on our behalf and they continue to impress me over the years of my involvement. The many things that this organization gets done for us in pig production go unnoticed until you get a front seat to the daily activities that this staff deals with. They do a remarkable job of protecting our opportunity to do the business that we have chosen to do, while keeping our market opportunities open. The influence that they carry in our political process as well as maintaining a seat at the table with our regulating agencies is invaluable. None of us could do on our own what they do on our behalf." - Brandon Schafer



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President's Welcome to PORK CONGRESS!

We are excited for the opportunity to gather in Mankato for the 2023 Minnesota Pork Congress once again. Pork Congress offers the unique opportunity for pork industry stakeholders to gather in one place to network with peers, learn more about the industry's most pressing topics, and discover new business enhancements at the trade show.

The Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) and the Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) remain steadfast in the responsible and impactful investment of your check-off and non-checkoff contributions. MPB, funded through the mandatory pork checkoff, continues to develop programming in the areas of research, promotion, and education. These endeavors aim to elevate Minnesota consumer's confidence in pork and the families who raise it.

The MPPA, funded through voluntary enrollment in the Strategic Investment Program (SIP), continues to act with integrity to provide visionary leadership through advocacy for its members by having a strong voice in St. Paul and Washington, D.C., developing industry leaders and fostering a strong image for Minnesota pig farmers.

As President of the Minnesota Pork Board and President of the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, we feel it is important to stay up-to-date on what is happening in our industry. We encourage all Minnesota pig farmers to join their peers at the 2023 Minnesota Pork Congress, and thank you for your support and investment in our organizations. We are proud to be a part of this industry and look forward to seeing many of you at Pork Congress!

Sincerely,



Brad Hennen

2022 Minnesota Pork Board
President



John Anderson 2022 Minnesota Pork Producers Association President



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MPB Arrual Meeting Agenda



Monday, February 20, 2023 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Reception Hall Mayo Clinic Event Center

AGENDA

- Call to Order Brad Hennen, MPB President
- Joint Session with Minnesota Pork Producers Association
- Introductions
- Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Myrna Welter, MPB Secretary
- 2022 Financial Report Jill Resler, CEO
- 2023 Minnesota Pork Board Candidate Elections
- National Pork Board Update Bill Even, CEO National Pork Board
- 2023 Advisements, Discussion, Action Todd Selvik
- 2024 Pork Act Delegate and Alternate Elections
- President's Remarks
- Election Results
- Adjourn

PUBLIC NOTICE



MPPA Arrual Meeting Agenda

Monday, February 20, 2023 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Reception Hall Mayo Clinic Event Center



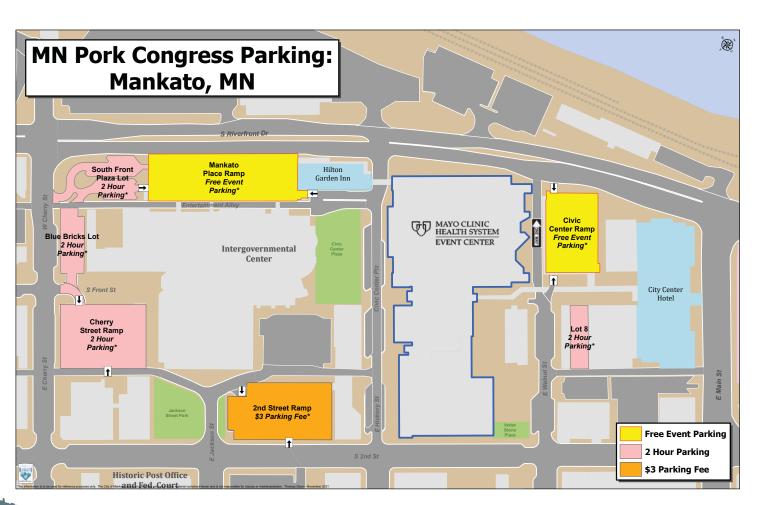
AGENDA

- Approval of 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes Adam Barka, MPPA Secretary
- MPPA Financial Audit and Program Review Jill Resler, MPPA CEO
- Election of NPPC Delegates
- Guest Speaker CEO National Pork Producers Council
- 2023 Resolutions, Discussion and Action Vince Baack
- 2023 MPPA State Legislative Goals and Outlook Jill Resler and AJ Duerr
- President's Remarks
- Adjourn



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Schedule OF EVENTS

Monday, February 20

Trade Show Exhibitor Move-In

7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Banquet Hall East, Arena, and Grand Hall

MPB Annual Meeting

12:30 – 2:30 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Arena and Reception Hall

MPPA Annual Meeting

3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Arena and Reception Hall

Invitation Only, RSVP Required

Awards Reception

5:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Mayo Clinic Event Center

Banquet Hall West

Sponsored by: Boehringer Ingelheim and Hormel





Tuesday, February 21

Pork Congress Registration

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Main Entrance

Pork Congress Trade Show

9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Arena, Banguet Hall East, and Grand Hall

Producer Seminars

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Banquet Hall West

Complimentary Lunch

11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Grand Hall and Arena

Trade Show Social Hour

4:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Mayo Clinic Event Center

Banquet Hall West

Sponsored by: Rabo AgriFinance and Manitoba Pork





Wednesday, February 22

SIP & Partner Breakfast

Member-exclusive event
7:30 a.m. Breakfast
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Keynote Speaker
Mayo Clinic Event Center
Reception Hall



Pork Congress Registration

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Main Entrance

Pork Congress Trade Show

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Arena, Banquet Hall East, and Grand Hall

Complimentary Breakfast Sandwiches

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Mayo Clinic Event Center

Grand Hall and Arena

Sponsored by: Manitoba Pork



Producer Seminars

9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Banquet Hall West

Agricultural Career Workshop

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Mayo Clinic Event Center Room 243 *RSVP required*



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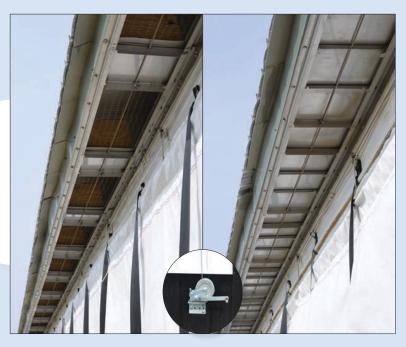
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Seminars

Tuesday, February 21

All seminars will be held in Banquet Hall West at the Mayo Clinic Event Center.

Demographic Considerations of Workforce Shortages

9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Eric Guthrie, Senior Demographer, Minnesota State Demographic Center.

Like many other industries, workforce shortages are constant challenge for many through the entire pork industry supply chain. Eric Guthrie, Senior Demographer with the Minnesota State Demographic Center, will discuss key demographic, economic, and social trends, and how these trends may impact the pork industry and transform the communities we live and work in.

Sustainability Through the Pork and Agriculture Value Chain

10:30 to 11:45 a.m.

Moderator:

Dr. Brett Kaysen, National Pork Board

Panelists:

Dr. Sara Crawford, Sustainable Environmental Consultants

Leif Fixen, The Nature Conservancy

Lauren Servick, Minnesota Pork Board

McDonalds Representative

Sustainability is too big for any single farm, food company, commodity, or supply chain to solve on its own. There are critical conversations happening every day from farm-to-table as we work collaboratively to drive a more sustainable future for food. With a surge in public interest, public and private investment, and changing political headwinds related to sustainable food production, panelists will share their perspectives on how to advance and stay rooted in the attitude of continuous improvement for sustainable food.

Understanding and Addressing Real Pork Barriers

1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Trisha Brooks, Manager, Producer & State Engagement, National Pork Board

Carol Gstalder, SVP, Practice Lead, Heart + Mind Strategies After a successful Mythbusting 1.0 campaign with Eric Stonestreet in fall 2021, the Pork Checkoff wanted to dig deeper on some of the tougher barriers creating consumer hesitation about pork. A consumer survey focused on impressions of food animal well-being explored how pork stacks up, what opportunities exist and who is motivated to take action (e.g., vote, contact officials, influence others). Hear the results and how NPB is working nationally and with state partners, like Minnesota, to leverage them for improved trust and image.

Pigs in Space: Mapping and Mitigating the Invasive Wild Pig-Domestic Swine Interface in North America

2:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Dr. Ryan Brook, Associate Professor and Graduate Chair, Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Saskatchewan

Dr. Ryan Brook was born and raised on a mixed farm east of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Like most people raised in Manitoba he always drives with his left turn signal always on. He is currently a faculty member in Animal and Poultry Science at the University of Saskatchewan. His talk with examine the risks and impacts of invasive wild pigs in Canada and the associated concerns of wild pigs potentially moving into the US, in the context of African Swine Fever response and preparedness.

Wednesday, February 22

2023 Hog Market Outlook: Current Fundamentals, Margin Opportunities, and Strategies to Consider

9:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Jon Greteman, Vice President of Hogs, Commodity and Ingredient Hedging (CIH)

Dustin Baker, Manager of Education and Research, Commodity and Ingredient Hedging (CIH)

This seminar will start with a fundamental overview of the grain and hog markets in conjunction with the global political and economic situation. Given that backdrop, attendees will be provided with strategy alternatives to consider in the current market environment using an objective, data-driven approach to managing risk.

Seminar Sponsors:











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Award Recognition EVENT

Congratulations to the 2023 Minnesota Pork Board Award Recipients!

On Monday, February 20, from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m., Minnesota Pork will recognize the 2023 award recipients. The invitation-only event will take place the Mayo Clinic Event Center. Attendees are welcome to enjoy refreshments and heavy appetizers while honoring these pork industry leaders. Please reference the following pages to learn about each recipient and their contributions to the pork community.

2023 Minnesota Pork Industry Award Recipients:

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: Reuben Bode

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PORK PROMOTER OF THE YEAR: **Donnie Schoenrock**

Sponsored by Elanco Animal Health



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD: Adam Barka

Sponsored by Hubbard Feeds



SWINE MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Adam Ziemke

Sponsored by Purina Animal Nutrition



FAMILY OF THE YEAR: **Veldkamp Family**

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Rep. Rod Hamilton

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Awards Reception Sponsored by:







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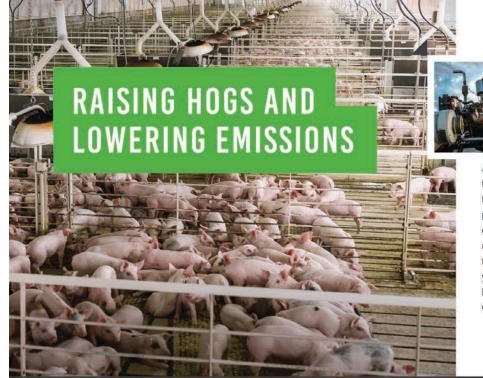






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Environmental Steward of the YEAR



Environmental Steward, Adam Barka

Adam Barka's resolute passion for ensuring thriving rural communities where people have the freedom to live and work where they please is the driving force behind his commitment to environmental stewardship.

Passionate Direction

Barka's upbringing prepared him for a career in agriculture, as he grew up on a diversified livestock farm that consolidated to strictly dairy farming in his high school years. He studied his way through two years at North Dakota State University and two years at the University of Minnesota focused on animal production systems with an emphasis on dairy production.

He and his wife, Trista, moved back to Litchfield where Barka worked at his family farm for one year then transitioned to a role at the Meeker County Soil and Water Conservation District as an assistant county feedlot officer. In this role, he oversaw environmental compliance for feedlots, wetlands, noxious weeds, and stormwater. To this day, he is grateful for his mentors and co-workers during his four years serving in that position, as they prepared his understanding of the nuances of regulatory and zoning issues in Minnesota and the four other states he oversees compliance in.

In 2008, Barka joined Christensen Farms as a business development representative. One month into this role, an opening in environmental compliance became available that more appropriately suited his sweet spot for sustainability. Moving through the ranks within the Agronomy and Environmental Stewardship department within the company, Adam has held the position, Director of Environmental Stewardship, for more the last 9 years and has responsibility for the agronomy manure application team.

Pursuing Excellence

Christensen Farm's commitment to pursuing excellence and stewardship was Barka's primary reason for joining the company. Though his time working under Bob Christensen's leadership was limited, Barka described that Bob's "vision for environmental stewardship" still influences his thoughts and actions today.

"I have been honored to work for an organization where stewardship has been part of the culture since it's founding," stated Barka. "At CF, I am focused on how we pursue excellence and not on doing the bare minimum or just what is required."

He noted conversations surrounding the question, "How can we do this best, long-term?" occur daily. Discussions with this approach prove to be much more rewarding than just clearing the bar.

In his effort to go above and beyond regarding environmental stewardship, Barka is most proud of the innovative watering toggle valve installed in many of their farms to provide increased water management. After identifying inconsistent water flow, overflowing water pans, and diluted manure, Barka led the agronomy team to adopt a new water delivery mechanism. Upon implementation, the valve has been a successful part of reducing more than 60 million gallons of water use in their wean-to-finish system annually. This water conservation effort was recognized by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for improvements in water usage, reduction of waste, and increased environmental stewardship. Among other practices, Barka encourages farmer participation in soil conservation efforts such as utilizing minimal-till manure application practices, cover crop application, and annually testing manure structures.

"We manage all parts of our operations to ensure appropriate resource use, whether it is water, feed, energy, or land," Barka reflected. "We also focus on the location of our facilities and ensure we work with our neighbors to address questions about our facilities."

When identifying new site locations, and maintaining current sites, Barka wants to make sure neighboring property owners feel heard and valued. Each party holds a significant investment, and working together, especially when issues do arise, is paramount.

"I want to ensure that people feel heard, whether it is a neighbor, regulator, or team members. I want to do the right thing every day," stated Barka.

Battling Regulatory Restrictions

It's no secret Minnesota regulations are one of the largest threats to farmer's freedom to operate in this day and age. Barka argues the same threat holds true for environmental issues facing pig farmers today. Increased regulations do not necessarily translate to increased environmental stewardship, and they also can hinder productive innovation.

"There are an increasing number of regulations that don't represent or encourage innovation to occur to allow us to achieve excellence and stewardship," described Barka.

Environmental Steward of the Year Award Sponsor:



For example, he noted the timeline constricting manure application can prohibit optimal manure usage and environmental consideration depending on each year's weather conditions. The impact restrictive timelines will have, depending on each year's weather story, will be significant. Barka believes that in order to maintain our sustainability truth, farmers must not be forced to abide by regulations that do not provide benefit to the environment.

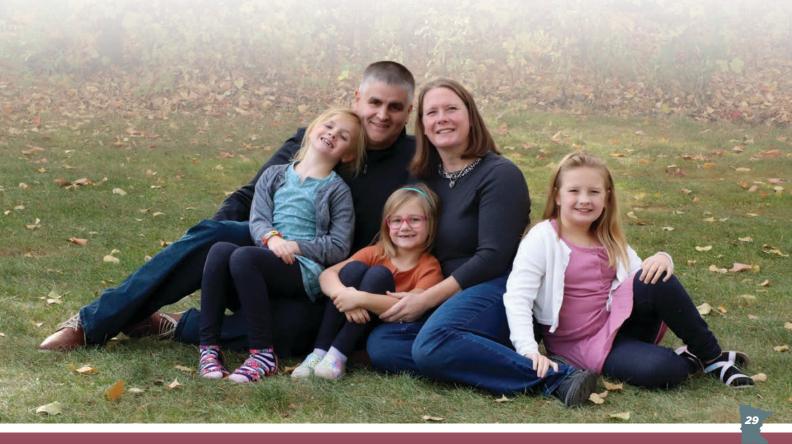
"I have always been impressed by MPPA, and they have made progress in ensuring improvement in regulations," Barka acknowledged. "We (MPPA) believe in reasonable regulations, not no regulations. Our concern is that we are no longer at that point."

Permitting challenges in the 1990s influenced his desire to safeguard the continuance of livestock agriculture in Minnesota. While working as the county feedlot officer, a large portion of his job was helping farmers receive permits and continue their operations to help them grow.

A major contributor to his love for the swine industry is its accessibility to a wide swath of people. Owning a barn is not a prerequisite for involvement in the industry; the many outside services necessary to keep a barn up and running provide numerous business opportunities. Whether someone is working at the farm, receiving, or hauling manure from the organization, mowing, or participating with the farm in a different capacity, Barka continues to keep rural residents in place in his role at Christensen Farms.

Ensuring reasonable environmental compliance and seeing projects permitted and completed provide personal satisfaction for Barka, which all leads back to his ultimate goal of sustaining thriving, rural communities. Every permit acquired equates to another family or individual who has the opportunity to stay in their rural community.

"I hope there are no kids out there wondering if they will have an opportunity to farm or live in rural areas because regulations have forced families to leave their farms or give up their dreams of raising families in rural areas," stated Barka bleakly. "I hope I can provide value to the MPB/MPPA organization that allows more people to live and work in rural areas and continue the legacy of midwestern producers providing food for a growing world."



Environmental Steward of the YEAR

(Adam Barka Continued)

Sustainability = Common Practices

"We need to continue to push our sustainability truth," Barka reasoned. "Midwestern swine production is the most sustainable, regenerative agriculture there is in the world."

In the Midwest, Minnesota pig farmers are "uniquely positioned" to provide sustainable food for people here and across the globe. Utilizing manure management and taking advantage of the nutrient cycle to grow crops that are then fed to the pigs provides the greatest story of regenerative agriculture.

"I view sustainability as something pork producers have focused on before it was cool," claimed Barka.

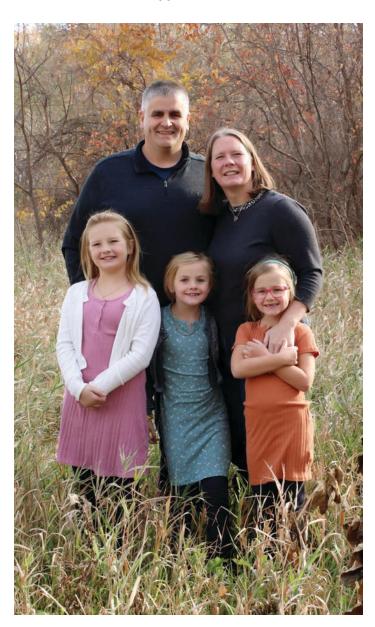
Barka believes "sustainability" has become a buzzword some farmers shy away from because the overarching shared goal gets lost in the message. The fact is, farmers have been making sustainability choices for decades, whether or not they consider their practices to fall under the "sustainability" umbrella.

"Moving pigs indoors, filtering barns to ensure pig health, formulating feeds, and utilizing by-products are all practices pig farmers have adopted over the last few decades that were sustainable choices," Barka recounted. "Sustainability isn't something we have to do different; we've been doing it."

Many different perspectives throughout his career from family, supervisors, and coworkers guided his work, specifically John Boe, Dwight Dahlman, Gary Koch, Dave Rosenhamer, and his wife Trista, whom he stated nothing he does would be possible without her. These individuals, and many more, challenge him to think about issues from different viewpoints, and he acknowledged any success he's experienced wouldn't have been possible without his teammates on his agronomy and sustainability teams.

Barka strives to learn from all he encounters and lead by example. His core values of integrity, adaptability, and respect drive his work. These values coincide with his unwavering mission to ensure people's freedom to live and work in rural areas. He admits it took him several years to realize his true passion, but once he did understand it, he was "able to find contentment." Finding one's passion will take time, but he believes passion must drive a person's work to be truly fulfilling. He looks forward to seeing people meet their calling to be farmers, to raise food for others, and provide opportunities for people to live and work where they want to.

Barka hopes the average person knows this about the pork industry: "We are people, working hard to provide food and opportunities for all people. We do our best to navigate each year's weather story so that future generations will have a business to move forward in an environment that can support their work."



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Swine Manager of the YEAR



Swine Manager of the Year - Adam Ziemke

Leaders come in many different forms, some are boisterous and comfortable in front of crowds, others prefer a more humble, behind-the-scenes approach. This year's swine manager of the year award recipient, Adam Ziemke, favors

the latter leadership style and does so through leading by example, constantly learning and adapting, and going above and beyond to care for his pigs.

An Early Start

Like many in the farming industry today, Ziemke grew up on a hobby farm, though his was a bit more diversified than the average farm including emus and other unpopular species. The farm was located only one mile away from where he works now at Wingspan Pork. It was a natural occurrence for his uncle, who also used to work at Wingspan Pork, to invite Ziemke to help do odds-and-end jobs around the pig barns. At 13 years old, Ziemke was power washing barns and soon after was exposed to the nursery where he found his love for pigs, catering to them after school and assisting in loading them out before the school bells rang.

As he got older, he gained more responsibility on the farm. Now, at more than 20 years in his role, manages four wean-to-finish sites, with approximately 15,000 pigs at any given time. Ziemke does "a little bit of everything" on the farm, but daily chores, management duties, barn maintenance, and monitoring pig health constitute his primary duties on a daily basis.

"I love this job because it's fun and challenging," stated Ziemke. "I like trying to figure out what I can do to make things better and enjoy that there's something different to do every day. No day looks the exact same."

Ziemke is an astounding worker, rarely ever taking days off. The owners of Wingspan Pork and veterinarians who consistently work with him both noted his diligence in not stopping until every job is finished for the day. "The only time he does not show up is when he physically cannot get out of bed," stated Dr. Joseph Yaros, DVM at Pipestone Systems.



Todd Selvik, owner of Wingspan Pork and vice president of the Minnesota Pork Board recalled, "During manure pumping, when he has to change the settings in the barns to prevent accidental loss, he will sleep on a cot in the office."

Seven days a week, Ziemke tends to his pigs monitoring their health and overall well-being. He believes a strong work ethic is important to succeed in this job, as one must go above and beyond when taking care of other living beings. The pig's lives depend on his work, so showing up every day, working hard, and staying until everything is done is imperative. Dr. Yaros pointed out Ziemke's husbandry skills as extraordinary, stating his ability to tell when an issue with the pigs is arising several days in advance of other caretakers.

"The pigs he works with have often been health challenged," acknowledged Dr. Yaros. "These pigs take extra work and bring on an emotional burden that other producers do not experience. Regardless of how difficult or frustrating the work may get, Adam continues to execute at the highest level."

During 2021, the PRRS 144 virus attacked one of Ziemke's sow units. He organized an effort between all farms in the system to collaborate, sharing notes, information, and solutions to assist in fighting the virus.

Selvik added, "He talked to anyone he could, looking for solutions and repeatedly said, "We are all in this together. As farms in the unit, we can get through this together." He was vital in the recovery of the pigs coming from the sow unit for many farms."

Recognizable Achievements

It's no surprise that Ziemke has been awarded Hormel's Spirit of Excellence Award on three separate occasions over the last two decades. Hormel's Spirit of Excellence Award is presented to those who demonstrate exceptional quality, on-time delivery, and customer service and support, along with maintaining a minimum score of 92 on Hormel's supplier rating index over the course of a 12-month period. The index score is determined by a universal measurement system that began in 1990 to ensure each supplier is held to the same standards. Ziemke prides himself on receiving this accomplishment multiple different years through his meticulous standard of care and ability to provide an even-weighted group of pigs during all four quarters of the year. He described his favorite task on the farm is marking pigs when it's time for harvest, and Dr. Yaros acknowledged his "excellent job coordinating marketing" played a huge role in receiving this award.

Swine Manager of the Year Award Sponsor: PURINA

Selvik added to Ziemke's achievements stating, "He is constantly in the top 20 percent for the least sort loss in the entire Big Stone Marketing Group."

He described his gratitude for the exceptional work his team members do each day to ensure the health and safety of the pigs they care for, and how none of what he does, or the recognition he receives, would be possible without them. The team of four, along with occasional help during busy weeks, is small but efficient. Ziemke explained how years ago the same barns he manages now were filled with several more people. When asked how his team manages all the work he said, "We have a crew that works really well together, and we can get everything done well with just a few of us."

Ziemke described his relationships with co-workers as "family-focused." His right-hand employee, Jenna, started working on the farm after assisting with piglet vaccinations with her daughter, and Ziemke is also honored to be named godfather of Jenna's son, who occasionally comes out to the farm to help. His other employee, Travis, has worked with him on the farm nearly as long as himself and is exceptional help, especially in the winter months. "We're all like a big family out here," he said grinning.

Not only has Ziemke been a major asset in training his own employees, but Selvik added, "he also has helped lead classes at Big Gain Feeds for other producers on identifying fallbacks and sorting strategy. The University of Minnesota has utilized Adam's knowledge at our



Swine Manager of the YEAR



(Adam Ziemke Continued)

facility to train their auditors for PQA+ as well as case studies and various other trainings."

A Hobby Feeding His Community

Ziemke's ability to raise quality food doesn't stop at his careful hand with raising pigs. Though Ziemke works on the farm, he resides in Waseca, where he houses a small garden in his backyard. His next-door neighbor and pastor, Roger, often times reaped the benefits of the garden along with other community members. After realizing he didn't have enough space to truly fulfill his drive to raise a thriving garden with different species, his barn owner allotted him space on the back side of the barn to till up soil and raise his fruits and vegetables there.

Since moving his garden to the countryside four years ago, the garden has grown to five times the size of its original footprint. Ziemke now needs a tractor to till the landscape for the garden's soil bed. Both Ziemke and Roger tend to the garden daily throughout the spring, summer, and fall, watering the plants and hand-weeding. The garden is home to a multitude of species, including

cucumbers, watermelon, raspberries, tomatoes, and kohlrabi – a fruit his father grew on their farm during his childhood.

A garden so large couldn't possibly only feed two families, and Ziemke explained, "We give all the produce to people we know. Roger gives a lot of the produce to his kids and other neighbors in our community."

He admits he isn't a fan of much of the produce he grows, but he "really likes growing stuff from scratch and being able to provide for other people in the community. It's also become a really fun hobby to do after work since it's right outside the barn."

There's no question Ziemke goes above and beyond to do what is needed for the health and betterment of the pigs he cares for. Known as a dedicated manager by all who know and work with him, he embodies what the Minnesota pork industry is all about, highlighted through our six ethical principles: Food Safety, Animal Well-Being, Our People, Our Community, Public Health, and the Environment.

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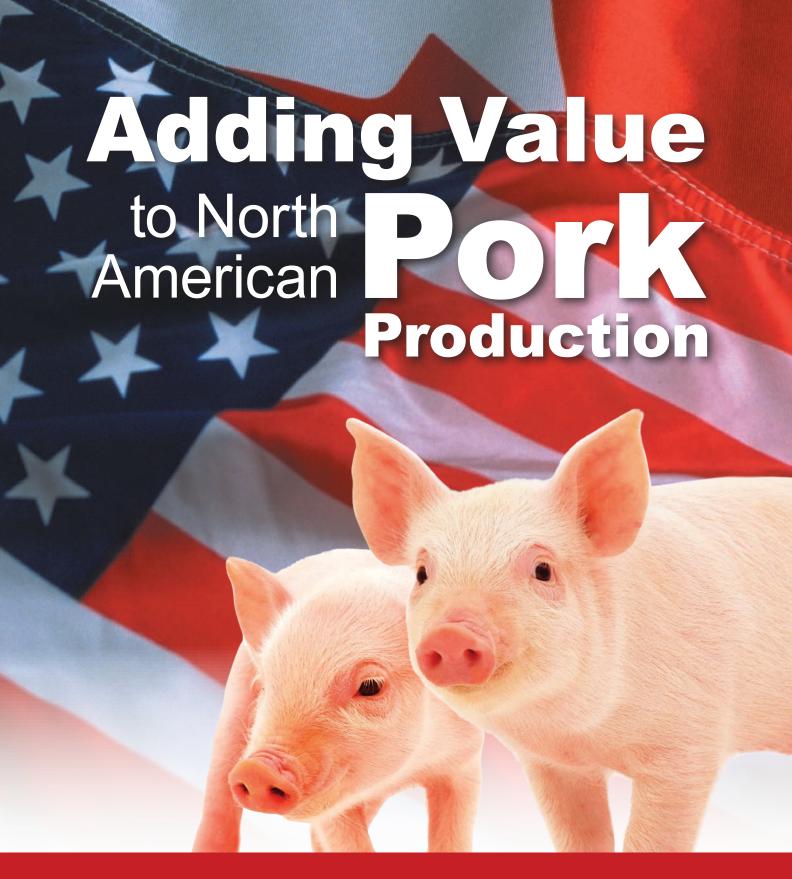
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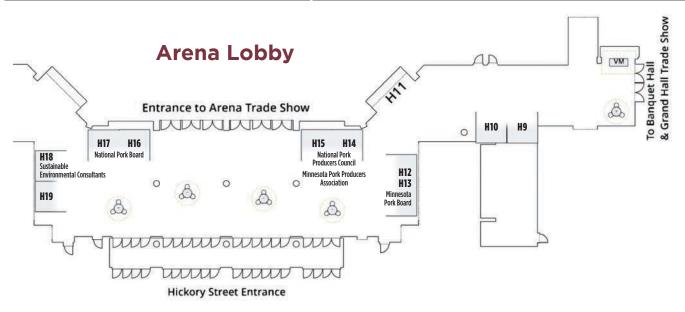
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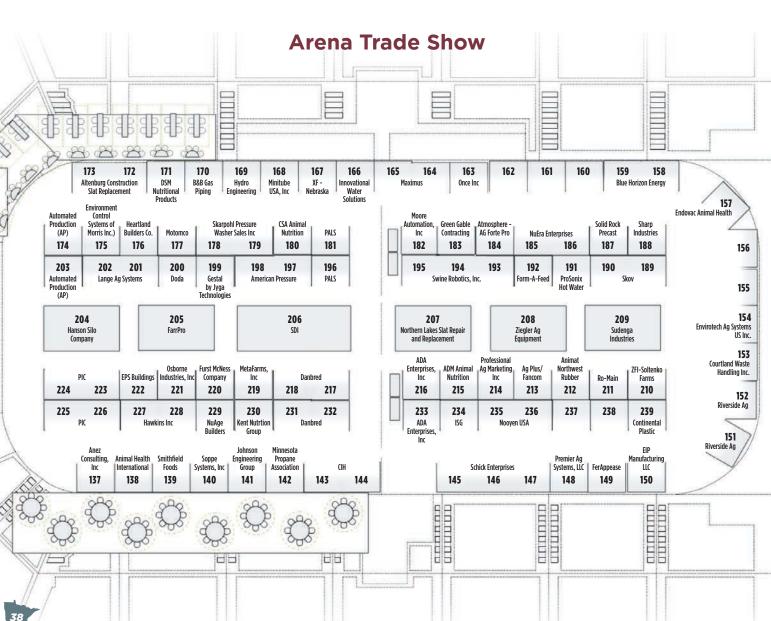


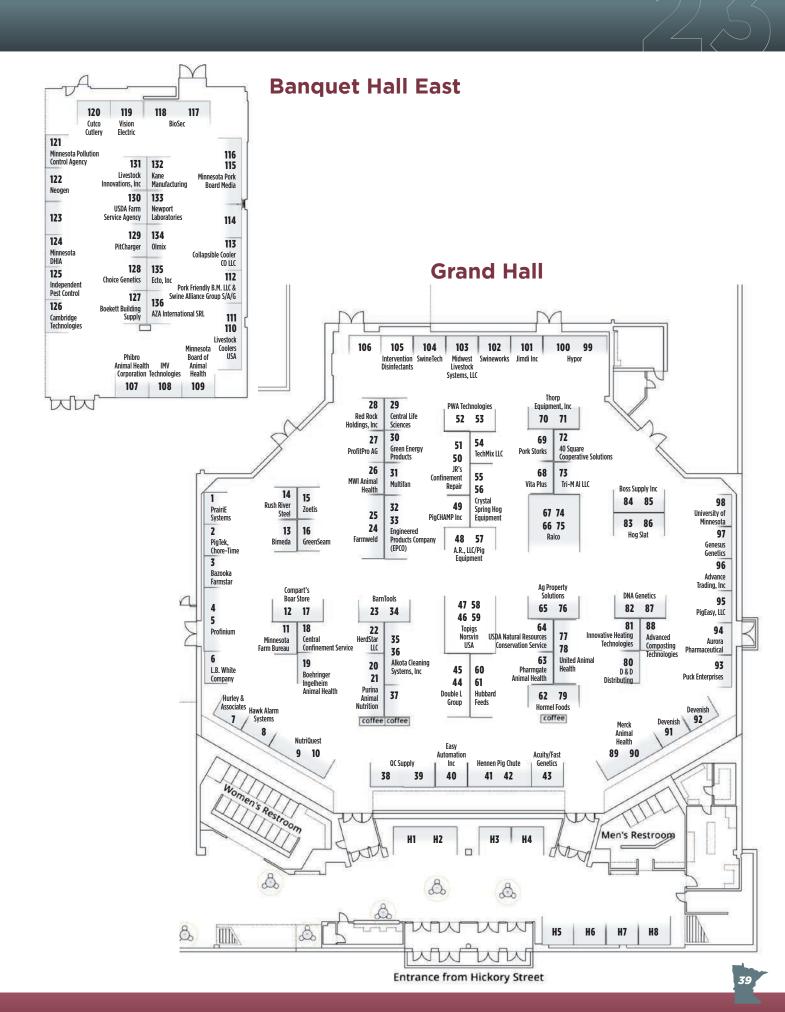
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Family of the YEAR

Family of the Year - Veldkamp Transitions Farm to Kracht Family

Arguably, a farmer's greatest joy is building a sustainable and profitable farm to pass down to the next generation. Though Jim Veldkamp and his late wife JoAnn's farm transition differs from the average family farm to the outsider's eye, the same opportunities and challenges exist for Ethan and Chyana Kracht's family, who have worked alongside Veldkamp for the last six years with the intent to succeed Veldkamp.

Veldkamp Farms Introduction

In 1973, Jim Veldkamp and his wife JoAnn purchased a farm outside of Jasper, Minnesota, farrowing only 75 sows in their first few years along with some feeder cattle. Over time, the farm grew by cropland acres and number of livestock. Soon after, they proceeded with strictly buying finishing pigs and raising them until harvest, but reached a plateau in profitability.

In the early 1990's, Veldkamp decided their style of raising pigs was no longer profitable. Veldkamp had a background in carpentry and considered pursuing opportunities in that line of work while crop farming. In the summer of 1993, Gordon Spronk hosted a meeting in Pipestone, sharing a new strategy for efficient, profitable pig production. After attending the meeting with piqued interest, the Veldkamps invited Spronk to their farm to share more about the vision. During this meeting, the Veldkamps described their labor-intensive farming practices and Spronk teasingly asked, "Do you like to work so much?".

That year, Veldkamps became one of the first shareholders in the Pipestone System, purchasing shares to help build a sow farm to supply weaned pigs to his nursery and finishing barns. They retained their farming independence, while taking advantage of a common swine management system and barn modernization.

"We thought the pig industry had passed us by," Veldkamp reflected, expressing their hesitation to invest so much capital upfront to an idea that had not been proved to work or be successful at that point. "It's known as the Pipestone System now, but at that time it was called the "10 Pound Pig Project. But I am glad we were open to adapting back in 1993; that set the course for the rest of my career."

Veldkamp explained how the switch to becoming a Pipestone shareholder set their farm on a new trajectory for business leadership, and looking back now, he recognizes it as a very smart decision. Veldkamp credits the farm's success over the last several decades to his wife, JoAnn, who loved everything the farm embodied. In 2017, JoAnn died of ovarian cancer. They had been married for 45 years when she passed, but her legacy throughout the community and the farm remains strong. JoAnn and Jim's legacy also lives on through their daughter Jennifer, son-in-law Dean Lerwick, and three grandchildren Kate, Ella, and Will. The Veldkamp's careful, calculated decisions have paved a path for the upcoming generation to take over and succeed.

Unanticipated Business Partners

Ethan Kracht grew up on a farm a few towns away from Veldkamp in rural Edgerton, Minnesota. Though row crops and cattle were what he was familiar with, he "saw the opportunity" to work at Veldkamp Farms raising pigs and took it. He willingly admits he didn't have a passion for pigs at first, but over the last six years, the consistency and opportunity for constant improvement in raising pigs has enticed him.

"With row crops, there are a lot of things you can't control, but with pigs, most deviations lead back to management," Kracht described. "I enjoy numbers and the changes that go along with them that help improve the business."

Kracht's role on the farm began simply as a helping hand with daily chores and caretaking, but steady growth of the farm required more disciplined management. Since joining the farm six years ago, the operation has tripled in size, and Kracht saw the potential to take over in a management capacity and began creating effective changes on the farm.

"I am so thankful Ethan has come in to help with management," Veldkamp graciously added, noting Kracht's advanced proficiency working with computers, scheduling loads of pigs, and collaborating with processing facilities. "Ethan has gotten really good at projecting when the next load of pigs should get sold and when they'll be ready, which I will readily admit I wasn't good at."

Managing people comes with many different challenges, but Kracht sees the opportunity and value in each employee and contract grower. "It's been fun for me to work with employees and growers to see how much better the farm can be, and also how much better they can be as people and workers. The success of the farm relies on the employees and growers; the farm isn't much without them."



Veldkamp added, "Our past, part-time, and current employees have all had a part in making the farm what it is today."

Continuing the Family Farm

In 2018, Kracht married Chyana, and they now reside outside Jasper raising their two children, Atley (2 years) and McCoy (3 months). A Colorado native, Chyana's agricultural background with ranches, equestrian farms, and niche farms looks different than common Midwest agriculture, her father hauled hay and mother ran the feed store business.

"I always liked to be around business and appreciated the determination and hard work that goes into owning a business," Chyana stated. "It was always my dream to own my own business, and now that dream is becoming my reality, which is really exciting."

Chyana moved to the farm two years after Kracht began his transition into ownership at Veldkamp Farms. Following JoAnn's passing, Veldkamp Farms utilized an accounting firm to handle the bookkeeping, but Chyana's background in business administration allowed her to take over the financials and record-keeping. Chyana reflected, "It's been a learning process, but I am thankful for the improvements it has brought to the farm."

The Kracht's look forward to continuing the family farm - challenges, opportunities, change and all. "It is a privilege and an honor to continue what Jim and JoAnn started and make our dream a reality," Chyana added



Family of the YEAR

(Veldkamp Family Continued)

thoughtfully. "We are glad we get to raise our little ones on the farm, and our hope is that they will have the same opportunity in the future."

To this, Jim responded, "It is very rewarding to see someone want to take over the farm. I've heard from both of them how grateful they are for the opportunity. They don't realize I need them as much as they need me."

Environmental and Community Stewards

Over the last several decades, Veldkamp Farms has operated with extreme integrity, always focusing on protecting the environment and bettering the rural community. Veldkamp Farms has received numerous awards for environmental stewardship both from the Minnesota Pork Board and National Pork Board, along with Veldkamp earning Rock County's Outstanding Conservationist of the Year award on multiple occasions. Safeguarding the soil and water, maintaining an effective manure management system, and practicing ridge-tilling to avoid disturbing the soil resulting in erosion are a few of the ways Veldkamp Farms practices conservation.

Not only is Veldkamp Farms a positive business for the environment, it is also an asset to the community. The Veldkamps spent much of their time volunteering throughout the community. Veldkamp explained how JoAnn wanted to join the medical field in high school, but



her calling as a farmer took precedence. The opportunity to serve as an emergency medical technician (EMT) for the Jasper Community Ambulance arose, and she jumped at it with Jim following her path shortly after. Both volunteered for 30 years as EMTs, and Veldkamp

still continues his service today as an active EMT.

Veldkamp also served on the Jasper Development Corporation Board of Directors, the board of the local elevator, the board of the former Jasper State Bank, and was elected to the county's soil and water board. He can also be seen at many community functions, such as



fundraisers and county fairs, grilling delicious pork for attendees, and has been a gracious host for tour groups.

"All who know and work with Jim will attest to his commitment, integrity, and caring personality," stated Christy Jackson, sales manager for Pipestone Veterinary System. "Not only does he represent these values, he acts on them, with angel JoAnn on his shoulder."

When asked why he has been so involved in the community, he described how everything he does is a reflection of his farm and business. It is a rewarding feeling for him to help benefit the community in any way he can.

The Kracht's echoed Veldkamp's feelings on community involvement, hoping to immerse themselves in the community in the future to bring positive change. They reiterated the importance of being a sustainable farm known for doing things well to improve the environment and safeguard natural resources. "In raising a great product, we feel responsible that our pork is raised in a safe and transparent way," declared Kracht. "We desire to do things the right way and leave things better than when we started."

The decisions Jim and JoAnn made in the 1990's set the framework for Ethan and Chyana to find success as they lead the farm, raise their family, and immerse themselves in the community. His vision to keep the farm together through his retirement is successfully playing out through an innovative succession plan keeping the farm as one. Veldkamp's hope is that the farm will remain sustainable for the young Kracht family and that they will enjoy it as much as he and his family did.



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Pork Promoter OF THE YEAR



Promoter of the Year - Donnie Schoenrock

Donnie Schoenrock has proved in the last seven years that one does not need to be a pig farmer to wholeheartedly believe in pork and spend their days advocating for the product. Previously a big city lover, Schoenrock stumbled by

happenstance into small-town Jackson, Minnesota, and is now the proud owner of the renowned Kat's Hog Heaven restaurant, where he promotes pork on a daily basis showing consumers the benefits and ease of cooking pork.

An Unforeseen Path

Born and raised in central Minnesota, Schoenrock originally found his passion in baking, specifically cheesecakes, while working alongside his mother in the food trailer/concessions business. While his brothers were in the garage with his dad, he Schoenrock was hip-to-hip with his mom in the kitchen. His weekends mainly consisted of cooking on the weekends at fairs and concerts, though it was always his mother's dream to serve her food in a brick-and-mortar restaurant.

Fast-forward a few years, and Schoenrock found himself studying criminal justice and eventually received his law enforcement degree. At the time, law enforcement was a popular degree with few available job openings. Luckily, a friend alerted him of a job opening in small town, Jackson, Minnesota. Expecting the small-town life wouldn't be for him, he only planned to work for the city police for one year before moving elsewhere, when he received an offer to work for the sheriff's office in town. Needless to say, the small-town life captivated him, and he's stayed put ever since, with a few unexpected surprises along the way.

Ten years into his career in law enforcement, Schoenrock found himself getting burned out. While meeting with a friend at Kat's Hog Heaven in Jackson, a very common lunch spot for law enforcement officers to frequent, he was discussing the possibility of starting another venture. While the friends were conversing, the restaurant owner walked past and jokingly asked, "Did you say you wanted to buy this place?"

From there, Schoenrock's wheels started turning; though he loved to cook, he didn't know anything about running a business. After he couldn't shake the thought of buying the restaurant, he and Bill met every Sunday for months, and finally, on December 6, 2016, Schoenrock bought the restaurant on a handshake.

To Schoenrock's relief, Bill agreed to stay on the payroll and work part-time for one and a half years to show Schoenrock the ropes and teach him how to turn expenses, figure out labor costs, and other back-end business knowledge.

The name of the restaurant didn't change, due to its familiarity and popularity, and core items remained on the menu, but little changes were made to make dishes his own. Navajo Tacos were an original staple at Kat's Hog Heaven, and coincidentally, were also his mother's top

selling dish in her food trailer. The menu has evolved some since the change in ownership, but core items like the breaded tenderloin sandwich remain staples in the small-town restaurant.



More than just the Food

The trajectory of his career path was certainly unexpected, but Schoenrock explained, "This restaurant is the best thing that's ever happened to me. It is the most rewarding thing to have people leave here happier after enjoying a delicious meal with an awesome atmosphere."

Schoenrock has built a reputation for being someone people want to work for. With 80% of his staff as upper high school students, turnover is yearly, but he never has trouble filling open positions, due to graduating students recommending reputable younger students to take their place. He noted in his seven years of ownership, he has never once advertised for help to work at the restaurant, even through the labor shortages seen, specifically in the restaurant world, all across the country. He recently began a new venture in Jackson, opening Cabin Coffee in September 2022. Within three days of the announcement, all staff slots were filled.

"Part of my "Why" as an employer is to teach these young people how to be employable adults. I want to make them more responsible, teach them how to take constructive criticism and show up to work on time, all while working in a high-pressure environment," described Schoenrock. "My approach is simple: I am your fellow employee until it comes time to be your boss. Though I am your leader, we work together as a team."

Pork Promoter of the Year Award Sponsor: Elanco



Purposeful Promotion

Kat's Hog Heaven offers a unique restaurant proposition, as the large majority of items on the menu are pork. With nearly every product sold in the restaurant made from scratch in-house – hand-cut meat, homemade bread, etc. – Schoenrock prides himself on being nearly a zero-waste restaurant, utilizing as much from the pig as possible. His philosophy on pork stems from the idea that pork is "fantastic untouched".

He added, "People really try to make pork eccentric and do something cool with it, but that's just not necessary. Personally, I prefer pork chops unseasoned because they can stand up for themselves. I would put a properly-cooked pork tenderloin up against any piece of meat in the flavor department."

This philosophy follows through into the items you'll find on the menu and the style of cooking found at Kat's Hog Heaven. At his restaurant, Schoenrock showcases pork in a way people can make it at home. He described how people are intimidated by pork, but always encourages them to take it home and "just try it" with a very simple recipe with few ingredients.

"I want people to have pork be a consistent meal to make at home," admitted Schoenrock. "I love the fitness industry and try to be healthy most of the time. I would pick pork tenderloin over a chicken every day of the week because it's healthy, lean, packed full of protein, versatile, and I appreciate how pigs are grown. People just don't realize this."



Pork Promoter of the YEAR

(Donnie Schoenrock Continued)

Jay Moore, director of environmental services at New Fashion Pork added, "Donnie takes it upon himself to educate and endorse pork to each and every customer that walks through the door. While waiting on tables, Donnie takes the time to explain how they can make pork at home, even going as far as taking whole pork loins out to the table to describe how each cut is made, and how they can be used."

Schoenrock feels a large responsibility to represent pork well, specifically due to the location of the restaurant. Pig farming is the lifeblood and livelihood of so many people in Martin and Jackson County, and he takes his duty of shining a spotlight on pork very seriously.

Inspiring Civic Philosophy

For seven years, Schoenrock has shown up to his restaurant and stayed from the time the doors opened to when they closed. He admitted he was scared when he first started the restaurant, as he was a single dad of two pre-teen daughters.

"I would get my kids from school and have them eat dinner at night in the back of the restaurant," Schoenrock stated. "I abhorred my blood, sweat, and tears into this restaurant, and also into this town. I want Jackson to be the best city in the state of Minnesota, and be a place people want to start a business and send their kids to school."

Not only does Schoenrock own a successful, thriving restaurant and coffee shop, but he is also a dedicated member of the community, having served on the city council, school board, and Chairman of a local non-profit. Often times, he had his daughters in-tow at the group meetings. He believes "if you care about your business, you need to care about your community."

If he happens to hear community members talking poorly about something in the community, he happily joins in on the conversation and provides a list of boards or opportunities for the individuals to volunteer their time, talents, and discernment on to help fix their concerns.

"Getting involved in the community is so easy, and there are countless ways to volunteer," Schoenrock explained. "If you aren't involved or trying to make a difference in a specific aspect of the town, you don't have a place to talk poorly about it."



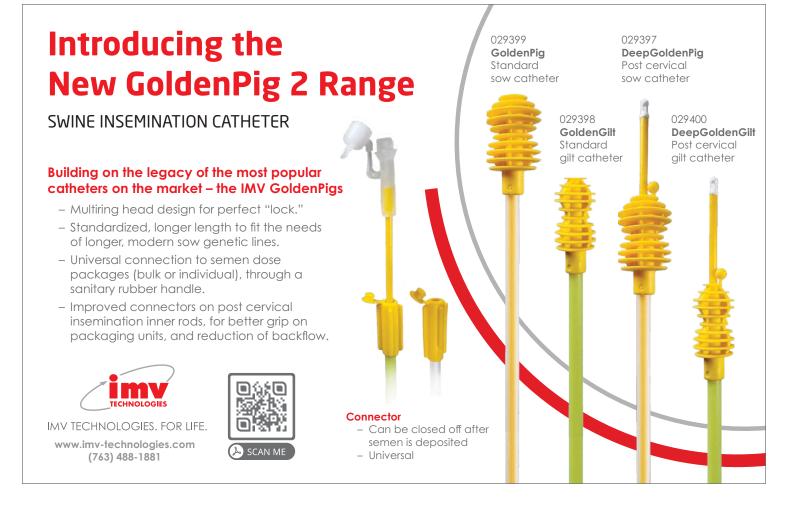
Shockingly, Schoenrock doesn't consider himself a chef, despite the success of his restaurant and delicious dishes on his menu. To be awarded the Pork Promoter of the Year honor was "a really, really huge deal", and hopefully will nudge him in the direction of wearing a chef's cap someday soon.

When he heard he was selected for this award, he was surprised and resorted to pork being



the easiest thing to promote. "I really believe in pork, and it's not just because I own a pork restaurant. My fitness passion has allowed me to show people the healthy and versatile sides of pork while making it really simple and easy. I haven't done any of this to promote a product, I've done it to support a product I believe in, and one that benefits people."





Distinguished SERVICE



Distinguished Service - Reuben Bode

Reuben Bode embodies everything pure and good that pork producers stand for. He is the kind of man who can't help but bring humor and a light-hearted presence into every room he enters. Those who know him describe him as kind, honorable, and passionate, with his high integrity

driving the practices he follows on his farm and in his community.

Farm Transitions

Bode grew up on a small, diversified farm outside Courtland, Minnesota, with dairy cows, crops, and a few sows. Shortly after getting married to his wife, Judy, of 54 years, and spending time working in Mankato, they began to farm alongside Bode's aging parents, officially naming the operation Rebco Pork in 1994. Moving back to the farm was always in the back of their minds when they married, and the family dynamic allowed for helping hands in a myriad of ways.

Judy added, "Reuben's parents loved to be outside and help with the kids. It was a family operation all around. The kids also loved playing outside, and they learned to love the industry, also."

Since arriving back at the farm, they have remained rooted in the area. In 1986, they sold the dairy cows after deciding they wanted to pursue a pig-focused farm. Doubling in size from 100 to 200 sows, the Bode's transitioned the dairy barn to house pigs and gradually added more pigs to the farm.

"We knew we loved pigs, so transitioning to a pig-only operation was a happy day," stated Judy. "Reuben's mom used to farrow pigs years ago, and so we started to farrow together. Decades ago, I never thought these words would come out of my mouth, but once I started farrowing pigs, I found out I really loved it."

From 1986-2004, the farm remained stagnant in size with 200 sows and farmland. Following a vocational in Swine Production and Management in the early 1990s, their son, Ryan, showed committed interest in joining the business, and the farm grew again to 600 sows. To date, Rebco Pork is home to 2,400 sows on the home site, along with ownership in three other sow units.

Once they knew Ryan was interested in joining the farm full time, it helped in deciding what direction they wanted the farm to go. The farm originally started as farrow-to-finish but made the switch to farrow-to-wean with three-week-old pigs leaving the farm to be finished growing with contract partners. Neighbors and community members soon realized a contracted partnership with the Bodes provided a viable career in raising pigs. Barns in the surrounding area were built, with many individuals building more than one barn to house pigs. Not only did the Bode's farm begin to grow, but they also brought interested labor to the pork industry.

In 2015, Bode joined forces with Pipestone Systems. A 10,000-sow unit was built, a number that astounded Bode, and he purchased shares, earning a spot on the board. He later involved himself on the boards of another sow unit, becoming a major shareholder in both units.

"Reuben has been a valuable leader to our state association as a thoughtful and respected spokesperson of our industry. He has selflessly dedicated much of his time to share the voice of his peers in creating meaningful outcomes," said Christi Johnson, sales manager at Pipestone Veterinary Services. "Reuben and Judy are progressive in their plans for the future and Pipestone is honored to partner with their family as they continue their legacy

Pork Promoting Opportunities

Throughout his career in the pork industry, Bode was quick to grab opportunities to promote pig farming and pork, even earning the Minnesota Pork Promoter of the Year award in 2013 along with Judy. Volunteering at events like Oink Outings, the state fair, and Farmers Feed Us provided occasions to speak with consumers face-to-face.

"We love talking to people and promoting pork," recalled Bode. "It is easy for us to promote pork together because we're just sharing our farming story and explaining our practices to people in a way they can understand."

Most notably, the Bode's were well-known for the farm tours they gave on their farm. Busloads of kindergarteners, senators, governors, and online bloggers from the Metro area were found at Rebco Pork several times each year learning about the responsible practices involved in raising pigs. Bode described how parents coveted being chaperones for school field trips to the farm.

Distinguished Service Award Sponsor:



"It was good to have people come to the farm and see how the animals were treated and how clean the barns were," Judy recalled. "We were introducing young kids to the industry and showing them what goes on inside the barns they see while driving down the road."

Bode described his desire to "do his share" when it came to getting involved in associations, events, and boards. He remembered watching others join boards and involve themselves in industry groups and thought, "I can do that, too." From his six-year term on the Nicollet County Pork Board in the 90's, seven years on the Minnesota Pork Board with two years as president, and participating in the Minnesota Agriculture and Rural Leadership (MARL) program, Bode rarely backed away from opportunities to learn, accept challenges, and get involved.

A Love to Learn

As an avid learner, Bode was drawn to groups of likeminded people because he realized there was always more to learn and there will always be someone who knows a little bit more.

He offers this advice to younger individuals: "Don't be afraid to join a group; and once you do join a group, don't just stand in the corner. You need to be part of the group and contribute to the conversation. And if there's a meeting, make sure you're there. Connect with others in the same industry because there's always something to learn."

This advice was not lost to his children. Reflecting on his father's ideologies around involvement, Ryan added, "I have learned to get involved, take that extra step, and be a little uncomfortable. I surround myself with knowledgeable people, because I've learned from my dad that's how you make yourself better."

Generational Farm Future

As a third generation farmer, Bode has had the chance to watch and help raise the fourth and fifth generations of Bode farmers. He reflected on the pride he feels for their multi-generational family farm, and the joy he experienced watching his children grow up, and now his grandchildren.

"They are all so special, and I am so proud of each of them. They give me so much to look forward to. This is a family business, and we all work together and get along, and you just can't ask for anything better than that," stated Bode.

Ryan thoughtfully responded to the reason for the family farm's success stating, "All three of us kids have learned from you (Reuben and Judy). That's why we all get along and love being together; that's why there's no jealousy; that's why our kids have good work ethics. Because that's what they've been taught and what they know."

Bode is especially proud to now own the entirety of his great-grandfather's original family farm. After renting and farming his uncle's acres for decades, he recently had the





Distinguished SERVICE

(Reuben Bode Continued)

opportunity to purchase the land, keeping the complete parcel in the Bode name.

He explained his astonishment and awe in receiving this award and expressed his deep honor. "I enjoyed meeting with all the great people in the pork industry, learning from them, and tried to help in any way I was able. I have enjoyed being able to give back to organizations that have served my family business for years."

Reuben Bode's distinguished service spans across every platform – from involvement on his own farm to host tours, to serving on several boards and associations within the industry, to volunteering his time at countless events – Bode is well-deserving of this award, and the Minnesota pork industry is thankful for the impact of his efforts.





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Legislator of distinction



Representative Rod Hamilton

From farm overalls and boot-washing stations to dress suits and big oak desks, Representative Rod Hamilton spent his career reaching a respectful hand out across party lines to find solutions for Minnesota farmers. How did a "punk kid", as he often refers

to his teenage self, end up in the Minnesota legislature chairing the agriculture committee and advocating for farmers and rural America?

A Path Forward

Representative Hamilton had his small-town lowa eyes set on California following his high school graduation. Little did he know, a move to Minnesota to his aunt and uncle's farm would direct his career path for decades to come.

Working on a small pig farm, milking cows, and boxing groceries all at once encouraged Hamilton to apply for a single career venture with more structure. Though he didn't have much experience with pigs, a farm took a chance on mullet-haired, pierced-ear Hamilton. In 1992, two brothers within Christensen Farm's system bought the farm he was working on. Over the years, he worked his way up through the company starting as a herdsman and into the director of production, business development, and human resources positions.

"As the company grew, I grew with the company," stated Hamilton. "I wasn't a bad kid, just a punk kid who was given a chance that started my passion for agriculture."

Small Involvement to Big Politics

Within a short period of time, Hamilton's community and industry involvement rose. A successful race running for the school board, Minnesota Farm Bureau membership, and participation in the Minnesota Pork Producers Association (MPPA) – of which he later served as president on the Board of Directors – provided a solid foundation for his career in politics.

The spark was really ignited at a small meeting with past MPPA CEO, David Preisler, and two other producers at Happy Chef in Windom. Preisler was curious about legislative issues the producers wanted to see change; Hamilton wrote a few issues on a napkin and passed it across the table. The issues were taken to the MPPA Board of Directors, turned into resolutions, and ended up becoming law.

"My desire for politics really sparked after I saw so many people come together to make those laws happen. From then on, I just became more involved and took advantage of opportunities to go to St. Paul and Washington, D.C., to visit with legislators and advocate on behalf of agriculture," Hamilton recalled.

In 2004, Hamilton and his employer agreed his running for a seat in the Minnesota Congress would be a positive step for pig farming and agriculture.



Agricultural Pride

Leading with empathy, Hamilton's goal was always to help people and work together to find solutions with real-life experiences guiding his political positions and beliefs. His passion and appreciation for agriculture wasn't fully cemented until it became his profession, and now he remains fascinated by the role farmers and ranchers play in every person's life every single day.

"When you step back and realize that farmers and ranchers are less than two percent of the population, and they supply everything to the nation, you realize people can't survive without us," said Hamilton astoundingly. "What's cool for me is walking through the grocery store, or seeing kids coloring, or watching my brother-in-law give himself a shot of insulin and think, "I played a role in that.""

He noted the pride those involved in agriculture should feel for the work they do and the impact they have on people's lives, even if they aren't working directly with the animal or directly combining the crops. The tens of thousands of people in Minnesota alone directly involved in an agricultural career such as livestock transporters, accountants, construction workers, food processing personnel, and others, all play a significant role in agriculture and providing end-products for consumers.

Hamilton declared, "Never has there been more opportunity in agriculture than there is today."

Legislator of Distinction Award Sponsor:



Former Minnesota State Representative, Jeanne Poppe (DFL), was a freshman legislator with Hamilton in 2004 and served alongside him for 16 years. Poppe stated, "Often, we were the chair or the lead on the ag committees, based on who was in the majority. People would always make comments about small, niche farmers or large farms, but I always appreciated his message, "There's room for all in agriculture."

Favoring Farmers in the Capitol

Through the changing tides of the majority/minority in the Minnesota House legislature (six different changes in Hamilton's tenure), Hamilton held constant to the belief of developing relationships across the aisle to accomplish meaningful legislation for his constituents and the state of Minnesota. Even during minority years, positive achievements were made due to having an open ear and treating people with dignity and respect.

"You never know what you'll learn, and from whom," acknowledged Hamilton. "All too often, we fear what we don't take the time to understand."

Following his first appointment in 2004, Hamilton quickly became the leading voice for agriculture and rural Minnesota. In 2009, he became the Assistant Minority Leader and the Minnesota House's third most powerful position, House Majority Whip, in 2011. In the 2011-2012, 2015-2016, and 2017-2018 session, he chaired the Minnesota House Agriculture Finance Committee.

As a member and chairman of this committee, Hamilton chief-authored the Agricultural Research, Education and Extension Tech Transfer (AGREETT) program, which invests in Minnesota's next generation of agriculture-focused human capital annually. He also played a major role in providing equipment for the University of Minnesota's Veterinarian Medicine Lab and Animal Isolation Unit.

Two of Hamilton's proudest legislative accomplishments prioritized rural Minnesota. First being the transition from a two-lane road to a four-lane expansion of Highway 60, stretching from Bigelow to St. James. The expansion improved efficiency and driver safety for local residents and passers-by. Secondly, the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System supplied southwestern Minnesota residents with safe, reliable drinking water.

Mary Ann Christensen, Chair of the Board at Christensen Farms, provided, "Representative Hamilton is a proven advocate for Minnesota and American agriculture, and thank him for his 18 years of service in the MN House supporting the farmers of this great state in doing what they love and are committed to in producing wholesome and safe food to feed our growing population; from our neighbors to people around the globe."

Hope for Future Generational Leadership

Hamilton's excitement for upcoming generations and the impact they will have on the world is nearly palpable. With all the information the world has to offer at their fingertips, he is fascinated to see where that will take them.

His understanding of younger generations is polarized from a seemingly majority in older generations. Some consider the emphasis on work-life balance from Generation Z to be lazy, whereas Hamilton views it as admirable.

"My generation and those older than me were so focused on work, work," Hamilton noted. "I think the younger generation has it put together, and their quality of life will be reflected in their quality of work."

When asked what he would say to a young person considering a career in politics, he stated, "Do it," followed by Mahatma Ghandi's well-known, inspiring



Legislator of distinction

(Rep. Rod Hamilton Continued)

quote, "Be the change you wish to see in the world." He has heard countless people qualified for the role state they would never run due to the political atmosphere, and rebutted stating, "Good people need to step up. People need to go against the trajectory if we want things to change."

He leaves upcoming leaders with a solid piece of advice: "Don't forget about common courtesy. Use "please" and "thank you" and treat everyone with respect."

Gratefulness Passing the Reigns

2022 marks the year of his retirement, and he reflected on how fast the last 18 years went. It was not his intent to stay involved at this level of government for so long but following each session he noted "there's always unfinished work and a draw to keep you coming back." Previously, Hamilton didn't understand why many legislators stayed in their positions for so long, but it's easy for him to see now.

"As soon as I announced my retirement, the weight on my shoulders was gone. I also promised my family, close friends, and myself that I would take care of myself and personal well-being," said Hamilton.

He noted his greatest reward in serving pig farmers and his constituents are the friendships developed over the years. Countless mentors and connections both within and outside the legislature created lifelong friendships

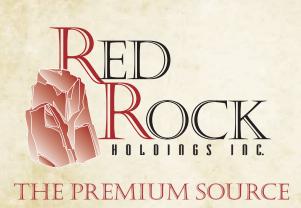


that are cherished and appreciated for their impact on his life. The value he feels for each friendship made is irreplaceable.

"It's really rewarding to jump in my vehicle and drive through the state," Hamilton acknowledged thoughtfully. "To see the bills I've passed and know I played a role in that – both big projects such as Highway 60, to small projects like adding a culvert under railroad tracks to prevent a farmer's field from flooding – is a rewarding feeling I don't take for granted."

Hamilton declared, "Change is a good thing. Now there's room for another leader to step up and bring new perspectives and ideas."







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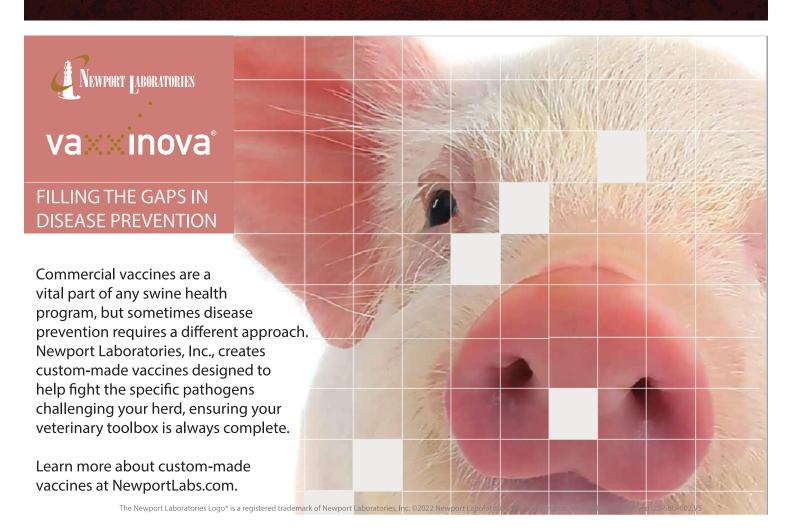
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2022 PORK CHECKOFF YEAR IN REVIEW

Minnesota Pork's investments, events, and collaborations continue to be directed by the strategic imperatives laid out in its 2021 Strategic Plan under the pillars of Build Trust, Invest in People, Impact Through Influence, and Protect Our Freedom to Operate. The following activities and partnerships represent action-oriented ways Minnesota Pork has added value to producer investments and drove the organization forward in the past 12 months.

Protect Our Freedom to Operate

Minnesota Leadership in SHIP



Minnesota leadership was heavily involved in the implementation and creation of the Swine Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) – a partially Checkoff-funded pilot program developed and facilitated by a congress of industry professionals, including producers. It is built on a foundation of biosecurity, traceability, sampling, and testing using tools like AgView and Secure Pork Supply Plan. The objective of SHIP is to develop and implement an African Swine Fever (ASF)-Classical Swine Fever (CSF) Monitored Certification Program. This certification demonstrates evidence of disease freedom to resume international trade during the response and recovery period of a foreign animal disease outbreak.

Sustainability White Paper

Together with like-minded collaborators including Ernst and Young (EY), National Pork Board, and The Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota Pork Board compiled a white paper outlining observations about current and future needs, past success, and signals of continuous improvement within the scope of sustainability. The white paper illustrates ideas and opportunities farms could consider implementing and their corresponding impact to the farm and environment. It also acts as a resource to provide consumers, elected officials, food companies, and neighbors evidence that pig farmers are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

Your-Farm Sustainability Reports

Minnesota was a leader in recognizing the value of the Your-Farm Sustainability Reports and encouraging farmers to measure and document their farms to prove continuous improvement. Your-Farm Sustainability Reports help producers recognize key sustainability metrics on their farms. It helps track, measure, monitor and report the sustainability story of each farm and the U.S. pork industry as a whole. Participants have shared their reports with financial institutions, suppliers, and community members while also making on-farm improvements to improve their bottom line. The report is free to all who wish to participate.

MPB Honors Pork Production Professionals

To help celebrate National Pork Month, MPB organized an opportunity to give back to the workers who keep food on American tables every day. Placed at two trailer locations at Hormel and Quality Pork Processors in Austin, Minnesota, members of the Minnesota Pork Board and Hormel Foods organized groups of volunteers to gift two frozen pork loins and other items for each worker during the day and evening shifts.



Build Trust

A major barrier for consumers who don't eat pork regularly, or who are considering eating less of it, is the perceived health of pork being fatty and non-nutritious. To address this health barrier and share about the benefits of nutritious, healthy pork in a wellness lifestyle, MPB positioned itself where many health-conscious individuals frequent, such as marathons, triathlons, and dietitian conferences.

Mankato Marathon

The Mankato Marathon consists of seven different races and challenges. This year, the weekend-long event took place October 14-16. The Minnesota Pork Board sponsored the Pork Power 5K – a fun event uniquely aimed to reach health-conscious consumers. Pork Power 5K runners received delicious bacon mid-race at a bacon station, custom made all-pork snack sticks at the finish line, and pig medals following the race. Throughout the day, Minnesota pig farmers from around the area volunteered their time to connect with runners and other race-supporters to answer questions about pig farming and explain the nutritional benefits of eating pork.

Grandma's Marathon

As one of the largest marathon races in the United States, Grandma's Marathon held in Duluth, Minnesota, brings together more than 18,000 runners from around the world. Three major races in June provide an opportunity for the Minnesota Pork Board and industry volunteers to have one-on-one interactions with health-conscious consumers about the power of pork protein and how it can fit into a healthy diet.

Nourish, Move, Love

Nearly 300,000 individuals follow along with fitness trainer, Lindsey Bomgren, of Nourish, Move, Love (NML). MPB partnered with NML to create free, 30- ad 45-minute workout videos



while authentically discussing the health benefits of pork and why it's a great protein to refuel with following a workout. Two new videos aired in October to coincide with Pork Month, and featured swine veterinarian, Dr. Taylor Spronk, who provided a farmer face and voice sharing pig farming and nutrition messages.

The Real Food Dietitians

The Real Food Dietitians focus on healthful ways to cook and bring pork to the top of consumer's minds when preparing meals for the week. Throughout the year, MPB partnered with the digital influencers to create delicious dishes, along with a 30-day meal plan and coinciding grocery list. MPB-sponsored content focused on the simplicity, versatility, and health of pork, along with sharing top pig farming sustainability messages to help consumers feel more comfortable eating pork.

Contracted Dietitian / MAND



MPB contracted dietitian, Renee Korczak, created several assets and spoke at multiple events in the last twelve months. She was seen cooking live segments on our social channels, speaking with university dietetic and nutrition students, presenting on refueling with high quality pork protein to sports dietitians, and providing written content on pork's role in a healthy diet.

Coborn's Dietitian Engagement

Throughout the year, MPB engaged with Coborn's grocery store dietitians in several ways. During National Nutrition Month (March), a Coborn's Dietitian and swine veterinarian, Dr. Cara Haden, presented a live Cook-A-Long on Facebook to speak on pork's nutrition and animal welfare in pig barns. June's partnership included Coborn's dietitian in a segment on Twin Cities live showing three delicious ways to use lean, protein-packed pork.

2022 PORK CHECKOFF Year in Review

Twin Cities Live Participation

Over the last 12 months, MPB partnered with Twin Cities Live in a variety of ways. Historically, MPB had



a presence during the "Your Happy Hour and a Half" show, five days in a row during October to celebrate Pork Month. In 2022, MPB continued the weeklong segments along with one segment each month and a 12 Days of Grilling campaign in collaboration with the Minnesota Beef Council in July. During each 6-minute segment, either a chef, pig farmer, veterinarian, or dietitian represented Minnesota Pork and showcased different ways to cook pork while talking about its nutritional value and farmer sustainability practices.

Oink Outings

Oink Outings resumed this summer, appearing at community and fitness events around the state, primarily focused in the Metro area. The program provides consumers the opportunity to ask farmers questions about pigs, pig farming, pork, and sustainability practices. Oink Outings provide farmers the opportunity to connect with consumers face-to-face and tell their story, while also giving back to their communities. Every question asked at the events results in one pound of donated ground pork to Second Harvest Heartland.

Compeer Financial also played a major role in the Second Harvest Heartland donation, donating an additional \$6,000 dollars to provide more pork to the food shelf partner.

Start Tribune Display Ads

The Star Tribune is uniquely positioned to reach a highly targeted demographic within the Twin Cities Metro area. This capability to reach some of MPB's primary audiences led to the creation of digital display ads placed strategically on the media outlet's pages and steaming



partners. The ads primarily focus on sustainability messaging and pork's diverse flavor profile.

WCCO Radio

Jason DeRusha is new talent to WCCO Radio, but well-known for his previous role in the Twin Cities as a WCCO-TV personality and food critic. DeRusha has been a resounding supporter of pig farming and pork for nearly two decades. MPB capitalized on his new role in the radio space. His authentic voice can be heard over one dozen times each week sharing Minnesota pig farmer's sustainability story and simple, delicious, versatile ways to cook pork.

Invest in People

Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference

80 college students gathered in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in June to attend the Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference (YLAC), hosted by MPB. Various ages, majors, companies, and backgrounds



from across the country were represented. Speakers addressed topics such as leadership, personal well-being, service, and persevering through challenges throughout the three-day conference.

Agriculture Scholarships Awarded

MPB awarded five \$1,000 scholarships to students pursuing careers within agriculture and related fields. The scholarship recipients ranged across different areas of study within agriculture, diverse backgrounds, and varied universities.

Summer Intern Program

The Minnesota Pork Board employed two interns over the 2022 summer. The two South Dakota State University interns hail from Minnesota farms with a passion for sharing their agricultural story. They spent their summer talking



with consumers about pork and pig farming at Oink Outings, learning from and connecting with industry professionals, and better understanding MPPA's political efforts and the impact of lobbying.

SDSU Endowment Chair

Skilled labor and younger generations returning to the farm and seeking careers in swine production continue to be pain points for farms across the state of Minnesota and the United States as a whole. Approximately 35 percent of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences students at South Dakota State University (SDSU) come from Minnesota. The Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) stepped up as a major donor to the Rick Wahlstrom Endowed Chair in Swine Production in an effort to endow a teaching position within the swine unit to reinforce an already strong program at SDSU.

Ronald McDonald House Charities – Upper Midwest

Ronald McDonald House Charities - Upper Midwest (RMHC-UM) remains a priority audience for MPB. At the beginning of the year, MPB donated a lump sum amount to the organization to provide one pork meal each day for families in the following 365 days. A major component of YLAC, the service project, also supported RMHC-UM with students organizing snack bags for families and hospital staff. Because of

MPB's dedication to RMHC-UM and supporting families in need during vulnerable situations, MPB was awarded the organization's Key to the House Award in 2022, an honor "given to an organization that has made significant impact on the house in a short period of time."



Impact Through Influence

McDonalds Executives Tour Sow Farm

Executives at one of the largest fast food chain restaurants, McDonald's, partnered with the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council to gain a better understanding of pork production and to open the lines of communication with one of their largest suppliers - pork. National pork leadership, in collaboration with MPB, connected the restaurant executives with Wakefield Pork to host a sow farm tour and share the full pig farming story.



2022 MPPA Year in Review

Minnesota Chamber Leadership Tours

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association continues to develop relationships with like-minded organizations including the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce. Each year, the Chamber hosts two leadership development classes, Leadership Minnesota (ages 40+) and Leaders Lab (ages 25-40). Each cohort has several sessions based throughout Minnesota where they get to experience and connect with Minnesota businesses. Each group has an agriculture and food sector session which includes a visit to a Minnesota pig barn.



It is a tremendous undertaking by the teams at Hugoson Pork and Christensen Farms to welcome nearly forty people into a farm. The farm visit is always a highlight of the program for participants, and the farm employees enjoy the energy and engaging conversations

that come from the tour. The business leaders who participate in the cohort programs are exactly the kind of audience that can relate to the challenges and opportunities Minnesota farm families face from labor, trade, regulation, and business transition. MPPA is grateful for the farms that are willing to take the time and invest in this critical audience of consumers and thought leaders.

Legislative Reception Grilling

Each spring, the Minnesota Pork Producers Association partners with state legislators from southern Minnesota to host a social gathering held in conjunction with the closing of the legislative session. In June, Bill Crawford, David Preisler, Lauren Servick, and MPPA Intern, Karmen Sperr, prepared pork loins for the reception held at CHS Field. The reception is attended by legislators from all parties and includes some agency, committee, and caucus staff. The reception is always well received as a fun, casual social event for legislators with MPPA's featured presence.

The event was initially started by Rep. Bob Gunther of Fairmont. He hosted the event to bring together all legislators for a social gathering while also featuring a staple food item from his district, pork. Rep. Bjorn Olson, among other I-90 corridor legislators, continue to host the event.

Preisler Retires, Resler Selected as MPPA CEO

After a 28-year career with the Minnesota Pork Producers Association, David Preisler retired as CEO. A celebratory reception was hosted





in Mankato recognizing Dave's years of service and commitment to working on behalf of Minnesota's pig farmers. In his retirement, Dave was recently elected to serve as the Le Sueur County Commissioner.

Jill Resler was selected as the next CEO after a national search was completed for the position. Jill assumed the role in June, after holding various positions over her 13-year career with the organization, most recently serving as Chief Operations Officer.

Farm Bill Listening Session

Minnesota farmer Bruce Peterson hosted a Farm Bill Listening Session, conducted by Reps. Cheri Bustos (D-IL) and Angie Craig (D-MN), on his farm in rural Northfield in late July. While the next Farm Bill starts to take shape in the next Congress, a series of listening sessions were held throughout the country. MPPA was invited to provide remarks and bring attention to some key asks of the next Farm Bill on behalf of the pork industry.

In collaboration with the National Pork Producers Council, MPPA Vice-President, Vince Baack, shared the importance of investing and maintaining vaccine banks for Foreign Animal Disease, ensuring continued investment in the National Animal Health Laboratory



Network to make sure labs have the surge capacity in the event of an animal disease outbreak and securing grant programs to address specific gaps in the NAHLN labs including equipment and resources to meet the needs of the industry in a response event. Other farm groups were represented and underlined the need to continue investing in conservation programs, crop insurance, and beginning and emerging farmer programs.

Farmfest

Election years make for a ramped-up atmosphere at the Minnesota Farmfest show. The farm show continues to be a central gathering site for policy and thought leaders in agriculture. Election cycles bring many candidates and members seeking re-election as they look to gain perspectives from rural Minnesota. Minnesota Pork has a favorable location near the forum building and hosts many state and federal legislators throughout the three-day event.



This year, Minnesota Pork hosted more than 30 candidates and elected officials. Farmer leaders can connect with these individuals as well as office and campaign staff to help expand their knowledge of issues in agriculture. The central theme of Minnesota Pork's tent and key talking points were around pork's sustainability commitments and the dynamic supply chain that is integral to Minnesota's economy. Farmfest is a critical event where farmers can engage with legislative leaders in a casual, conversational setting.

A Greater Minnesota – Farm and Food Minnesota Activities

In 2022, A Greater Minnesota, a coalition of agricultural interest groups dedicated to the viability of good farms, agriculture and food companies, and jobs in Minnesota wanted to build impactful engagement and knowledge among candidates seeking public office in the Minnesota House and Senate. With redistricting, retirements, and a deeply polarized set of election issues, agriculture and food needed to break through to new candidates in a noisy election cycle.

The priorities were to engage and inform candidates and deepen their knowledge as agriculture looks to continue influencing future legislative and regulatory activity. AGM took a multi-channel approach of storytelling and policy engagement to help candidates in targeted races understand the importance of food and farming issues. This was done through a series of paid media ads in rural and greater Minnesota and roundtable discussion events of candidates and MN farm organizations to come together. Top issues included permitting, climate and the environment, and jobs/labor. With 68 new members in the legislature of 201, Minnesota Pork and the other organizations were happy to have engaged candidates in a new way this election cycle.

Opportunities remain for agriculture to continue building the knowledge, understanding, and appreciation for the food and agriculture in Minnesota, especially when it comes to economics, community development, and climate solutions.

NPPC Legislative Action Conference

In conjunction with the National Pork Producers Council's (NPPC) Spring and Fall Legislative Action Conferences (LAC), Minnesota farmer and veterinary leaders meet with Minnesota's congressional delegation raising issues important to pig farmers and the pork industry. These formal visits build on the long-term strategy and relationships that are developed with Senators, Representatives, and their respective staff leads on agriculture.

As part of NPPC and MPPA's investment in future organization leaders, participants in the Pork Leadership Institute, veterinary externs, and swine veterinarians get the opportunity to join the delegation in DC, attend the congressional meetings, the pork legislative reception, and hear from other agencies and offices as they learn more about NPPC and MPPA's work to influence and advocate for farmers in the legislative and regulatory activities in Washington, DC.

Spring LAC

After four virtual LAC sessions, the 2022 Spring LAC, hosted April 6-7, marked the first fully in-person LAC event in Washington, DC. While MPPA had productive meetings with Senators and Representatives as part of the virtual LACs, everyone was excited to connect in person.

Minnesota was represented in meetings by MPPA leaders, Tim Schwartz and Vince Baack; Dr. Taylor Spronk was part of the swine veterinarian group; John Giefer joined from the Pork Leadership Institute group; Veterinary Externship participant from the University of Minnesota, Kim Nguyen; NPPC board members Steve Malakowsky, Lori Stevermer, and Terry Wolters; and staff David Preisler, Lauren Servick, and Brad Schmidt.

Each LAC begins with an issues briefing by NPPC staff to provide important background and context for the asks farmers take to their respective members of congress. During this session, there are additional guest speakers which included, Rep. Randy Feenstra (R-IA) representing northwest Iowa, and Mr. Peter Fernandez from the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). Mr. Fernandez shared learnings and insights from work being done in the Dominican Republic as they respond to their outbreak of African Swine Fever.

Due to lingering COVID-19 guidance for events in Washington, DC, the traditional "Baconfest" legislative reception was canceled. Instead, the entire NPPC



Pictured left to right: David Preisler, John Giefer, Kim Nguyen, Tim Schwartz, Rep. Angie Craig, Dr. Taylor Spronk, Vince Baack, Steve Malakowsky.



Vince Baack discusses key issues for the pork industry while thanking Rep. Craig for her work in helping with line speed issues at the administration. Pictured left to right: Vince Baack, Steve Malakowsky, Kim Nguyen, and Rep. Angie Craig.

group was hosted at the Mexican Cultural Institute by Ambassador Ana Luisa Fajer. Chefs from the Institute prepared authentic Mexican dishes highlighting the tremendous cultural impact pork has in Mexican cuisine.

Fall LAC

The Fall LAC saw another group of Minnesota leaders head to Washington ahead of a much-anticipated election. With the looming election, the fall working session of the U.S. House and Senate was jam-packed in early September as elected officials wanted to get back to their states and districts for campaign events.

Minnesota was represented by MPPA leaders Mike Mouw, Bill Drager, and Victor Martinez; swine veterinarians Dr. Taylor Spronk and Dr. Ross Kiehne, veterinary extern student from the University of Minnesota, Michael Streitz; NPPC board members Steve Malakowsky, Lori Stevermer, Terry Wolters; and MPPA staff, Jill Resler.

NPPC President Terry Wolters kicked off the issues briefing session, welcoming David Wasserman and Amy Walter from the Cook Political Report to provide perspectives on the 2022 Election. Rep. Adrian Smith (R-Nebraska) also addressed the full LAC group. The "Baconfest" reception was held at the Library of Congress, Madison Building, where members and staffers were able to visit constituents in a more casual setting.

Key Issues Lobbied During LAC

Spring Issues

African Swine Fever:

Continued investment and appropriations are needed to continue protecting the U.S. swine herd as African Swine Fever continues to spread. Farmers



Pictured left to right: Lauren Servick, Tim Schwartz, Vince Baack, Brad Schmidt, Rep. Michelle Fischbach, and David Preisler.

sought funding for the Bureau of Customs and Board Protection to reach full staffing levels. Additionally, 2023 Fiscal appropriations are needed to hire additional APHIS field staff, provide the National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) with its full funding ensuring all labs are prepared for a foreign animal disease outbreak.

Asia-Pacific Market Access and CPTPP:

Pig farmers support joining the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP) which would eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers, significantly boosting U.S. pork exports and creating



Farmer leaders and MPPA staff spoke with Rep. Tom Emmer during the Spring LAC event. Pictured left to right: Rep. Tom Emmer, Tim Schwartz, Dr. Taylor Spronk, and Kim Nguyen.

additional American jobs. As the administration looked to negotiate on agricultural sanitary and phytosanitary issues with Asian countries through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, those discussions and trade deals need to go further in addressing market disparities, further broadening the negotiations to include market access.

Labor:

There is a severe labor shortage that is negatively impacting pig farming and meat processing. Farmers are seeking reforms to the H2-A visa program that establishes a legal and productive workforce without placing undue burden on employers, while also providing solutions for undocumented workers already in the U.S.

Fall Issues

2023 Farm Bill:

Catastrophic events in pig farming have the potential to cut off export access, cause feed input shortages, restrict packing plant capacity, or result in other farming losses. Farmers urged Congress to provide insurance from low-probability catastrophic events to mitigate producers' risks and add a level of resiliency in the face of such events.

NPPC Legislative Action Conference



After his special election in August, Rep. Brad Finstad hosted his first DC visit with MPPA members during the Fall LAC in September. Pictured left to right: Victor Martinez, Bill Drager, Steve Malakowsky, Jill Resler, Rep. Brad Finstad, Mike Mouw, Dr. Ross Kiehne, and Michael Streitz.

African Swine Fever:

Ongoing efforts to protect U.S. borders and prepare and respond to a foreign animal disease are vital to minimize animal losses for pig farmers and risks for U.S. export markets. Congress needs to appropriate funding for agricultural inspection programs through the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection for their agricultural inspectors and beagle teams.

California Prop 12:

NPPC and American Farm Bureau Federation were preparing to present oral arguments to the U.S. Supreme Court. There is potential danger in state ballot initiatives that threaten disruptions in the supply chain, raise food costs for consumers, and can threaten animal health and business sustainability.

GIPSA/Concentration:

Pork producers rely on enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act to ensure farms can operate on a level playing field with their counterparts in the middle of the supply chain. Farmers are not in favor of any rules that infringe on the right of pig farmers to freely enter contracts of their choosing.

Get Involved

MPPA Partners and Strategic Investment Partners are welcome and encouraged to participate in congressional visit activities. While LAC is one tactic in the overall policy engagement strategy, it is incredibly impactful when farmers go to Washington to visit with their members of Congress. The staffers and members regularly hear from MPPA and NPPC staff, raising awareness around policy and regulatory issues; however, hearing directly from constituents always propels efforts forward. If you as an MPPA Partner or SIP investor want to get involved or attend legislative visits in Washington, DC, reach out to MPPA staff.



MPPA leaders met with Sen. Tina Smith and her agricultural legislative assistant, Adam Schiff during the Spring LAC. Sen. Smith has a keen interest in supporting agriculture in animal disease preparedness as she was very involved in Minnesota's response to Avian Influenza in 2015 as Lt. Governor under Gov. Mark Dayton. She has taken that knowledge and experience with her to Washington and has been supportive of NPPC and MPPA's asks related to preparedness activities and funding. Pictured back to front left to right, Vince Baack, Tim Schwartz, Adam Schiff, Sen. Tina Smith. Front, Brad Schmidt, John Giefer, and Dr. Taylor Spronk.





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MPPA Partner Membership

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association Partner Membership

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association work to represent the pork industry in Minnesota through legislative and advocacy work. The Partner Membership is an integral part of the association due to the diversity and intricacy of stakeholders involved in raising pigs and producing pork. The investment made by these members ensures the voice of the pork industry is heard in the legislature and other public policy activities for the Minnesota Pork Producers Association and the National Pork Producers Council.

Three membership levels are offered with correlating investment levels and membership benefits. The partner membership has an annual renewal on September 1.

The MPPA is committed to providing value to all members through advocacy and engagement opportunities. The investments from partner members and Strategic Investment Program investors will enable both the MPPA and NPPC to work on behalf of pork industry stakeholders on issues like environmental regulations, international trade development, animal welfare, animal health practices, disease preparedness and homeland security, taxes and fees, conservation funding and food safety.

Representation at various MPPA events where input is sought include the MPPA Annual Meeting and board elections, Minnesota Pork Congress events, legislative visits to St. Paul and Washington, D.C. and MPPA committee meetings.

The membership tiers and investment levels are detailed below. If there are questions about membership, contact the Minnesota Pork Office at 507-345-8814 or mnpork@mnpork.com.

Level 1 - Contract Grower - \$750

Membership Benefits:

- Annual Meeting Voting Rights (2 Shares)
- · Access to MPPA Litigation Fund
- Member Only MPPA Communications including:
 - Newsletter, Call to Actions, Annual Report, Pork Bits Newsletter
 - NPPC SIP Membership

Level 2 - Contract Grower - \$400

Membership Benefits:

- Annual Meeting Voting Rights (2 Shares)
- Member Only MPPA Communications including:
 - E-Newsletter, Call to Actions, Annual Report, Pork Bits Newsletter
 - NPPC SIP Membership Benefits

Level 3 - Allied Industry / Employee / Contract Grower - \$250

Membership Benefits:

- MPPA Annual Meeting Voting Rights (1 Share)
- Member Only MPPA Communications including:
 - E-Newsletter, Call to Actions, Annual Report, Pork Bits Newsletter



MPPA Partner Enrollment Form

Minnesota Pork Producers Association 151 Saint Andrews Court, Suite 810 I Mankato, MN 56001 Phone: 1-800-537-7675 I Fax: (507) 345-8681 I E-mail: mnpork@mnpork.com

The MPPA Partner program allows contract growers, farm employees and others who have an interest in the swine industry to take part in the MPPA decision-making process, including the right to vote at meetings and serve on committees.

This annual fee supports Minnesota Pork Producers Association and National Pork Producers Council legislative activities and public policy development on issues important to Minnesota pork producers. The membership begins each year October 1st and ends September 30th of the following year.

A description of each membership level is found on the backside of this form. Please select one of the following levels:

_	Level 1	\$750 Annual Membership Fee Benefit Summary: Invitation and 2 tickets to Member only Events, Access to Litigation Fund, Voting Rights, Communications, and NPPC SIP Membership				
	Level 2	\$400 Annual Membership Fee Benefit Summary: Invitation and 1 ticket to Member only Events, Voting Rights, Communications, and NPPC SIP Membership				
	Level 3	\$250 Annual Membership Fee Benefit Summary: Invitation and 1 ticket to Member only Events, Voting Rights, and Minnesota Communications				
Please select one:						
	Contract Grower [To receive full NPPC SIP membership benefits (Level 1 and 2), your selected membership level fee must exceed your gross contract x 0.001]					
	Formula	x 0.001 = \$ (Gross Contract)				
	(Gross Contract) Farm Employee					
	Allied Industry					
	Pig Owner [Pigs Marketed Annually:]					
PLEASE COMPLETE FULLY AND PRINT LEGIBLY:						
Name:			Company or Farm Name:			
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Revised 2021	The member		Inting at (507) 345-8814 to pay by credit card October 1st and ends September 30th of the following year.			

2022 MN LEGISLATIVE SESSION YEAR IN REVIEW

The 2022 Minnesota Legislative Session proved to be another interesting process with one of two mixed-party-controlled legislatures in the country. While that would typically indicate a call for elected officials for compromise, a few topics added interesting flavor to how the legislature went about its business. A mixed legislature, a redistricting announcement mid-session, a historic state budget surplus, and an election year all changed the politics and motivations of each member and party in St. Paul.

Monday, January 31 marked the first day of the 2022 Legislative Session as lawmakers looked forward to a unique year at the Capitol. While the 2021 Session was held completely remote, some things began to open up. The House of Representatives remained completely closed to the public and continued to hold all hearings via Zoom. This also largely meant that constituent meetings were also conducted on Zoom.



Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Daryl Timmerman, Lauren Servick, Vince Baack, Sen. Nick Frentz (DFL - North Mankato), Josh Anderson, David Preisler.

The Senate, however, held in-person hearings with a virtual option. The Senate Office Building was open to the public with appointments required to visit the floors where senators and staff are officed. The Capitol building itself was completely open.

Another issue that will make 2022 especially interesting is that all 201 legislators and Governor Walz were up for election in November. In addition, new district lines for the House and Senate were released in February, essentially halting work at the capitol for the day while members reviewed new district lines and considered options for running in the new district, physically moving into a new district, or retiring. As could have been expected, some lawmakers were jockeying for position as they got put into new districts and some were paired with other sitting members.

Redistricting happens in the year following the U.S. Population Census where district lines are redrawn to ensure more equal representation as demographics change for areas throughout the country. While Minnesota retained its full congressional seat

allotment with 8, greater Minnesota saw districts get bigger, in turn reducing the number of elected officials representing greater and rural Minnesota in the Legislature.

The year began with many announced retirements, which grew throughout the session. After redistricting and the announced retirements, it was expected that at least one-third of the next legislature would be first-time members.

Looming over all these other factors was, at the time, a historic \$7.7 billion state budget surplus forecasted from November 2021. The scale of the surplus further complicated negotiations in Minnesota's split legislature as the GOP-controlled Senate planned to provide substantial tax cuts while the DFL-controlled House eyed funding many of their spending priorities. That surplus does not include the \$1.9 billion the state received from the federal American Rescue Plan, an additional infusion of COVID relief dollars.

Virtual Hill Visit Day

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association identified several key priorities that were discussed at the legislature. These efforts were underlined when several MPPA members participated in a virtual Hill Visit Day meeting with their elected officials and key party leaders.



Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Larry Liepold, Lauren Servick, David Preisler, Jill Resler, Brad Schmidt, Dianne Bettin, Commissioner Thom Petersen, Tim Schwartz, Josh Anderson, AJ Duerr, Daryl Timmerman, Vince Baack.

Twenty Senators and Representatives met with farmer leaders while the entire group also heard comments from Speaker of the House, Rep. Melissa Hortman, (DFL-Brooklyn Park), House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee Chair, Rep. Mike Sundin (DFL-Esko), Senate Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee Chair Sen. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake), and Commissioner of Agriculture, Thom Petersen.

Session Closes with Little Work Completed

The 2022 Regular Legislative Session ended with a whimper at midnight on Sunday, May 22. The Governor, Senate, and House negotiated in the final days as the session end drew closer and were able to find agreement on many issue areas. However, a global deal remained elusive. Differences in K-12 Education, Public Safety, and Health and Human Services persisted when time ran out. A couple of budget bills, including Agriculture, did make it across the finish line.

There was some hope and optimism that Governor Walz would call a special session to firm up the final deals on the omnibus bills that did not get passed. Governor Walz and the House DFL advocated for overtime to finish negotiations, but Senate Republicans were less interested.

2022 Legislative Priorities and Status

Despite the disappointing culmination of the legislature's work on May 22, there was some headway made on MPPA legislative priorities:

Unemployment Trust Fund - \$2.7 billion was allocated to repay the federal loans and to replenish the state Unemployment Insurance trust fund. This was passed into law on April 29. MPPA supported and actively lobbied on this issue looking for full funding from the UI Trust Fund and repaying the loan to the federal government.

Ag Homestead Valuation Limit - Language that resets the valuation limit for agricultural homestead at \$2.5 million was included in the Tax Committee Conference Report, but that report was not passed before the end of the session. The current limit is \$1.89 million, based on a formula at the Department of Revenue. The new limit would continue to go up or down with property values based on the new \$2.5 million benchmark. MPPA was instrumental in this bill being heard and included in the final tax bill that stalled in the final days and hours of the session.

Capital School Levy Credit - Language to increase the state capital school levy credit on ag land from 70% to 85% was included in the Tax Committee Conference Report, but that report was not passed before the end of the session. MPPA supported this provision.

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory Equipment Funding

 A total of \$1.5 million in funding for new equipment at the Veterinary Diagnostic Lab was included in the Agriculture and Drought Relief Conference Report and



Pictured Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Dianne Bettin, Lauren Servick, Rep. Bjorn Olson (DFL - Fairmont), Vince Baack, and Jay Moore.

passed into law. MPPA supported this funding and testified in support before the agriculture committees.

MDA Ag Emergency Account - A total of \$3 million in funding for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDA) Ag Emergency and Preparedness Account was included in the Agriculture and Drought Relief Conference Report and passed into law. MPPA supported this funding.

U of M Ag Research Bonding - The University of Minnesota was requesting \$60 million in bonding to build a new agriculture research facility in Mower County. The Hormel Foundation had pledged \$60 million in private, matching dollars. Neither the House nor Senate ever released their Bonding Bill proposals. MPPA supported this bonding request.

Companion Animal Board - A bill that would create a new "Companion Animal Board" made up of animal rights activists that would have had wide-ranging powers did not move forward in either body. MPPA opposed this bill.

Alternative Meat Grants - A bill that would have provided \$2 million for alternative meat research was not included in either Ag Budget. The House Ag Budget had language allowing for current AGRI Value-Added Grants to be used for "plant-based foods", but it was not included in the final conference report. MPPA opposed this funding and language due to redundancy in existing grant programs.

Feedlot Financial Assurances - The House Environment Budget included a provision that would require all feedlots over 1,000 animal units to provide financial assurances in the case of abandonment of their permit. This language was not included in the final Environment Conference Report. MPPA opposed this provision.

2022 MN LEGISLATIVE SESSION YEAR IN REVIEW

2022 Election Shapes Challenges and Opportunities for 2023-2024 Session

In November, voters sent a clear message in Minnesota. Despite what many pundits believed to be an incoming red wave with a low approval-rated president, record inflation, and a focus on crime, the conventional wisdom on the outcome did not come to fruition. The DFL secured a "trifecta" with control of the Governor's office and all other statewide offices, a 34-33 majority in the Minnesota Senate, and a maintained 70-64 edge in the Minnesota House.



Picture Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Larry Liepold, Lauren Servick, David Preisler, Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne).

Committee chairs and party leaders were announced shortly after the election. With very few DFL party members representing agricultural districts, it was anticipated that a big change would be coming to agriculture committee leaders and assignments. Rep. Samantha Vang (DFL- Brooklyn Center) and Sen. Aric Putnam (DFL - St. Cloud) will be leading their respective chambers' agriculture committees.

MPPA was pleased to see Commissioner Thom Petersen planned to stay at the Department of Agriculture. The Commissioner's office has been a critical conduit to the Governor's office and other agencies addressing policy and regulations impacting agriculture.

No matter the outcome of elections, there are always going to be opportunities and challenges at the legislature. It will be more important than ever for farmer leaders, staff, and MPPA's contracted lobbyist to build a working relationship with representatives and senators, especially with the many newly elected members and those who are not as familiar with pig farming in Minnesota. MPPA welcomes all members and investors that are willing to participate in legislative activities to share their challenges and potential solutions to take forward in St. Paul.



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9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

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This workshop is designed to cover multiple fields for your students to experience the variety of careers in agriculture.

After the workshop, students are invited to walk through Pork Congress's 3 trade show floors to learn even more about what kind of jobs are available in agriculture, learn about ag products, and talk with various people within the pork industry.

TO REGISTER:

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