



Nebraska Pork Producers provide swine simulators for Northeast

Thanks to a partnership with the Nebraska Pork Producers Association, Northeast Community College veterinary technology and animal science students will now use two swine simulators to provide more hands-on experience working with swine.

The partnership began during the Nexus campaign to build new farm facilities at Northeast and has grown since then. When the Pork Producers toured the new Acklie Family College Farm, discussions began about how to enhance swine education at Northeast.

Northeast Vet Tech Instructor Dr. Kassie Wessendorf suggested the use of swine simulators.

Northeast has swine on site for part of each semester, Wessendorf explained, but not year-round.

“Swine have a huge biosecurity protocol,” said Wessendorf. “It’s shower in, shower out. Getting students out to area confinement facilities is extremely difficult because of the biosecurity risk. We don’t want those pigs to get sick or for us to accidentally bring something in.”

The Pork Producers understood and agreed to provide funding for two simulators at a cost of \$5,653. The simulators were ordered from Realityworks in Eau Claire, Wis., and arrived in time for classes this fall.

“Partnering with institutions of higher education, such as Northeast Community College, is a key pillar of our ongoing strategic plan at the Nebraska Pork Producers Association,”

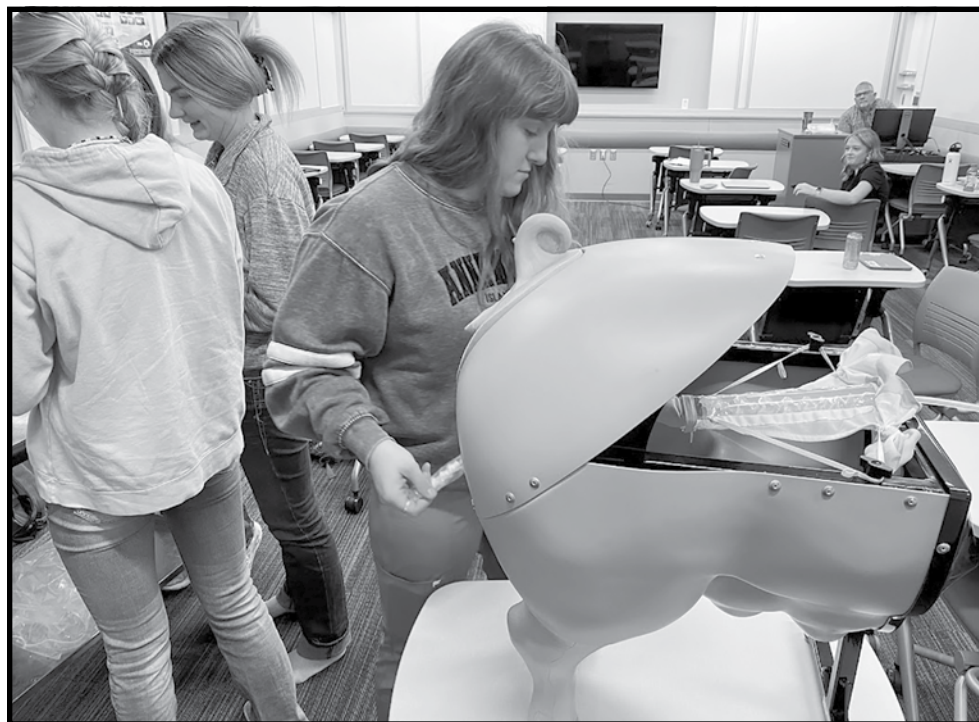
said Mark Wright, president of the Association. “Such institutions are educating the youth who will lead the next generation of Nebraska agriculture.”

Wessendorf said the simulators give students the opportunity to practice and become comfortable with procedures before working on live animals. “If you are trying to teach someone for the first time,” she said, “and they have a piglet that is squirming and scream-

ing, it’s very intimidating.”

Wessendorf said one of the simulators is a swine litter processing kit that includes four piglets with interchangeable parts.

“We can clip eye teeth,” she explained. “We can clip or dock tails and notch ears. We can actually castrate these little piglets. Students learn on a cooperative patient before having to deal with a squirming, squealing piglet.”



Haley Bland of Norfolk (from left) Amber Sobotka of Atkinson and Hannah Vokoun of Chelsea, Iowa, are shown with the back of a sow that can be used to practice artificial insemination. (Northeast Community College).

The other simulator is a swine breeder artificial insemination unit. Wessendorf said it is just the back end of a sow with two interchangeable reproductive tracks.

One track helps students learn to AI – artificially inseminate. “This is fantastic,” Wessendorf said. “When we practice on our gilts – young sows that haven’t had a litter – they are loud and they move a bit. This is a great way for students to learn technique and get comfortable with the procedure before they actually go out and do this on live animals.”

The other track mimics birth, allowing students to practice assisting with a difficult birth, something they might have to do if they are working in a swine facility.

“The models are extremely lifelike,” Wessendorf said. “Realityworks uses a lot of silicone so the models have the feel and look of real skin.”

“This is a great way for students to get their feet wet and get interested in swine without having to risk the health of the other animals,” Wessendorf said. “The simulators will be used by students in the vet tech, animal science, and other programs and be available for producer education, too.”

The swine simulators join a growing group of animal models available for Northeast vet tech and animal science students. Other simulators include a calf, cow OB, bovine head and neck,

See **SIMULATORS**, page 3

Quality Assurance and Training vital to pork industry

Pig farmers actively engage with the scientific community, government agencies and food chain partners to create credible programs and stringent policies that advance pork safety. This collaboration has led to the development of forward-thinking programs that advance good farming practices to minimize food safety threats.

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ing the Pork Quality Assurance® Plus (PQA® Plus) and Transport Quality Assurance® (TQA) programs, as well as the Common Swine Industry Audit (CSIA).

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- Herd health management;
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Transport Quality Assurance (TQA)

Anyone who handles, transports or sets protocols for handling pigs can influence animal well-being and pork quality. TQA is a program that helps

pig transporters, farmers and handlers understand how to handle, move and transport pigs, as well as the potential impacts on pig well-being and pork quality.

There are two types of workers certified through the TQA program:

• TQA Advisor: an individual trained by the Pork Checkoff who can offer certification training and administer exams to handlers.

• TQA Handler: an individual who receives certification to move, handle and transport pigs.

TQA Program Certification

More than 31,000 industry animal handlers and transporters have been awarded TQA program certification.

Common Swine Industry Audit

The Common Swine Industry Audit – an industry-wide program developed in partnership with organizations across the entire food chain – assures consumers of the care farmers and pork processors take to improve animal well-being and food safety. This audit tool expands on the existing PQA Plus program to serve as a single common audit platform for the pork industry. The Professional Animal Auditor Certification Organization (PAACO) certifies this audit.

The Common Swine Industry Audit is designed to:

- Meet individual company and customer needs;
- Be focused on outcome-based criteria that measure and improve animal welfare;
- Provide clarity to producers about audit standards and expectations;
- Minimize duplication and prevent over-sampling;
- Ensure greater integrity of the audit process through consistent application; and
- Provide an objective, science-based platform to facilitate continuous improvement in animal care.



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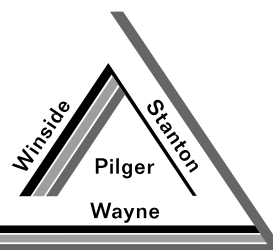
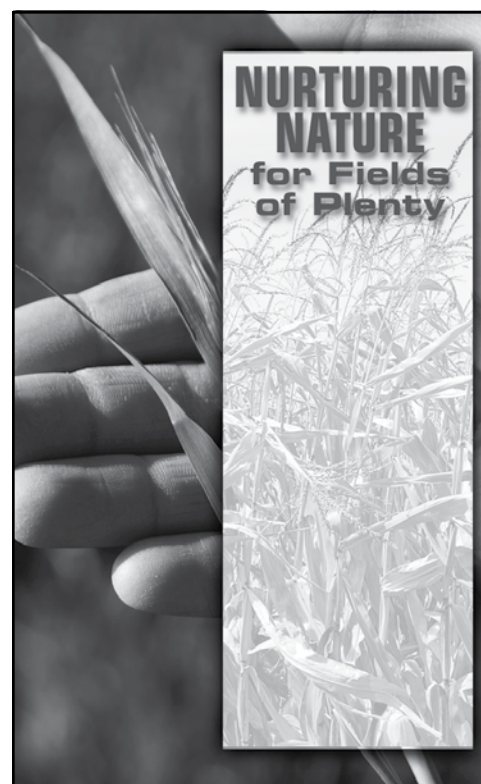
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Simulator

(continued from page 1)

equine head and neck, several CPR dogs, and Diesel, a robotic mannequin dog that breaths, barks, bloats and bleeds. Students also use multiple artificial limbs for radiographs and there

is an artificial horse leg for wrapping. “We really want to thank the Nebraska Pork Producers for their generous donation,” said Dr. Tracy Kruse, Northeast vice president of development and external affairs and executive director of the Northeast

Foundation. “Their contribution has provided cutting edge technology to train the employees needed by the pork industry.”

For more information on how you,

your company or organization can partner with Northeast to provide learning opportunities for students, email foundation@northeast.edu or call 402-844-7240.



Students can practice procedures with swine simulators made possible by a donation from the Nebraska Pork Producers Association. (Northeast Community College)

Garlic Dijon Pork Tenderloin with Roasted Sweet Potato/Pepper Jumble

4 Servings

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. pork tenderloin
- 1/4 cup whole grain dijon mustard
- 2 Tbsp. honey
- 3 cloves garlic (minced)
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. black pepper
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 2 sweet potatoes (peeled and 1/4" dice)
- 1 red bell pepper (1/4" dice)
- 1 poblano pepper (1/4" dice)
- 2 scallions (sliced on a bias)

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F.
2. In a small bowl whisk together Dijon mustard, honey, garlic, salt, and pepper. Rub each pork tenderloin with the sauce until thoroughly coated.
3. Over high heat, add olive oil to large cast iron or oven-safe skillet. Sear tenderloin on each side, then add sweet potatoes, red bell pepper, and poblano to the skillet. Top with remaining sauce, place into oven. Roast until the pork reaches an internal temperature of 145°F, about 10 to 15 minutes. Let rest for 3 minutes before slicing and serving. Garnish with scallions.



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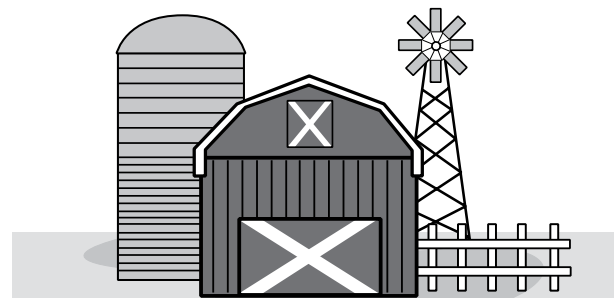
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Epitope optimized vaccine provides long lasting immunity against influenza in pigs

By Erika Petro-Turnquist, Ph.D. Student, UNL School of Biological Sciences, and Eric Weaver, Ph.D., Director, Nebraska Center for Virology, UNL

Swine influenza A virus (IAV-S) is a respiratory pathogen that has been

endemic to U.S. swine for nearly a century and can cause significant morbidity and mortality in infected herds. IAV-S in swine is composed of two subtypes, H1 and H3 which impose a significant economic burden to pig producers due to reduced weight gain, slower production times, increased feed costs, and vet-related medical expenses during severe infections. IAV-S is also considered a zoonotic pathogen, meaning it can be transmitted from animals to people and can cause influenza-like illnesses.

Susceptible individuals include swine farm employees, their families, and youth attending agricultural fairs and those in close proximity to infected swine. While efforts such as strict biosecurity, proper pig flow in a production system, and appropriate personal protective equipment can decrease the spread of IAV-S between pigs and people, vaccination remains a primary method of controlling IAV-S in large herds. Commercial vaccination methods include the use of whole inactivated virus vaccines, RNA-based autogenous vaccines, and a recently clinically approved live attenuated

virus vaccine.

While these methods of vaccination are commonly used in the pork industry, there are significant drawbacks to each method. For instance, whole inactivated virus vaccines tend to induce strain-specific responses due to the substantial genetic diversity seen in IAV-S. RNA-based autogenous vaccines are hampered by slow production times and can be expensive to produce. Live attenuated virus vaccines are less costly than RNA-based autogenous vaccines and can offer more broadly protective responses than whole inactivated virus vaccines, but recent evidence of reassortment and reversion to a virulent form calls to question the safety of this platform. At present, there is a necessity for improved vaccination methods that can provide broadly protective and durable immunity against IAV-S in pigs.

Our group has recently used a computational technique called Epigraph, to create a vaccine against H3 IAV-S. The Epigraph platform uses an epitope optimization approach to induce robust heterologous immune responses. We recently identified that our Epigraph vaccine significantly outperformed wild-type vaccines and a commercial comparator vaccine. Piggybacking off our previous success, we wanted to identify the duration of immunity achieved after vaccination and compare these responses to a commonly used vaccine, FluSure XP. Given that IAV-S can affect pigs at all stages of pork production, it is imperative that a vaccine can provide both heterologous protection against a variety of IAV-S

strains and that these responses can stimulate long-lasting immunity. We vaccinated groups of pigs with the Epigraph vaccine or FluSure XP, then monitored the onset and duration of antibody and cellular immune responses over 6 months. While FluSure XP did not induce antibody responses until after the second vaccination dose, Epigraph was able to rapidly induce protective antibody responses within seven to 14 days after the initial vaccination dose.

The antibody responses in Epigraph vaccinated pigs remained at durably protective levels for the entire six-month duration of the study, while antibody responses created after vaccinating pigs with FluSure XP quickly waned to below protective levels within 30 to 60 days after the second vaccination. Cellular-mediated immune responses, such as T cells, have previously been shown to contribute to the prevention of IAV-S infection in pigs. We further analyzed the kinetics of T cell development and found a rapid induction of high levels of antigen-specific T cell responses after vaccination with Epigraph, while FluSure XP induced minimal levels of T cell responses that quickly declined to undetectable levels. Overall, we observed that vaccination with the Epigraph vaccine provided robust and durable antibody and cellular immune responses that were significantly better than those observed after vaccination with the commercial comparator vaccine, FluSure XP.

See VACCINE, page 5



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N

NPPA wraps up '23 State Fair activities

Another year of the Nebraska State Fair has come and gone, where NPPA Education Director Sophia Lentfer was busy promoting pork.



Sophia headed west to Grand Island for a few days to talk to elementary students about the pork industry at the "Largest Classroom Days" event. This event was held for three days in the RAising Nebraska Building.

Sophia presented facts about the

Nebraska swine industry to around 2,000 students. These students not only came from the Grand Island school district but school districts in the surrounding area.

Another feature event staged at the Raising Nebraska building was Chef Nader, who performed his culinary magic before standing-room-only crowds. Chef Nader, sponsored cooperatively by NPPA and Midwest Dairy, was part culinary wizard and part comedian as he prepared delicious but practical dishes featuring pork and dairy.

Attendees enjoyed the interaction with Chef as he prepared three to four dishes each session. Some even joined him on the cooking stage to assist. Guests were able to enjoy generous samples of each creation, which ranged from appetizers to entrees. Many fader fans attended multiple session dur-

ing the fair, and reported it was their favorite part of the Nebraska State Fair.

The NPPA was also present at the Open Class Swine Show, the 4-H Swine Show and the FFA Swine Show. At the open class swine show this year, the NPPA sponsored porker burgers for all the exhibitors and their families. Approximately 550 pork burgers were served, along with beans and chips.

This couldn't have been done without

the help of NPPA Past President Brian Zimmerman, who cooked the pork burgers and Jason Hirschfeld and his family who ran the Open Class Swine Show. At the 4-H and FFA shows, the NPPA sponsored awards for the exhibitors winning a variety of divisions at the show.

The NPPA looks forward to participating again next year at these Nebraska State Fair events.

Vaccine

(continued from page 4)

To assess the longevity of immunity, we experimentally infected our vaccinated pigs with a divergent H3 IAV-S isolate six months after the initial vaccination. We analyzed the levels of viral shedding from the nose, disease-associated pathology, and infectious virus in lungs as correlates of protection against infection. Vaccination with Epigraph showed a shortened duration of viral shedding from nasal secretions compared to FluSure XP vaccinated pigs. Reduced duration of viral shedding can help decrease transmission of IAV-S to close-contact pigs and people, and aid in preventing spread of IAV-S on farms. Further analysis of disease-associated pathology of the lungs showed lower damage in the trachea and bronchioles of pigs vaccinated with the Epigraph vaccine, while FluSure XP-vaccinated pigs had higher trachea and bronchiolar damage. Finally,

the lower pathology in the lungs and trachea of the Epigraph-vaccinated pigs correlated with reduced presence of infectious virus in the lungs compared to FluSure XP vaccinated pigs. The results of this experimental IAV-S infection show that the immune responses induced after vaccination with the Epigraph vaccine provided long-lasting immunity in a clinically relevant infection model.

This longitudinal study can enhance our knowledge of immune responses elicited after vaccination against IAV-S in pigs, but more importantly can aid in the development of a universal vaccine against IAV-S. The ability to elicit broadly protective responses that remain durable for the life of a standard market pig can have substantial impacts to production times and reduce economic losses associated with widespread IAV-S infections.



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7 Servings

Ingredients

4 lb. lean boneless pork roast (center cut or sirloin, cut into 2" chunks)

1 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1 Tbsp. olive oil
1 cup unsalted chicken stock
4 garlic cloves (minced)
1/2 cup fresh orange juice
1/4 cup fresh lime juice

1 tsp. dried oregano
1 tsp. ground cumin
1 tsp. kosher salt
1/2 tsp. freshly cracked black pepper
corn tortillas (4 1/2-inch)
pickled red onion (optional, for garnish)
jalapeno slices (optional, for garnish)
queso fresco cheese (crumbled, optional, for garnish)
cilantro (optional, for garnish)
sliced radishes (optional, for garnish)

diced pineapple (optional, for garnish)

Directions

1. Season pork chunks on all sides with salt and pepper. Click the "Sauté"



setting on the Instant Pot.

Once warm, add oil and add just enough pork to cover the inner pot without overcrowding; about 1/4 of the pork. Sear pork, turning every 45-60 seconds until browned on all sides. Transfer pork to a clean bowl and

repeat with the remaining pork. Press "Cancel" to turn off the heat.

2. Add in remaining ingredients to Instant Pot, briefly stir to combine. Add the cooked pork and close lid securely and set vent to "Sealing". Cook on high pressure for 30 minutes, followed by a natural release (about 15 minutes). Open the lid once safe to do so.

3. Preheat oven broiler. Shred the pork using two forks then use a slotted spoon to remove the pork and place on a baking sheet. Broil for 3-5 minutes, or until the edges of the pork begin browning and crisping up. Divide pork among tortilla shells. Top with garnishes. Remaining liquid can be used as a dip.

Nutritional Content

Calories: 500 Sodium: 860 milligrams
Fat: 24 grams
Carbohydrates: 11 grams Fiber: 1 gram

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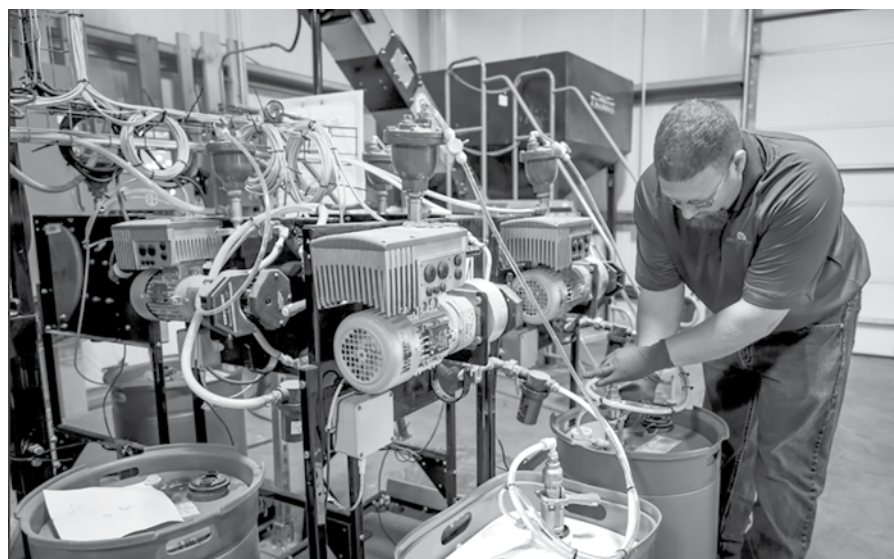
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Keep your eye on the judge

The Wayne County 4-H/FFA Swine Show during this year's fair allowed youth to demonstrate their ability to control their animals and share their knowledge with the judge. This year's show scheduled was adjusted due to heat.



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Mark Wright elected to lead Nebraska Pork

New Leadership for Pork Association Mark Wright of Fremont has been elected President of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association (NPPA) at a director's meeting held earlier this year.

Connor Livingston, Director of Sites and Mill Operations for Livingston Enterprise based in Fairbury was elected at President-Elect and Ryan Priester, a producer from Humphrey was elected as Vice President.

Jared Lierman of Beemer will continue to serve as Past President.

Wright is the Assistant Manager of the Nebraska division for the Wiechman Pig Company and the Animal Handling and Welfare Coordinator. Mark along with his wife, Jennifer, and daughter, Olivia, reside in Fremont.

With over 30 years in the pork industry, Wright brings a comprehensive background to the leadership role. First elected to the NPPA board in



Mark Wright

2020, Mark was placed into the officer's rotation as vice president in 2021. He was part of the 2020 National Pork Leadership Institute, has represented producers in Washington, D.C. as a participant in the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) Legislative Action Conference (LAC), served as a delegate to the National Pork Forum. He represented Nebraska pork producers on a trade mission to Columbia with then Lt. Governor Mike Foley in 2022.

Mark traveled to Monterrey, Mexico in late February on a trade mission

with the United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Mexico is the largest destination for U.S. pork exports. During the 4-day trade mission, Mark gained an understanding of Mexico's market dynamics, had market briefings, toured retail outlets to view USMEF activities and merchandising techniques and took part in promoting U.S. pork at Expo Carnes, the largest meat industry trade show in Mexico.

As NPPA President, Mark, "stated that his goals are, to promote the pork industry at the local, state, national, and international levels and to ensure that NPPA is a resource to help Nebraska pork producers be successful now and in the future. I also want to extend my appreciation to NPPA's Past Presidents for advancing our mission and continually telling our story. Their service to the industry has been invaluable. I am honored to serve the pork industry in Nebraska as President in 2023."

The Nebraska Pork Producers Association is a grass roots, incorporated, nonprofit organization established in 1961. NPPA was developed to promote the pork industry through the enhancement of consumer demand, producer education and research. For more information, visit NPPA's website at www.NE pork.org.

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NPPA President joins U.S. ag leaders in Mexico for fact-finding tour

Nebraska Pork Producers Association President Mark Wright was a member of a team of producers and other U.S. agricultural leaders on a market exploration visit to Monterrey, northern Mexico's economic hub, hosted by the

United States Meat Export Federation (USMEF). Mexico is the largest destination for U.S. pork exports.

The trade mission team received market briefings from the USDA and in-country USMEF marketing staff

before touring a packing plant and several retail outlets, witnessing USMEF marketing initiatives at work in-market and attending Expo Carnes, the largest meat industry trade show in Mexico.


"Mexico is a great partner and an incredible market for U.S. red meat," said Nikki Jackson, program director of international marketing with the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"This mission put us in front of the right people and helped demonstrate, especially on the pork side, the great potential this market holds for our products."

The USMEF delegation included participants from Kansas, Indiana, Nebraska, Texas, South Dakota, Illinois, Missouri, Colorado and the National Pork Board.




Barbecuing and grilling are becoming very popular in the region. USMEF team members are cooking up "samples."




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Strengthened partnerships: The high-value growth of the Japanese pork market

Article courtesy of Kansas Pork Producers

In a sign of strengthening partnerships and trust, NPB representatives met with two of Japan's largest importers of U.S. pork and one of the country's leading retailers recently. Growth is anticipated in this mar-

ket due to the commitment by one of Japan's largest retailers to increase their purchase of U.S. pork, replacing Canadian pork in the meat case. Additionally, Japanese authorities are lifting COVID-19 travel restrictions next month, which is expected to boost the country's economy.

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NPB allocates 35% of its \$7.8 million USMEF investment in Japan, mak-

Japan's Strong

ing it the largest export market for the pork industry. Expanding global market demand is essential for pork industry growth. NPB partners with USMEF to optimize pork marketing efforts abroad, utilizing cross-industry cooperation to maximize results.

U.S. pork exports. The growth of the Japanese market can be attributed to its demand for chilled pork and loin products. Japan's pork demand consists of 62% imported products, with the U.S. holding a 24% market share in chilled and frozen pork. The U.S. claims 48% of the market share for chilled pork alone.

Appetite for U.S. Pork

The Japanese market has consistently proven its value for U.S. pork exports. In 2022, Japan imported over 534,000 metric tons of U.S. pork, amounting to \$1.5 billion or roughly 19% of the U.S. pork industry's total export value. Japan ended last year as the second-largest value market and the third-largest volume market for

U.S. pork exports.

The Driving Force:

Chilled Pork and Loin Exports

The growth of the Japanese market can be attributed to its demand for chilled pork and loin products. Japan's pork demand consists of 62% imported products, with the U.S. holding a 24% market share in chilled and frozen pork. The U.S. claims 48% of the market share for chilled pork alone.

High-Quality Pork: A Direct Result of Decades of Investment

The Japanese market regards U.S. Pork as a high-quality product. This perception can be directly linked to the decades of investment made by U.S. pork producers and the USMEF.

The partnership has and will continue to allow U.S. producers to offer a consistent supply of premium pork products to Japanese consumers.

Ag Sack Lunch Program available to schools

The Ag Sack Lunch Program provides fourth graders the opportunity to learn about different aspects of agriculture, from crops and livestock to the food industry.

The program also provides students with a sack lunch that consists of all the foods that are made from ag products grown right here in Nebraska! With one out of every three jobs in the state dependent on agriculture and agribusiness, we feel that it is important to share with our youth the significant role agriculture plays in their everyday life. The Ag Sack Lunch Program is designed to educate Nebraska fourth-graders on the important role agriculture plays in the state's economy, from a past, present, and future perspective. The program takes advantage of the fact that over 20,000 fourth-graders visit the State

Capitol Building in Lincoln each year as part of their curriculum.

The program includes a sack lunch featuring nutritious food produced in Nebraska, a 25-minute presentation by Ag Ambassadors, who are trained UNL students, on the vital role agriculture, plays in the state's economy, and a fact-filled card game designed for students to take home and play with their families. The presentations tell students that one in three jobs in Nebraska has some connection to agriculture, including a variety of support industries such as equipment manufacturing and sales, building construction, transportation, and food retailers. Of these jobs, only about 10% are traditional farmers.

The program has received positive comments from teachers, students, and parents.

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Larry E. Sitzman Youth in Nebraska Agriculture Scholarships due

Larry E. Sitzman learned patriotism, service to our country, and respect for our leaders from his parents. While in high school he heard John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." This address increased his desire to serve.

Agriculture has been his passion. Throughout his life he has provided service in various forms and from different positions of leadership. Sitzman is known for sharing his voice defending perspectives and asking challenging questions. He served on many state and national agricultural boards before being named the Director of Agriculture for Nebraska in 1991. He ended his working role as Executive Director of the Nebraska Pork

Producers Association in 2016. Today, Sitzman serves as an active volunteer leader at the Veterans Administration in Lincoln.

Academics, agriculture, military, and other forms of public service have all improved in some measure due to the leadership, service, and voice of Larry E. Sitzman. Upon his retirement, the Nebraska Pork Producers Association established this scholarship in his honor.

Eligibility Requirements include:

- Must be currently enrolled as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at a fully accredited college, university, or technical college in an agriculture-related degree program in Nebraska;

- Must have at least one full year of

study remaining toward degree;

- Must have plans to work in the agriculture industry upon graduation.

Selection will be based on qualities of leadership and participation in collegiate or extracurricular activities related to the agriculture industry.

The deadline to apply is Nov. 10, 2023.

The Larry E. Sitzman Youth in Nebraska Agriculture Scholarship is a \$1,000 scholarship that will be awarded to one deserving applicant each year.

If you have questions, please contact the Nebraska Pork Producers Association at sophia@nepork.org.

This \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded to one deserving applicant each year. The deadline to apply for the Larry E. Sitzman Youth in Nebraska Agriculture Scholarship is November 10. Selection will be complete by Dec. 1. The selected applicant will receive the scholarship award during the Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Pork Producers Association.



Just keep moving

That is possibly the thought these youth had during the Wayne County 4-H/FFA Swine Show. The heat during this year's fair week led to some uncooperative animals and frustration from the exhibitors.

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Foreign animal disease prevention must be prioritized amid growing threats

A 2001 outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the United Kingdom, where more than six million animals were slaughtered with an economic cost well into the billions, highlights the significant risk foreign animal diseases pose to animal agriculture and the economies that rely on it.

Now, for the first time in 40 years, African swine fever – a highly conta-

gious and deadly viral disease with no treatment or vaccine – has been detected in the western hemisphere. It is therefore imperative that U.S. regulatory policy reflects rising risks and that lawmakers, regulators and industry continue to work together to protect farmers' livelihoods and America's food supply.

What is foreign animal disease,

also known as FAD?

FADs are diseases or pests not currently found in the United States that would inflict significant consequences on both the U.S. food supply and economy. There are several paths by which an FAD can enter the United States including the importation of contaminated products. For this reason, the United States Department of Agriculture has the regulatory authority to allow or deny entry of products and animals into the U.S., and the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection is tasked with enforcing the USDA rules. USDA and CPB programs such as the agricultural quarantine inspection program (AQI), which includes the "Beagle Brigade" agricultural canine teams, conduct critically important inspections at the country's ports of entry.

The devastating effects of a disease such as foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever or classical swine fever infecting the U.S. swine herd cannot be overstated. Animals would face severe clinical signs, often times leading to death. Farms would be quarantined, animal movements would be restricted and business would stop. Billions of dollars and many jobs would be lost, and export markets would close immediately.

What do farmers do if they suspect an FAD?

Farmers know that healthy animals ensure safe food for consumers and are committed to continually monitoring the health and well-being of their animals. Farmers also work closely with veterinarians to monitor herd health. If an FAD is suspected, farmers contact their herd veterinarian or state or federal animal health officials for additional guidance.

How the U.S. can prevent an FAD outbreak?
The US swine industry has success-

fully prevented the introduction of an FAD since the eradication of foot-and-mouth disease in 1929. NPPC has been actively working with USDA and CBP for years to prevent and prepare for a potential outbreak of an FAD. Measures we support enhancing include:

- Building the capacity of USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's Veterinary Services field staff to respond to and address an outbreak in the United States and its territories.
- Expanding the infrastructure and workforce capabilities of the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which conducts surveillance of and testing for FADs.

- Increasing the capacity of CBP agricultural inspectors at ports of entry to prevent unauthorized meat, animal by-products and other vectors that can carry FADs from entering the country and infecting U.S. agriculture.

Additionally, USDA's Risk Management Agency can help mitigate impact to pork producers by offering a catastrophic risk insurance program.

October is Pork Month

October became known as National Pork Month because it was the time of year when hogs were traditionally marketed. Today it serves as a celebration of pork and the pork industry.

In 2022, pork was the most widely consumed meat across the globe at 112,538 metric tons, representing 42% of all meat consumed according to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service.

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