



November 2010

PARTNERSHIP INSIDER

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Resolution Deadline: Nov. 8
- Proxy Vote Deadline: Nov. 23
- MPPA Annual Meeting: Dec. 7
- Taste of Elegance: Jan. 18
- Pork Congress: Jan. 19-20

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REMINDER REMINDER

If you are attending the MPPA Annual Meeting on Dec. 7...we ask that you please preregister by phone or email.

Preregistration helps office staff plan food, beverages, seating and handouts.

To preregister, phone Colleen Carey at 1-800-537-7675 or email colleen@mnppork.com

MPPA Annual Meeting set for Dec. 7 in Mankato

The Minnesota Pork Producers Association Annual Meeting will be Dec. 7 at the Country Inn & Suites, Mankato. The annual meeting begins at 1 p.m. and a lunch will be served prior to the meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. The Country Inn & Suites is located north of the Highways 14 and 22 intersection.

The meeting will include the 2010 financial statement, MPPA program review, discussion and voting on resolutions, election of three MPPA Executive Board members and a Minnesota legislative outlook by MPPA lobbyist Jerry Schoenfeld.

Also speaking at the meeting will be National Pork Producers Council Executive Officer Neil Dierks and Himle Horner public relation firm program director Anna Youngerman. Dierks will discuss federal legislative issues that are important to the pork industry. Youngerman will discuss research results from a survey on Minnesotans attitudes towards animal agricultural issues.



Neil Dierks

RESOLUTIONS

The deadline for MPPA members with an interest in submitting a resolution for discussion at the annual meeting is Nov. 8. To submit a resolution, mail to MPPA, 151 Saint Andrews Court, Suite 810, Mankato, MN 56001; fax to (507) 345-8681;

or email to David Preisler at david@mnppork.com.

Resolutions made at the meeting will require a two-thirds margin to be brought to the floor for discussion and three-fourths majority vote for approval.

PROXY VOTING

MPPA members who are unable to attend the annual meeting can vote on resolutions and board candidates through proxy voting.

To utilize the proxy voting option, notify the MPPA office in writing by Nov. 23.

When exercising your proxy option include your name and the name of the individual assigned to cast your votes, and mail to MPPA, 151 Saint Andrews Court, Suite 810, Mankato, MN 56001; fax to (507) 345-8681; or email to David Preisler at david@mnppork.com.

The MPPA Annual Meeting is open to MPPA members who are voluntarily enrolled of the Strategic Investment Program, the Weaned Pig Partners Program or the Partners Program.

MPPA members will receive more information by mail on the candidates, resolutions and financials the week of Nov. 22.

OTHER MEETING DAY EVENTS

The Minnesota Pork Board (Pork Check-off) Annual Meeting will begin at 3:30 p.m. and will be followed by a social hour.

Langhorst part of Pork Leadership Institute program

The Pork Leadership Institute (PLI) program is providing 29-year-old Lincoln Langhorst of Lafayette a well-rounded education on all things pork.

Legislative advocacy, lobbying, pork exports, pork consumption, food trends and communication development are all woven into the comprehensive PLI curriculum.

Langhorst is among 14 U.S. pork producers selected for the joint National Pork Producers Council and National Pork Board leadership training program. The PLI members represent diverse production systems that range from farrow-to-finish independent hog farmers to the industry's largest integrator.

Langhorst says the single characteristic that ties them all together is a passion and interest for all segments of the pork industry.

"It's a great group," he said. "There are all types and sizes of producers. They cover the whole spectrum."

Langhorst works as logistic director for Wakefield Pork, based in Gaylord. His duties include hog marketing, transportation, general management and working directly with Wakefield Pork growers.

"That's the fun part of the job – getting to know all these people at a personal level," he said.

His parents, Mary and Steve Langhorst, co-own Wakefield Pork with Chuck and Joann Peters.

Langhorst grew up working in nearly all facets of pork production. He graduated from Augsburg College, Minneapolis, with a degree in business administration and he earned a master's degree in business administration from Hamline University, St. Paul.

His career experience includes working six years with Dart Trucking Company, Eagan, before returning to the family pork business three years ago. His spouse, Jackie, works as a paralegal in the Twin Cities area.

The PLI participants will attend four trainings over nine months. Their September visit to Washington, D.C. focused on media and lawmaker communication training, the influence of money on politics and pork industry issue updates.

Langhorst says they practiced how to keep their messages concise and clear when communicating with the media, lawmakers and their aides. Langhorst then took part in lawmaker office visits on Capital Hill with other MPPA members who were attending the NPPC Fall Legislative Conference.

Issues brought forward to the state's lawmakers included free trade agreements, food safety and proposed changes to the Grain Inspection Packer and Stockyard Act.

"Lobbying is not as easy as asking a guy to vote a certain way on an issue," he said. "There are others promoting their agenda. We learned that

while we are promoting pork, the next guy is promoting something totally opposite."

The PLI stresses the importance of political involvement at local, state and national levels.



Lincoln Langhorst

Although demands on pork producers' time is great, Langhorst says it's important to be politically active and current on issues facing the industry.

"It's easy to get wrapped up in day-to-day work," he said. "PLI shows how each person in the industry can have an impact."

In November PLI members travel to Mexico City, Mexico, to expand their knowledge of exports and emerging markets, and to learn more about animal health and traceability issues affecting U.S. pork exports.

They will also meet with U.S. Meat Export Federation staff and Costco sales team members who buy U.S. meat for the export market.

In January they will travel to California to visit the Culinary Institute of America to learn about domestic pork marketing efforts, pork product development and consumer food trends.

The final PLI event in April returns to Washington, D.C.



Langhorst (third from right) visits with other PLI members during their first meeting in Washington, D.C.

Swine Disease Prevention

December 8 PorkCast addresses air filtration systems

The use of air filtration systems for swine disease prevention will be the focus of the Dec. 8 PorkCast webinar. The live webinar is from 1-2 p.m. CST.

Hog building air filtration expert, Dr. Darwin Reicks, DVM, Swine Vet Center, St. Peter, will lead the PorkCast presentation.



Dr. Darwin Reicks

Air filtration systems, when used in conjunction with other biosecurity measures, can be an effective technology for blocking aerosol transmitted pathogens such as PRRS and mycoplasma hyopneumoniae.

Reicks will discuss how air filtration systems work to prevent disease, the costs associated with air filtration systems and system maintenance and upkeep practices.

PorkCast webinars are provided free of charge from the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Pork Board.

To participate in the Dec. 8 webinar, go to the PorkCast main website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast and select *air filtration systems*.

Participants are encouraged to link to the program prior to its start to assure there are no connection problems and to answer a few demographic ques-



tions.

Online participants will be able to ask questions of the presenter during the live program.

The webinar will also be available for viewing a few days following the live program at the U of M PorkCast website.

For more information, contact Dr. Mark Whitney, U of M Swine Extension Educator at whitn007@umn.edu or (507) 389-5541.

Anonymous database plays key role in SIV surveillance initiative

The National Pork Producers Council, in cooperation with the Pork Checkoff, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and participating diagnostic laboratories, have developed and introduced a new initiative to encourage pork producers to participate in swine influenza virus surveillance.

The initiative goal, which uses an anonymous database, is to:

- Gather more information to help develop swine influenza virus vaccines
- Improve the reliability of diagnostic testing
- Help improve overall herd health

All costs for the surveillance program and associated testing will be covered by the USDA. Samples can come from multiple gathering methods, including diagnostic lab submissions and samples collected from animals clinically ill at points of concentration, such as fairs and exhibitions.

The test results will be stripped of any producer or veteri-

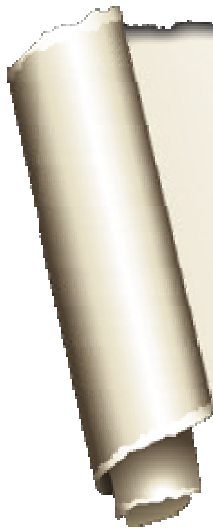
narian identification and the diagnostic results of the new influenza surveillance will only be known by state of origin when a producer asks in writing for farm and owner identification to be included in the results. Otherwise, all samples will be contained in an anonymous USDA surveillance database that identifies a sample by date collected, state where it was collected, age of the swine, reason for collection or clinical signs and all SIV testing results.

Anonymity should result in more samples being collected for the surveillance system, which will contribute to vaccine development, improvements to herd-health protocols and protection to pork export markets.

This approach to influenza surveillance is designed to provide assurances to producers so they can be comfortable with participating in the program.

To read more about swine influenza surveillance, go to www.mppainsider.org and select Resources & Links to view *Producer Guide to Influenza Surveillance in Pigs* and *Partnering for Influenza Virus Surveillance*.





MINNESOTA PORK CONGRESS 2011

MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW

January 19 & January 20
9 a.m. - 5 p.m. 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

MPPA members can preregister online for two complimentary Pork Congress admissions

Minnesota Pork Producers Association members receive two complimentary Pork Congress admissions. * To receive your free admittance, follow these instructions:

Go to: www.mnpork.com/porkcongress/registration.php
Enter your code: 1102krop

More on Pork Congress

\$10 Meal Certificates at Pork Congress

MPPA members also receive a \$10 meal certificate when they stop at the MPPA/NPPC Booth located on the Pork Congress tradeshow floor. Certificates are redeemable at the Pork Patio on the tradeshow floor or at the Minneapolis Hilton Skywater Restaurant.

Reduced Hotel Room Rates

Reduced hotel room rates are available at the Minneapolis Hilton for \$97 per night by calling (612) 376-1000 and at the Millennium Hotel for \$95 per night by calling (612) 332-6000. Discount hotel rates expire on December 27, 2010, or when the reserved room blocks are full.

RSVP to Attend the Taste

Taste of Elegance set for January 18

Taste of Elegance takes place the evening prior to Pork Congress at the Minneapolis Hilton. MPPA members will receive their Taste of Elegance invitation by mail in early December.

If you plan to attend the Taste of Elegance *it is necessary to return the RSVP card*. Those who RSVP will receive their Taste of Elegance admission tickets in advance by mail. If you do not RSVP, admission tickets will not be reserved for you and your guest.

Questions?

Please call the MPPA office at 1-800-537-7675; or email mnpork@mnpork.com

**MPPA members are voluntarily enrolled in the Minnesota Pork Producers Association.*

Directory of elected state House and Senate members available

Directories that include newly elected members to the Minnesota House of Representatives and Senate are now available.

Go to www.house.mn and www.senate.mn to view directories online. Hard copies will be available in room 175 State Office Building after Nov. 4.

Pork producer participation sought in U of M human influenza virus vaccine survey

University of Minnesota researchers ask that pork producers volunteer to take part in a research study concerning human seasonal influenza virus vaccine use among swine personnel.

The study is being conducted by Dr. Montse Torremorell, U of M College of Veterinary Medicine. Torremorell says the results are confidential and the survey method can not trace back information to responders.

The information will be used to analyze the attitudes of people who work in swine facility towards human flu vaccinations. Human vaccination is one way to prevent flu infections from passing from people to pigs and visa versa. By understanding why some people get vaccinated and other do not may help researchers form recommendations on how to encourage vaccination amongst swine facility personnel.

Survey Link

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/J5TJ9VN>