

Washington Pork Producers Newsletter Summer 2022

SAVE THE DATE

WPP SUMMER MEETING

July 22, 2022
Ritzville, Washington

**Lunch begins at Noon
Cow Creek Mercantile**

1611 S. Smitty's Blvd
Ritzville, WA (use exit 221)
(hosted lunch for individuals participating in the meeting)

**Summer Meeting starts at 1PM in Room #1,
Washington Association Of Wheat Growers**
109 East 1st Street
Ritzville, WA

*Topics will include: the budget,
delegate selection for the 2023 Pork Forum,
Article of Incorporation proposed changes, and
Swine Information Day 2023*

**All Washington Pork Producers members
are welcome and encouraged to attend.**

African Swine Fever: What you Need to Know –Listening Session-June 29, noon- Facebook Live

Do you know how to guard against African swine fever?

People can't get this deadly virus, but if a single case was detected in the U.S., it could devastate America's swine population, pork industry, and farming communities. Tune into our virtual event to hear an expert panel explain biosecurity best practices and control measures we must put in place to safeguard our swine.



Go to [US https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asf/asfDA](https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/resources/pests-diseases/asf/asfDA) APHIS | [African Swine Fever \(ASF\)](#) and there will be a link to the Facebook event—click 'Going' to receive a reminder about the event. If you don't have a Facebook account, please bookmark this event page and we will include the link on the page. You can also navigate to the USDA APHIS Facebook page when the event starts, and you will be able to see the stream on the page.

Panelist will be:

- Dr. Jack Shere
APHIS Administrator
- Pete Thome
Hog Producer, Thome Family Farms
- Jamee L. Eggers, M.Sc.
Producer Education Director, Iowa Pork Producers Association
- Dr. Anna Forseth
Director of Animal Health, National Pork Producers Council

Because African swine fever can have up to a 100% mortality rate, it will take immediate action from every pork producer, farmer, backyard pig owner and swine veterinarian to guard against this deadly foe. Join us and do your part to protect our pigs. Learn more at www.APHIS.USDA.gov/ProtectOurPigs.

PUBLIC NOTICE BY WASHINGTON STATE PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION AND THE NATIONAL PORK BOARD

The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2023 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 1:00 p.m., Friday, July 22, 2022 in conjunction with a Board of Directors meeting of Washington State Pork Producer Association, in Room 1 of the Washington Association of Wheat Growers building, 109 East 1st Street, Ritzville, Washington, 99169. All Washington State pork producers are invited to attend.

Any producer, age 18 or older, who is a resident of the state and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt proving that hogs were sold in their name and the checkoff deducted.

For more information contact:

Washington State Pork Producers Association
2001 VanTine Road
Garfield, Washington
Phone 509-397-2694.

Your WPP Board Members

Tom Cocking, President	509-595-8415
Paul Klingeman, Jr., V. Pres.	509-760-7170
Jodi Stebbins, Secretary	425-426-7416
Karrie Klingeman, Treasurer	509-989-2519
Don Van Tine, State Contact	509-397-2694

Consumer Sentiment Lowest Ever

DOMESTIC U.S. CONSUMER SENTIMENT

Monthly, Index year 1966 = 100



Data Source: University of Michigan
Livestock Marketing Information Center

06/19/22

Consumer Sentiment registered the lowest level since this database started in 1978 as inflation and economic concerns way on consumers.
www.lmic.info

Biden administration supports pork producers in court filing

Supreme Court filing details from Biden administration need for SCOTUS to overturn California's Proposition 12

In a major win on the ongoing battle to defend pork producers from adhering to California's Proposition 12's space requirements for breeding hogs, the Solicitor General filed a brief in support of the National Pork Producers Council and American Farm Bureau Federation's lawsuit. The brief is one of many filed in recent days in support of the need to uphold the Commerce Clause as the Constitution laid out and defend the ability for states to not rule what other states can and cannot do.

The solicitor general brief comes after nearly a dozen Democrat senators including Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Mich., asked for her to file a brief in support of California's position. In addition to the support from the Biden administration, international trading partners and business groups filed amicus briefs in support of NPPC ahead of the Supreme Court scheduled oral argument date set for Oct. 11, 2022.

AFBF and NPPC filed a brief June 10 with the U.S. Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of California's Proposition 12. The state law seeks to ban the sale of pork from hogs that don't meet the state's production standards, even if the pork was raised on farms outside of California.

According to petitioners, approximately 72% of pork producers house sows throughout gestation in individual stalls of approximately 14 square feet per sow. Individual stalls enable sows to avoid aggression or injury from other sows and provide each sow with individual access to food and water without competition. The stalls prevent sows from turning around as an animal-health and sanitation measure. The remaining pork producers use group housing and generally provide 16 to 18 square feet per sow. Neither practice complies with Proposition 12's confinement requirements of 24 square feet per sow.

The solicitor general brief notes, "petitioners plausibly allege that Proposition 12 has no genuine health-and safety justification. And the California Department of Food and Agriculture has stated that Proposition 12's confinement standards are not 'accepted as standards within the scientific community to reduce human foodborne illness.'"

The brief filed by the top lawyer for the Biden administration states, "Proposition 12's sales ban is aimed at 'cruelty' to animals that occurs entirely outside California and has no impact within California. The State may not 'extend [its] police power [over animal welfare] beyond its jurisdictional bounds' by regulating out-of-state activity with no in-state impact based on a philosophical objection."

The brief continues that "States may not otherwise regulate out-of-state entities by banning products that pose no threat to public health or safety based on philosophical objections to out-of-state production methods or public policies that have no impact in the regulating State."

The NPPC and AFBF brief states that Proposition 12 "will require massive and costly changes across the entire \$26-billion-a-year hog farming industry. And it inescapably projects

California's policy choices into every other state, a number of which expressly permit their farmers to house sows in ways inconsistent with Proposition 12."

"We commend the Biden administration for taking action to stop ill-considered ballot initiatives like California's Proposition 12 that undermine vital supply chains, national markets and consumer choice and further inflate food prices," says Michael Formica, NPPC assistant vice president and general counsel. "Additional supporters filed briefs opposing Proposition 12 and stood up to preserve the free flow of commerce among states to ensure consumers all over the nation have access to affordable, safe and wholesome food."

Included in the list of other amicus briefs filed includes Indiana and 25 additional states, National Cattlemen's Beef Association, North Carolina organizations, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, North American Meat Institute, Canadian Pork Council, and others.

Meanwhile, animal activist groups criticized the action.

Wayne Pacelle, president of Animal Wellness Action and the Center for a Humane Economy, says, "It is shocking that the Biden administration is attacking the rights of states to enact anti-cruelty and food safety laws, especially in the absence of even a single federal farm animal protection statute and a general federal dereliction of duty when it comes to safeguarding animals reared for food."

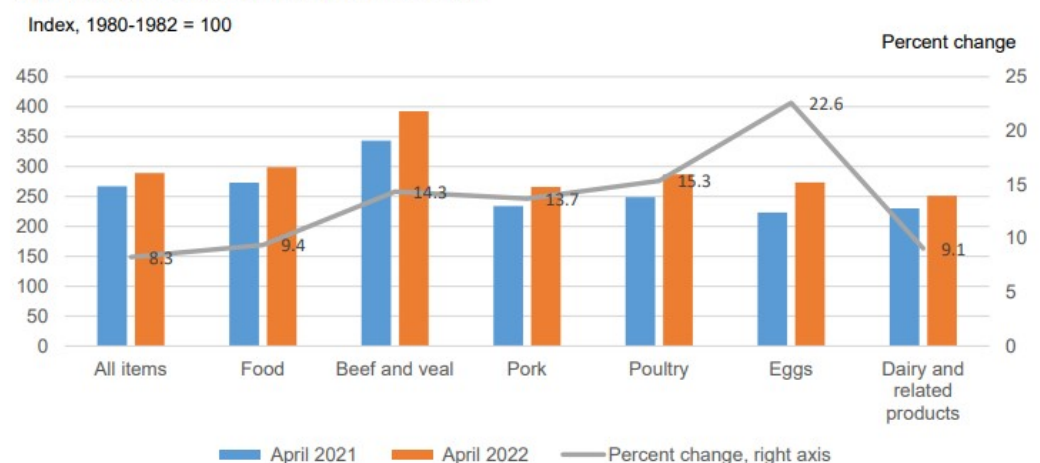
Pacelle adds, "When Vice President [Kamala] Harris served as California attorney general, her office successfully fended off attempts to reverse California's farm animal confinement standards; a prohibition on the sale of foie gras and the force-feeding of birds; and bans on the sale of shark fins, elephant ivory and rhinoceros' horns. These important animal protection policies are all at risk if this attack on states' rights prevails before the Supreme Court this fall. Where is Vice President Harris when so much is at stake for California and other states?"

Jacqui Fatka, National Hog Farmer, 06.21.2022

Large Year-Over-Year Increases in Retail Animal Product Prices in April

The U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics released consumer price indexes, CPI, for April of this year on May 11. The chart below compares April 2021 and April 2022 CPI for all products, including food, beef, pork, poultry, eggs, and dairy products. The all-items CPI, a measure of inflation in general, increased by 8.3 percent. The inflation rates for food and the selected animal products were larger than the general inflation rate. Poultry at 15.3 percent and eggs at 22.6 percent had the largest percentage increases. *USDA, ERS, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook, June 2022*

Consumer price indices, CPI, for selected items



Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.

High Retail Pork Prices May Be Reducing Wholesale Pork Demand and Processor Demand for Hogs

Processors' demand for hogs and demand for pork at the wholesale level were both lower in May, following a year-over-year decline in April at each of these levels of the marketing chain. This continuing dynamic suggests that consumers are likely responding to the present inflationary environment—which includes higher retail pork prices—by purchasing less pork. Estimated federally inspected (FI) May hog slaughter, at just below 10 million head, was about 1 percent below a year earlier after accounting for the extra slaughter day this year. The live equivalent May price of 51-52 percent lean hogs averaged \$74.08 per cwt, 8.5 percent below May 2021. So processors purchased a smaller number of hogs in May—as in April—paying on average, year-over-year lower prices, implying lower processor demand for hogs. Processor demand for hogs typically shifts downward when the demand for what they sell—pork products—declines as well.

Average wholesale carcass prices for both April and May were year-over-year lower, signaling a down-shift in wholesale pork demand. In April 2022, the average wholesale value of the pork carcass fell below its year-earlier value for the first time since December 2020. The April cutout averaged \$106.56 per cwt, 4.1 percent below a year earlier. Also in April 2022, the number of negotiated sales loads of pork cuts and trim—5,764—was almost 17 percent below a year earlier.⁴ In May, it was largely the same demand story: while the number of negotiated sales loads sold was fractionally higher than a year ago—6,044 this year versus 6,019 loads in May 2021—the wholesale value of the pork carcass averaged \$104.43 per cwt, more than 11 percent below a year ago.

some consumers to reduce quantities of pork purchased, at the same time high-priced substitute proteins—beef and poultry in particular—may soften the negative demand effects of higher pork retail prices.

Second-quarter commercial pork production is expected to be about 6.7 billion pounds, about the same as in the second quarter of 2021. This forecast is about 180 million pounds higher than last month's forecast due to anticipated-higher June slaughter hog numbers. Secondquarter prices of live equivalent 51-52 percent lean hogs are reduced \$2 per cwt from last month's forecast to \$75 per cwt, reflecting expected increases in June pork production. Quarterly 2022 hog price forecasts average to \$70.64 for the year, 5 percent above the average of quarterly prices in 2021.

On June 29, 2022, USDA will release the Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report, which will detail June 1 inventories as well as a breakdown of the spring (March-May) pig crop: farrowing numbers, pig crop numbers and the litter rate. The report will also contain producers' (second) farrowing intentions for the summer June-August quarter, as well as producers' (first) intentions for the fall (September-November) pig crop.

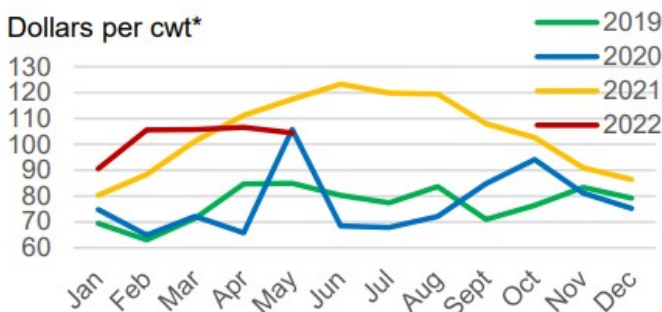
USDA, ERS, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook, June 2022

Forecasts for 2023 Show Mostly Higher Year-Over-Year Production, Lower Prices

The figure below shows the percentage changes in USDA production and price forecasts for 2023, compared with 2022. Among the main red meat proteins, beef production is forecast to decrease (-7.0 percent), and cattle prices are expected to increase (+9.4 percent). These changes are driven by tighter cattle supplies as the cattle herd contracts in response to the drought that negatively impacted pasture and forage areas over the past several years. The production projections for the remainder of major animal proteins are expected to increase as follows: pork, +0.5 percent, broilers, +0.8 percent, turkeys, +5.6 percent, and table-eggs, +5.8 percent. The higher pork production forecast derives from a larger first-half 2023 pig crop and continued modest growth in sow productivity. The modest expected increase in broiler production adds to a decade-long steady growth trend of the industry. The larger changes in turkey and egg production forecasts reflect the expectation of continuing recovery from the 2022 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) outbreak. These production forecast increases are expected, in turn, to drive the forecast prices lower: hogs, -0.2 percent, broilers -3.7 percent, turkeys, -2.9 percent, and eggs, -22.8 percent. Milk production is forecast to increase (+1.3 percent), while the all-milk price is forecast to decrease (-9.2 percent).

USDA, ERS, Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook, June 2022

Wholesale carcass cutout



*cwt = hundredweight.

Source: USDA, Agricultural Marketing Service.

Lower wholesale demand in April and May likely derives from higher retail pork prices in 2022. The ERS retail pork composite value in the first quarter of 2022 averaged \$4.78 per pound, more than 15 percent higher than a year earlier. The retail pork composite price for both April and May was \$4.89 per pound, 13 and 11 percent higher than the year-ago pork retail composite prices, respectively. The second-quarter 2022 pork retail composite is expected to average in the mid-\$4.80's per pound. While significantly higher retail pork values probably cause

Percent changes in 2023 production and price forecasts compared with 2022^{1,2}



Note: ¹The changes in following prices are shown as follows: cattle (5-area fed steer), hogs (national base live equivalent 51-52 percent lean), broilers (wholesale national composite weighted-average), turkeys (8-16 pounds turkey-hens, frozen), eggs (wholesale New York, Grade A, Large), and milk (farm-level price for all milk).

² Changes in egg production represent changes in table-egg production.

Source: USDA, World Agricultural Outlook Board.

5 Key Areas to Tackle High Swine Feed Costs



Focus on maximizing margins with increasing feed prices using these five areas that may involve feed savings.

After a tumultuous 2020 on and off the farm, America's pig farmers are now facing extremely high swine feed costs. And, with this run-up in price, feed for pigs now makes up roughly 70% to 80% of total cost of production. It's a critical time to review the key areas that have the biggest impact on keeping that figure down and margins in the black.

"From weaning to market, swine feed costs are running \$95 to \$105 per pig, depending on your diets and purchasing strategies," says Joel DeRouchey, swine nutritionist at Kansas State University (KSU).

Rising Costs of Feed Ingredients

Feed ingredient prices have been on a steady rise since the summer of 2020. Price volatility will rule until the 2021 corn and soybean crop yields are largely determined. Based on global feed supply and demand, along with supply chain and shipping issues, DeRouchey expects feed prices to remain high.

Whether corn is \$7, \$6 or \$5 per bushel, "that's expensive compared to historical prices," he points out. "Unless production and market fundamentals change, not just in the United States but worldwide, we're looking at some sustained high feed prices."

The same is true for soybean meal. "There are not good alternatives for soybean meal," DeRouchey says. "We can use more synthetic amino acids, but there's only so much you can replace. Sometimes changing ingredients or feed alternatives can help offset costs, but the challenge now is that everything is expensive."

Some of this price parity exists because most ingredient and alternative feedstuff prices are tied to corn and soybean meal prices.

Market hog prices also are at historical highs for now, so focusing on margins is key. This means zeroing in on swine feed costs, efficiencies and management. For that, DeRouchey suggests going back to the basics and targeting the major areas that make up wean-to-finish production.

KSU has an array of calculators and evaluation resources from nutrient models for growing pigs to DDGS calculators to a feed efficiency evaluation tool and much more.

Major Areas to Seek Swine Feed Cost Savings Fat Use in Summer Diets

Often producers increase fat levels in summer diets to keep pigs growing during hot-weather months. This year, fat prices are at or near historical highs.

"In all of our calculations across the Midwest, adding fat has not been economical this summer in most locations," DeRouchey says.

At the individual farm level, he advises producers to work with their nutritionist to evaluate

total feed costs with added fat. The goal is to see if adding fat pencils out with the potential extra revenue of selling a slightly heavier pig.

Distillers Dried-Grains with Solubles (DDGS)

DDGS has become a staple in swine diets with inclusion rates influenced by packer specifications, as well as the farm's distance to an ethanol plant and transportation costs. In general, the 10% to 20% inclusion level has become routine and does offer some limited cost savings. There may be price breaks and supply security in buying DDGS through private brokers or directly from the plants. This is quite variable.

Last year's pressures closed or cut plant capacity and some of that impact is lingering. However, DDGS supplies should be sufficient, DeRouchey says, unless corn prices rally to the point where the plants can't operate economically. He underscores the importance of maintaining open communication with ingredient suppliers.

Feed Processing and Feeder Basics

When it comes to maximizing swine feed digestibility, grinding corn to 500 to 550 microns is best. That particle size allows feed to flow through the system while allowing pigs to digest efficiently. DeRouchey does point out grain that is ground using a roller-mill typically flows better than grain ground with a hammer mill, so that's a consideration when grinding to these particle sizes.

After particle size, focus on feeder adjustments as a daily task. Feed flow can vary much more than you might realize. Since feeders are all different, train your eyes to look for a 40% to 50% feed-pan coverage. It's a fine balance. You don't want to restrict pig growth, but you never want feed wasted either. Finally, check lines from the bulk bins to the feeders daily to ensure nothing is plugged and no bridging is happening. Of course, always check for leaks and spills. "These things are important even when swine feed cost is lower than it is currently," DeRouchey notes.

For more ideas, check out *Why It Pays to Stop Feed Wastage Now* :<https://porkcheckoff.org/news/why-it-pays-to-stop-feed-wastage-now/>

Review Nutrient Requirements

"Make sure that current diets are balanced in an economical way to meet the nutrient needs of the pigs they're designed for," DeRouchey says. For example, genetic suppliers provide diet and nutrient requirements that are often designed to maximize performance. But in times like this, it can simply be too costly. He advises working with your genetic supplier and/or nutritionist to review various amino acid ratios, particularly dietary lysine. At the same time, be careful not to cut amino acids too much or feed efficiency will suffer. "Often these are minor differences in formulation to save some incremental savings," he adds.

Feed Budgets

Make sure the right pig are getting the right diets on the right schedule. Today, feed budgets are set up and carried out with good accuracy. You don't want to overfeed expensive diets to pigs longer than is needed or to the wrong group of pigs. Check your feed-delivery records and if the amounts or the feed mill reveal inaccuracies, "it's a good time to revisit things so that you're not over budgeting," DeRouchey says.

Swine Herd Health, Market

Although they may be a step removed, how you manage your herd's health status and marketing strategies can have an outsized effect on your bottom line, especially with high feed costs.

Any mortality in the growing phase will negatively impact feed efficiency and swine feed

costs. The closer to market weight the greater the impact. For example, a 250-pound finishing pig has already consumed 600 pounds of feed. If it never gets to market it provides zero revenue. This drives home the need to herd health vigilance.

Likewise, maintaining the proper barn environment for the season and the pigs' comfort is always important. It takes on new meaning today. The same is true for timely vaccination and treatment programs. Maintain biosecurity protocols on the farm, but also those associated with transport vehicles. "It all goes back to health; it's a big performance and economic driver," DeRouche says.

Whether to add a few extra pounds to market hogs to try to increase revenue is a complicated question with many variables. It's based on genetics, pig performance, packer requirements, pig flow and facility space. DeRouche admits, "This is an abnormal year. We have historically high hog prices. Producers will sell heavy pigs if they can balance it with high feed costs."

www.porkcheckoff.org, 06.17.2022

Youth Swine Producers Should Participate in Youth for the Quality Care of Animals

Quality Assurance programs are a great way to ensure our producers are creating a product we can be proud to consume. Youth for the Quality Care of Animals (YQCA), which addresses quality in many different food animal species—beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep, pigs, goats, poultry, and rabbits, is specifically designed for youth raising and/or exhibiting food animals. This program is open to any youth to participate in. Some county fairs in Washington require youth exhibiting and selling a food animal at their county fair to have completed a YQCA Certification prior to entry..

WHAT IS YQCA?

The Youth for the Quality Care of Animals Program (YQCA) is a program that will provide quality assurance education on all livestock species. YQCA is a national quality assurance program for youth ages 8 to 21 with a focus on three core pillars: food safety, animal well-being, and character development.

YQCA includes information for youth exhibiting, Swine, Beef Cattle, Dairy Cattle, Sheep, Goats, Rabbits, and Poultry. YQCA is available as an online program or an in-person training. Youth may complete the training online (<http://yqcaprogram.org>) at a cost of \$12 or they can participate at an in-person training for \$3.

To exhibit beef cattle, dairy cattle, swine, sheep, goats, poultry and rabbits, youth producers may certify through the Youth for the Quality Care of Animals. This is an annual program that can be completed via online modules or in-person trainings. For more information about in-person trainings, please contact your Extension Office or FFA Advisor.

More information about YQCA is available at <http://yqcaprogram.org>. Youth learn the best management practices for their animals to ensure animal care and handling and food safety.

HOW TO GET CERTIFIED:

There are two ways to complete your certification: in-person or online. Youth may complete the training online (<http://yqcaprogram.org>) at a cost of \$12 or they can participate in an in-person training for \$3.

Online:

- **Cost:** \$12
 - **Timing:** Youth can complete the course at their convenience online at any point.
- How to register:** Go to <http://yqcaprogram.org> and create a new account. (Write down your login information as you will need it again.)

In-Person:

- **Cost:** \$3
 - **Timing:** Youth must attend one of the classes hosted by an instructor:
 - Watch YQCA Website for courses hosted by additional instructors.
- How to register:** Go to www.yqcaprogram.org to create a new account.
Need help with registration? Find the Help document by going to www.yqcaprogram.org.

USDA Launches 'Protect Our Pigs' Campaign to Support the Pork Industry, Pig Owners, Veterinarians in the Fight Against African Swine Fever

The United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) announced today new efforts to help prevent the introduction and spread of African swine fever in the U.S. Through an outreach and awareness campaign called "Protect Our Pigs," APHIS will support commercial pork producers, veterinarians, and pig owners with information and resources to help safeguard

America's swine population and the pork industry.

African swine fever is a deadly, highly contagious viral disease that affects both domestic and wild pigs. It does not impact human health but quickly spreads between swine populations. People can also unknowingly spread the disease on their clothing, farming equipment, or by transporting uncooked pork products. African swine fever has never been detected in the U.S. but has recently been confirmed in countries as close as the Dominican Republic and Haiti. There is no treatment or effective vaccine for the disease.

"African swine fever is already devastating pork industries and economies around the globe, and if detected in the U.S., it could ravage our swine population, nation's pork industry, and farming communities," said USDA Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Jenny Lester Moffitt. "The U.S. is one of the world's largest pork producers and the second largest exporter of pork globally, if the disease arrives here, we estimate it could cost the U.S. \$50 billion dollars over 10 years."

Commercial pork producers, veterinarians, and pig owners are among the nation's first line of defense against African swine fever. There are more than 60,000 pork producers nationwide who employ over half a million workers. An estimated 250,000 to 1 million potbellied pigs are kept as pets, and there are more than 1,500 swine veterinarians.

APHIS is deploying a variety of outreach efforts to support these critical stakeholders. The new Protect Our Pigs website, aphis.usda.gov/ProtectOurPigs, will house materials such as downloadable fact sheets and posters, instructional videos, shareable social media graphics, a new interactive biosecurity guide, and offer the latest disease updates. If African swine fever is detected in the U.S., APHIS will also be ready to respond immediately with actionable information and resources for pig owners and the public.

"USDA is working every day to stop this disease from breaching our borders and the Protect Our Pigs campaign is just one of many ways we are doing that. We are also meeting with pork producers to find out how we can best support their ongoing work in this area, increasing swine testing and conducting innovative vaccine research," said Dr. Jack Shere, Associate Administrator at APHIS and former Chief Veterinary Officer. "Together, we can fight this disease and protect the U.S. pig population, people's livelihoods and way of life."

USDA News Release, 06.15.2022



High Feed Cost Impact 4-H Swine Projects

Many 4-H and FFA youth involved with swine projects have quickly learning that feed prices have significantly increased since last year. It is important for youth, parents, leaders, and advisors to expect feed prices to remain high and be prepared to factor these additional costs into raising project animals.

Feed prices are increasing rapidly because of the increased demand for corn and soybean. Severe drought in barley and wheat growing areas are also causing a concern for short supply of feeds. As feed prices continue to rise youth livestock producers will need to find ways to maintain or improve production while keeping feed cost at a reasonable level. Some tips are included here:

- Evaluate feeds based on the nutrients provided and balance diets to make sure you are feeding to the animals' level of production and/or growth. Do not over feed any unnecessary nutrients. Protein supplements are often misused resulting in wasted money and animals not performing as expected. All animals need a certain level of protein in their diets. In addition, high performing animals (fast growing, heavily muscled, and excessively exercised) will need more protein than the average animal. However, adding high levels of protein to get a pig to grow faster is not always cost effective when you consider high energy grains such as corn, barley, and wheat cost less and typically have higher calories per pound than the average protein supplement. In addition, excessively high protein diets can at times limit gain and the animals ability to put on fat—Remember the Atkins Diet.
- Reduce feed waste by checking and repairing feed storage containers, covers, and feeders to prevent feed spoilage, rodent/insect damage, or animal waste.
- Evaluate alternative feeds that are available locally. However, cheap feeds are not always the most economic solution. As stated earlier the type and amount of feed greatly impacts production level—you might save \$0.10 per pound on grain, but lose more than \$0.10 in decreased production or purchasing supplementation to support the alternative feed.
- Make sure pigs have fresh, clean, cool water. If pigs do not have adequate clean water they will consume less feed and grow slower.
- Weigh the feed on a scale, do not measure by volume. Make sure animals are consuming adequate feed daily for desired performance and they are not wasting feed. Animals utilizing self feeders tend to waste more feed than animals that are fed a set amount at each feeding.
- Implement an effective health program to keep animals from becoming diseased or infected with internal or external parasites. Make sure animals have been vaccinated and are treated for health or parasite concerns appropriately and quickly.
- Ensure the animal's facilities are clean, dry, and the temperature is comfortable.
- Handle animals calmly and gently to prevent unnecessary stress.

These basic management practices will not only help improve your animal's performance (growth and gain), but will also improve the animal's basic feed efficiency. S. M. Smith



4H Swine Biosecurity Recommendations

This time of year it is important for exhibitors to remember that any time pigs from multiple sources are held in common areas at events like weigh-ins, jackpots and/or county fairs there is an increased risk for spread of disease.

Recommended bio security practices to prevent disease spread:

- Isolate pigs returning from weigh-in from other animals for a minimum of 30 days before reintroducing them. Identify your isolation area at a minimum of 300 yards away from other livestock.
- Designate separate handling, grooming, feeding or watering equipment to be used only with the isolated animals. You also should designate a pair of boots and coveralls to be used only with the isolated group. These items should not be used with other animals on the farm unless the clothing items have been cleaned and disinfected.
- Do not take pigs exhibiting clinical signs of any contagious disease or in the early treatment phases for a disease to a weigh-in or to an exhibition.
- Do not take healthy looking pigs from groups that are exhibiting signs of ANY contagious disease to a weigh-in or exhibition.
- Wear clean clothing and shoes to weigh-in and change into clean clothing and shoes before returning to work with other animals at home. Vehicles used to transport your pigs should also be cleaned, disinfected and allowed to dry before other pigs are hauled.
- Make sure that you have a premises identification number (PIN) for where you are housing your pigs. Movement records for each pig should also be kept by the exhibitor in a safe place. They should include a source PIN, individual animal identification for each pig, date the pig(s) were moved and destination PIN.
- Be sure to observe your pigs daily for signs of disease or infection and to contact your veterinarian if your pigs become sick.

For more information, contact Patrick Webb, PWebb@pork.org, 515-223-3441. *Pork Checkoff News from the National Pork Board*

Watch Out For Sunburned Pigs

During these hot summer months, extra precautions should be taken to ensure your pigs do not sunburn. Sunburns can be common in the white non-pigmented breeds or show pigs that have their hair clipped extremely short.

The symptoms are similar to those in humans, with rapid reddening of the skin and considerable pain. Severely sunburned pigs will have decreased appetites, and will not grow as well as healthy pigs.

To protect pigs from sunburn, make sure they have adequate shade and access to a good wallow. Do not use drug store sunscreen (human approved) on pigs to prevent sunburn, as it has not been approved for use on food animals. However, many of the show supply companies make a sunscreen that is approved for use in food animals.

