

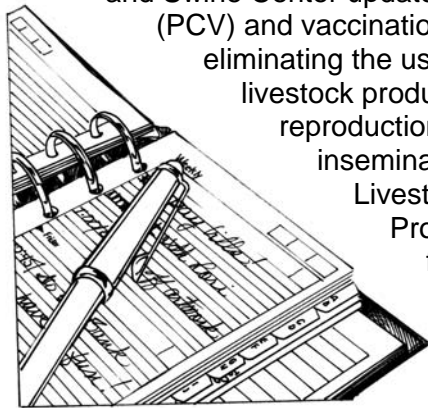
# Washington Pork Producers Newsletter

## Winter 2008

### SEND IN YOUR REGISTRATION TODAY! SWINE INFORMATION DAY—Feb. 8, 2008

The 2008 Swine Information Day is scheduled for Friday, February 8, at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco. This educational session is designed for progressive pork producers and stakeholders and will address critical and emerging swine production issues in the Pacific Northwest.

National, state and local speakers will address the following topics: WSU Animal Science and Swine Center update; porcine circovirus (PCV) and vaccination; reducing and eliminating the use of antibiotics in livestock production; and swine reproduction and artificial insemination basics; the Livestock Risk



Protection program for swine producers; and individuals in attendance will be trained and

certified in the National Pork Board's Pork Quality Assurance Plus program.

Swine producers of all sizes; 4-H/FFA youth producers; agency representatives; agriculture educators; and fair/show representatives are invited to participate. Swine Information Day is sponsored by the Washington Pork Producers, Washington State University Extension, and the National Pork Board. For complete agenda and registration information, visit [www.animalag.wsu.edu](http://www.animalag.wsu.edu) or contact the Extension Office.

### Coming to Your Mailbox Soon: 2007 Agriculture Census

America's farmers and ranchers will have the opportunity to make their voices heard and help shape the future of agriculture for years to come.

That opportunity will come in your mailbox in the form of the 2007 Census of Agriculture.

Conducted every five years by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS), the census is a complete count of the nation's farms and ranches



and the people who operate them. The census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income and expenditures and other topics. It provides the only source of uniform, comprehensive agricultural data for every county in the nation.

Policy makers factor census data into decisions concerning agricultural and rural programs. Community planners use the census to target needed services to rural residents. Companies rely on census data when determining where to locate their operations. Farmers themselves can use census data to help make critical decisions about their businesses.

NASS mailed out census forms December 28, 2007, to collect data for the 2007 calendar year. Completed forms are due back by Feb. 4, 2008. Producers can return their forms by mail or, for the first time, they have the convenient option of filling out the census online via a secure Web site at [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

The Census of Agriculture is the voice of all farmers and ranchers, regardless of how large or small or what commodities they may produce. All census and survey information collected by NASS is confidential. The information is published to county and even zip code levels, the results are made available to all segments of the economy without disclosing individual information.

For more information about the 2007 Census of Agriculture, please contact the NASS Washington Field Office at 360.902.1940, 800.435.5883 or visit [www.agcensus.usda.gov](http://www.agcensus.usda.gov).

## **PQA Plus Training and Certification**

**Register now for the 2008 Washington Swine Information Day.**

**PQA Plus certification training will be provided for both adult and youth producers, manager, and other individuals involved with the pork industry**



**PQA PLUS™**  
Our Responsibility. Our Promise.

### Your WPP Board Members

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### Twelve Management Tips for Managing Hogs During the Winter Season

1. Walk pens daily to correctly identify and treat sick pigs.
2. Correctly identify and market pigs when they are in the targeted weight window. Industry accounts have suggested that non-ambulatory pigs are often the largest pigs within a trailer load of pigs.
3. Loading crews should not load more than 4-6 loads per day (if possible).
4. Use covered loading chutes that form a tight seal with the building and trailer to minimize the amount of cold air that is blowing on the pig.
5. Individuals loading hogs should have a shovel and salt with them in case there is snow and/or ice in the load-out area.
6. Spread an absorbent material (wood shaving, barn lime, straw, etc) in the load-out area to prevent pigs from slipping and injuring themselves.
7. Move pigs in groups of 4-6 to minimize stress during loading. If pigs are difficult to move in groups of 4-6, take smaller groups to the trailer.
8. Minimize or eliminate the use of electric prods.
9. Drivers should carry a rubber mallet to loosen frozen pins on the gates of trailers.
10. Trailers should be bedded and boarded according to the following recommendations:

Truck Setup Procedures During Temperature Extremes			
Air Temp. (°F)	Bedding	Side –Slats	
<10°	Heavy	90% Closed	10% Open*
10-20°	Medium	75% Closed	25% Open*
20-40°	Medium	50% Closed	50% Open
40-50°	Light	25% Closed	75% Open
>50°	Light†	0% Closed	100% Open

\*Minimum openings are needed for ventilation even in the coldest weather.  
 †Consider using sand or wetting bedding if it is not too humid and trucks are moving.

11. Use the following transport floor space recommendations to minimize transport losses:

Pig Weight	Transport Floor Space
250-275 lbs.	5.00 ft <sup>2</sup> /pig
275-300 lbs	5.25ft <sup>2</sup> /pig

12. Once on the road, keep the truck moving and avoid unnecessary stops. Temperature inside the trailer increases when the truck is not moving, especially when the trailer is full of pigs and 90% of the vents are closed. For example, the temperature inside the trailer increased from 20-50°F during a 34-minute waiting period at the plant prior to unloading. Also, be aware that steam and relative humidity build up quickly inside a trailer that is full of pigs and has 90% of the vents closed.

*Adapted from Hog-Handling Update-Fall Issue*

### Pork Industry Backs New Plan For Animal ID

In a move applauded by the National Pork Producers Council, the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued a new business plan for its National Animal Identification System that includes seven new strategies to advance the traceability of U.S. livestock and places increased emphasis on collaboration with affected industries.

The new plan will require those who participate in USDA’s disease management and surveillance programs, such as ones for pseudorabies and classical swine fever, to register their premises and obtain a premises identification number (PIN). This will make it easier to trace back diseased animals or those exposed to disease to the farm level. Registration data includes the physical location of a farm, a contact telephone number and other public information. The information will not be stored in USDA’s database.

“NPPC believes USDA’s new business plan will significantly improve implementation of the National Animal Identification System,” said NPPC President, Jill Appell, a pork producer from Altona, IL, “and the NAIS is critical to protecting our national swine herd and, thus, our domestic and international market.”

NPPC and the National Pork Board have been working to register swine premises. As of early December 44,312, or 66 percent, of the estimated 67,280 hog farms had been registered. The two organizations in 2005 formed a Swine Identification Implementation Task Force made up of producers and other industry stakeholders to enhance the existing swine ID system, which was set up in 1988 and used successfully to eradicate pseudorabies from the commercial herd.

The new USDA plan provides for a species-specific approach that accommodates the different production and marketing requirements of each livestock group. It allows for the consolidation of different identification system to make traceability more precise and more efficient.

*NPPC Press Release*

### New Swine Flu Has Avian Flu Genes

Researchers have identified a new strain of swine influenza—H2N3—which belongs to the group of H2 influenza viruses that last infected humans during the 1957 pandemic. This new strain has a molecular twist: It is composed of avian and swine influenza genes.

The research team studied an unknown pathogen that in 2006 infected two groups of pigs at separate production facilities. Both groups of pigs used water obtained from ponds frequented by migrating waterfowl. Molecular studies indicated the unknown pathogen was H2N3 influenza virus that is closely related to an H2N3 strain found in mallard ducks. But this was the first time it had been observed in mammals.

Influenza viruses have eight gene segments, all of which can be swapped between different virus strains. Two of these gene segments code for virus surface proteins that help determine whether an influenza virus is able to infect a specific host and start replicating—the first step in the onset of influenza infection.

In the newly isolated swine H2N3, the avian H2 and N3 gene segments mixed with gene segments from common swine influenza viruses. This exchange—and additional mutations—gave the H2N3 viruses the ability to infect swine. Lab tests confirmed that this strain of H2N3 could also infect mice and ferrets.

*For complete abstract see <http://tinyurl.com/2oayx8>*

# NEWS FROM WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

## WSU Swine Center

The WSU Swine Center is one of the only swine facilities at a university in the western United States. The Swine Center provides pigs, facilities, and supervision for basic and applied research and extension activities to address important issues impacting the swine industry in the Northwest. The Swine Center also actively contributes to the teaching programs within the Department of Animal Sciences and the College of Veterinary Medicine.

The Swine Center is a self-supporting facility and therefore the management pays close attention to the ever-rising production cost, just like the rest of the pork industry. Located about 5 miles from campus, the Swine Center is a well-equipped farrow to finish operation that was built in the late 1970's. Over the years the Center has selected and bred for high litter size, exceptional milking ability, and high meat quality. Farrowing occurs every month and the center markets over 2000 pigs a year. The Swine Center finishing out about half of the pigs farrowed and sells the remaining pigs as feeder pigs, research pigs, or show pigs.

The WSU Swine Center under the direction of Asa Timms has announced an update of the WSU Swine Center's website. The website contains all the information about the WSU Show Pig Sales among other useful information. The website's address is [www.ansci.wsu.edu/facilities/swine/swine.asp](http://www.ansci.wsu.edu/facilities/swine/swine.asp).

## WSU Has New Veterinary Extension Unit

A new unit between WSU Extension and the College of Veterinary Medicine called Veterinary Medicine Extension was created with the hiring of Dr. Dale Moore as Director. The unit will be responsible for agriculture animal health outreach and extension programs. Extension programs underway include Biosecurity, Cattle Health Assurance, DairyBeef Quality and Safety, and Beef Quality Assurance programming.

The Veterinary Medicine Unit has also developed an electronic newsletter for producers, managers, educators, and stakeholders involved with animal agriculture issues. The purpose of the newsletter is to highlight current events, research and people involved in Agricultural Animal Programs at WSU in research, field investigations, clinics, teaching, diagnostics laboratory and extension. If you would like to receive the Veterinary Extension Newsletter you can view it or register to receive it at the following address, [www.vetmed.wsu.edu/extension/Newsletters/index.aspx](http://www.vetmed.wsu.edu/extension/Newsletters/index.aspx).

## WSU Vet School FDIU Notes

The College of Veterinary Medicine Field Disease Investigative Unit continues to support practitioners and producers in the field by providing another set of eyes to look at farm problems. Calf diseases, pig reproduction, and transition cow problems are some of the recent investigations. Contact Drs. Hancock or Wenz, [hancock@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:hancock@vetmed.wsu.edu) or [jrwenz@vetmed.wsu.edu](mailto:jrwenz@vetmed.wsu.edu) for information about conducting a herd investigation.

## Youth Producer News...

### Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus

Youth Pork Quality Assurance Plus™ (Youth PQA Plus™) demonstrates the dedication of America's youth pork producers and their Advisors to assuring consumers that they are purchasing pork that is safe, of high quality and produced in a responsible manner.

### Why was Youth PQA Plus developed?

- To put the pork industry in a position to demonstrate to its customers the commitment of the industry to providing the best possible care for its animals.
- To assure consumers they are purchasing the highest quality, safest product possible while caring for animal well-being.



### How was Youth PQA Plus developed?

- The Pork Industry Animal Care Coalition, made up of pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers, dedicated itself to finding a food-industry solution that would give confidence to consumers that U.S. Pork is produced in a way that respects animal well-being.
- It was developed to be a continuous improvement program.

### When will Youth PQA Plus take effect?

- The Youth PQA Plus program was officially launched on June 7, 2007. The new program is modeled after the adult PQA Plus™ program incorporating food safety along with animal care and well-being. There are different elements and requirements to distinguish between the Youth PQA Plus program and the adult PQA Plus program as shown in the comparison chart.



### Can I still participate in Youth PQA® program?

There are two programs that are available and running simultaneously; Youth Pork Quality Assurance® (Youth PQA®) and Youth PQA Plus. Youth PQA Plus includes an additional training and certification requirement for advisors. To allow for adequate time to train advisors, the Youth PQA program will be available until June 2008. It is encouraged to participate in the new Youth PQA Plus program as availability allows within your state.

## Youth PQA Plus

## Training & Certification

**Register now for the 2008 Washington Swine Information Day on Feb. 8th.**

**Youth PQA Plus certification training will be provided for youth producers, in addition to an adult PQA Plus training for producers, managers, and industry stakeholders.**

## USDA Quarterly Hog and Pig Reports

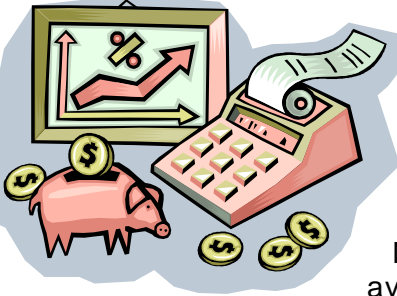
The latest USDA Quarterly Hogs and Pigs report appeared to be on the bearish side as most USDA numbers came in above pre-report estimates. Below are some of the highlights from this latest release:

- Total hogs and pigs inventories as of December 1 were 65.110 million head, 4.2% larger than a year ago and 6.8% larger than the 2002-06 average. Pre-report estimates were looking for a December 1 inventory of around 64.614 million head or 2.4% higher than a year ago. While the USDA numbers were within the range of pre-report estimates, the fact that they surpassed the average by about half a million head should be viewed as bearish for the market going into 2008. As expected, the September inventory was also revised up by about 941,000 head following the surge in hog slaughter during Q4 of this year.
- Inventory of market hogs was reported at 58.953 million head, 4.5% larger than a year ago and 7.3% larger than the 2002-06 average. Pre-report estimates placed the inventory of market hogs at 58.376 million head or 3.5% larger than a year ago. While USDA and pre-report estimates were fairly close with regard to inventories for heavy hogs, the USDA numbers for lighter hogs were notably higher than expected, which again should be viewed as bearish for late Q1 and Q2 market in 2008.
- The breeding herd inventory was 6.157 million head, 1.1% larger than a year ago and 2.2% larger than the five year average. In this regard, both the USDA and pre-report estimates were at about the same level.
- Farrowing intention provided some indication that hog producers are beginning to feel the pressures of higher feed and energy costs. March-May farrowing intentions were almost at the same level as the year before, which would mean flat growth in hog slaughter for Q4 of next year. The intentions number, however, is the most fickle part of this report as hog producers, like all of us, change their mind. With producer's margins even deeper in the red and prospects of lean hog prices in the mid to high 50s through the spring, the appetite for growth may no longer be there.  
*Steve Myers and Len Steiner, Daily Livestock Report*

## Solid Pork Demand Moving Larger-Than-Expected Pork Supplies

Available information on wholesale prices and cold stocks suggests that the larger-than expected pork supplies are being marketed to domestic and foreign consumers, rather than accumulating as cold stocks. October 31 cold stocks information for pork show only a small year-over-year increase of less than 2 percent. Most of the increase is due to higher ham stocks, which may be attributable, in part, to seasonal factors, as well as to lower sales to Mexico.

Estimated Federally Inspected weekly pork supplies for the 8 weeks up to December 1, which averaged about 8 percent higher than a year ago, appear to have pressured whole prices lower, but by less than in comparable periods in the recent past. The USDA Estimated Pork Carcass Cutout for October and November 2007 averaged almost 11 percent below the same period last year. The only other period in the recent past when October-November production increase in production was associated with a 31-percent drop in wholesale prices.



The fact that pork prices have not fallen as sharply as they did in 1998 is likely attributable, in part, to the contribution made by export markets in expanding demand for U.S. pork. USDA forecast fourth-quarter 2007 pork exports at 860 million pounds, almost triple the volume of exports in the same period 9 years ago. Thus, 2 months into the fourth quarter of 2007, it appears that robust demand factors are helping to move large volumes of pork through the supply chain to foreign and domestic consumers. Indeed, on the export side, attractive U.S. pork prices and the low-valued U.S. dollar are drawing significant quantities of U.S. pork into foreign markets. And on the domestic side—which accounts for about 86 percent of annual pork disappearance—year-over-year higher wholesale beef and chicken prices are likely helping to market seasonally large supplies of pork to domestic consumers.

*Economic Research Services, USDA  
Livestock, Dairy & Poultry Outlook, 12/19/07*

This newsletter can be accessed online at [animalag.wsu.edu](http://animalag.wsu.edu).