



CAPITAL PORK ANNUAL REPORT



SIGNIFICANT WINS SCORED IN 2018



Jim Heimerl, a pork producer from Ohio, led the efforts of the National Pork Producers Council as president over the past year.

The National Pork Producers Council, engaging members of Congress, Trump administration officials and foreign governments and working with other agricultural industry organizations and business groups, scored significant and important victories for America's 60,000 pork producers last year.

The organization and hundreds of its Strategic Investment Program (SIP) members made numerous visits to congressional offices to educate lawmakers and their staff, met with federal officials and staff, including at the White House and at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and attended – and often chaired – agricultural coalitions to advance or defeat proposals critical to the U.S. pork industry.

Despite difficult financial times, pork producers, NPPC's Packer-Processor Industry Council and Pork Alliance members and swine veterinarians made time to weigh in with their lawmakers, with nearly 250 participating in NPPC's spring and fall legislative fly-ins.

NPPC staff also attended dozens of political fund-raisers, held briefings for lawmakers on important industry matters and made sure the pork industry's positions on issues important to producers were heard, through testimony, comments and letters, in the halls of Congress and at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave.

The industry's efforts in 2018 resulted in significant wins for pork producers.

VICTORIES

- Secured Farm Bill funding to combat foreign animal diseases.
- Maintained zero-tariff access to South Korea.
- Concluded U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement talks.
- Opened Argentina and Paraguay to U.S. pork.
- Got relief from the effects of punitive tariffs on pork.
- Obtained for livestock haulers a waiver from a federal trucking rule.
- Restored an exemption for farms from reporting air emissions.
- Won more injunctions against WOTUS rule implementation.
- Got "essential" designation for USDA staff conducting critical functions.
- Fixed a tax deduction to protect independent buyers of feed.
- Undertook prevention and preparedness efforts to stop ASF.
- Won withdrawal of the Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule.

Details on NPPC's 2018 wins are in the pages that follow.



NPPC'S EFFORTS PAY OFF FOR PORK PRODUCERS

"There is no substitute for victory."
~ Gen. Douglas MacArthur

Last year was a challenging one for the U.S. pork industry, with producers taking a significant financial hit from punitive tariffs on U.S. pork from some of the industry's major trading partners. But amid the turmoil, the National Pork Producers Council scored some significant wins for America's pork producers.

NPPC staff in Des Moines and Washington, D.C., visited farms throughout the country, talking with producers about their concerns; attended meetings with other agricultural industry and business groups to align policy positions; met with food retailers and executives to discuss industry issues; lobbied members of Congress and executive branch officials on pork producers' public-policy priorities; participated in dozens of policy meetings as part of various coalitions; and worked with representatives of foreign nations to expand market opportunities for the U.S. pork industry.

NPPC testified before congressional committees and federal agencies during the year, submitted comments on a number of regulations and trade matters and communicated the industry's issues of importance to lawmakers on Capitol Hill and to Trump administration officials.

The organization communicated all of its efforts through staff in Des Moines and Washington and through various communications vehicles, including social media (see Page 3), to its members, the media and policymakers.

The result of that work? NPPC helped get congressional passage of several important pieces of legislation in 2018, including a new five-year Farm Bill that includes critical funding for foreign animal disease preparedness and prevention, defeated bad proposals and worked to maintain export markets for U.S. pork and opened new ones.

As always, the hard work and support of pork producers allowed NPPC to fight for the reasonable legislation and regulations and the new and existing market access detailed in the pages of this Annual Report.

We know most of you had to deal with economic challenges last year, but the legislative, regulatory and trade wins NPPC was able to score for you should, we hope, soften the blow. There really is no substitute for victory.



Jim Heimerl
NPPC President



Neil Dierks
NPPC CEO

NATIONAL OFFICE
10676 Justin Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
p: (515) 278-8012
f: (515) 278-8014
www.nppc.org

WASHINGTON PUBLIC POLICY CENTER
122 C Street, N.W., Suite 875
Washington, D.C. 20001
p: (202) 347-3600
f: (202) 347-5265

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Neil Dierks — Urbandale, IA

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PorkPAC HAS SUCCESSFUL 2018

The political action committee of the National Pork Producers Council, PorkPAC, had a tremendous success rate in 2018, with 88 percent of the candidates to whom it contributed winning their November 2018 election.

PorkPAC disbursed nearly \$458,000 over the 2017-2018 election cycle, supporting 28

Democrat and 67 Republican candidates in more than 30 states; 84 of those 95 candidates won their races.

PorkPAC was created in 1986 to educate and support candidates at the federal level whose views represent the interests of pork producers, processors and the U.S. pork industry. It allows

NPPC members concerned with the future of the pork industry to contribute to worthy candidates for congressional office.

For more information about NPPC's PorkPAC, call (202) 347-3600.

NPPC'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE REACHES NEW HEIGHTS



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The National Pork Producers Council in 2018 continued to utilize social media as an effective communications tool, expanding its presence and launching a variety of campaigns to initiate action on pork industry issues and to build relationships among key stakeholder groups and influential parties.

NPPC's communications and congressional relations teams joined forces to launch two social media campaigns, targeting 18 congressional districts. The campaigns, focused on NPPC's call for inclusion of a Foot-and-Mouth Disease vaccine bank in the 2018 Farm Bill and the need for visa reform to address the pork industry's labor shortage, reached more than 1 million people and generated action from 20,000 individuals. Additionally, NPPC launched #PorkPriorities, a campaign that successfully raised awareness of the U.S. pork industry's key issues.

With notable organic growth across all platforms and strong and consistent follower interactions, NPPC's social media proved to be valuable in initiating quick and effective action from pork producers and industry professionals.

The organization in 2019 will continue building its social media presence and influence to initiate positive change in the U.S. pork industry.

NPPC GETS WINS ON FARM BILL

ELDs, OTHER ISSUES

The new Farm Bill topped the list of 2018 victories scored by the National Pork Producers Council on behalf of America's 60,000 pork producers. Here are details on the five-year agricultural blueprint and other wins in the Agriculture & Industry area:

FARM BILL HAS FUNDING FOR DISEASE PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS



The 2018 Farm Bill, which the Senate and House approved and President Trump signed into law in December, includes mandatory funding for foreign animal disease (FAD) prevention and preparedness, a top priority for the U.S. pork industry.

NPPC spearheaded the effort to increase funding for combatting FADs, including for a vaccine bank to address potential outbreaks of Foot-and-Mouth Disease. The Farm Bill has \$120 million for the first four years for animal health and disease preparedness. The U.S. Department of Agriculture will be able to use funds for a vaccine bank; for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network, which provides disease surveillance and diagnostic support; and for state efforts to prepare for any animal disease outbreak. The fifth year includes \$30 million for all three programs.

NPPC convened a Farm Bill Taskforce in 2017 and served as the leading voice for animal agriculture's most significant Farm Bill ask in decades. The organization prepared letters to the House and Senate Agriculture Committees and to a conference committee working to reconcile competing congressional bills, stressing the importance of better preparation for FADs.

The Farm Bill also includes funding for USDA's agricultural export promotion programs.

PRICE REPORTING STAFF, FSIS INSPECTORS 'ESSENTIAL'

NPPC last January convinced Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue to classify as "essential" U.S. Department of Agriculture workers who produce the twice-daily Livestock Mandatory Price reports and inspectors with the agency's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS).

NPPC joined other animal agriculture organizations on a letter urging Perdue to deem those USDA employees essential to ensuring the continuity of livestock market operations during a federal government shutdown. The designation proved critical when Congress in late December failed to fund the government and hundreds of thousands of workers were furloughed.

The price reports are the sole source of market information on sales to packers of cattle, swine and lambs and on the subsequent sale of meat products; FSIS inspectors ensure that safe, nutritious and affordable meat and poultry are available to consumers.

LIVESTOCK TRUCKERS GET WAIVER FROM ELD MANDATE

Through hours of meetings with officials from the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) and comments submitted to the agency, NPPC helped secure a waiver for truckers hauling livestock from complying with the DOT mandate to use Electronic Logging Devices. ELDs record driving time and monitor engine hours, vehicle movement and speed, miles driven and location information.



ELDs, argued NPPC and other groups, are incompatible with DOT's Hours of Service (HOS) rules, which limit commercial truckers to 11 hours of driving time and 14 consecutive hours of on-duty time in any 24-hour period. Once drivers reach that limit, they must pull over and wait 10 hours before driving again.

NPPC also got DOT to issue clarifying guidance on the HOS rules, exempting truckers hauling livestock within a 150-air-mile radius of the location at which animals were loaded. Those truckers also would be exempt from the rules during a return trip within that same radius. The organization is working with the agency to change the HOS regulations to expand the driving time limit for livestock haulers. In comments submitted to DOT in October, NPPC supported revisions that allow livestock haulers to comply with the rules while maintaining the pork industry's high standards for animal welfare.

FIX MADE TO SECTION 199A TAX DEDUCTION

Last March, Congress passed and the president signed a federal spending bill that included a fix for the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's Section 199A, a provision that granted farmers a larger tax deduction if they sold their agricultural products to cooperatives. That would have left independently-owned buyers at a disadvantage.

The fix – retroactive to Jan. 1, 2018 – restored the Section 199 domestic production activities deduction (DPAD) designed to serve as both a domestic production and jobs creation incentive. The deduction was repealed as part of the 2017 tax reform plan.

NPPC, which had urged Congress to maintain the DPAD, participated in more than 20 meetings as part of the Aggie Tax Coalition, which lobbied lawmakers to restore the deduction.

AGRICULTURAL LABOR ISSUES REMAINED PRIORITY

Finding and maintaining a steady workforce continued to be a top concern for pork producers and a top issue for NPPC in 2018.

In April, NPPC released a study from Iowa State University on the agricultural workforce. The study determined that a reduction in the foreign-born workforce – prompted by a change in immigration policy – would not be offset by native-born workers and permanent residents.

NPPC used the study and recommendations from its Labor Security Taskforce to push congressional legislation addressing agriculture's labor shortage. The organization also served on the steering committee of the Agricultural Workforce Coalition, taking a leadership position in Washington on visa reform efforts. Among those efforts was working with USDA on a potential regulatory solution to the livestock sector's labor issues.

While no bill made it through Congress last year, NPPC helped lay the groundwork for getting a new visa program for non-seasonal foreign agricultural workers.



ANTI-CHECKOFF MEASURES DIE

Opposition from NPPC and other agricultural groups that have, or are affiliated with, commodity checkoff programs helped defeat legislation that would have severely restricted the use of checkoff funds. Money paid by farmers to the 22 congressionally-authorized checkoff programs is used to promote agricultural products, develop foreign markets for U.S. farm goods and conduct research on agricultural technologies.

In May, NPPC led the efforts of more than 40 agricultural organizations in urging the House Agriculture Committee to vote against an amendment to the 2018 Farm Bill that, among other restrictions, would have prohibited checkoffs from contracting with any entity with an agricultural interest before the federal government.

EFFORTS MADE TO KEEP FOOD AFFORDABLE

NPPC weighed in on issues that threaten to raise the price of pork and other agricultural products for consumers.

In April, it submitted comments to San Francisco's Department of the Environment about the city's Antibiotic Use in Food Animals ordinance, which took effect in late November 2017. The law requires large grocery retailers in San Francisco to report annually on antibiotics used in meat sold in their stores.

NPPC's comments pointed out the many flaws of the ordinance, including a lack of clear evidence demonstrating that antibiotic use in food animals poses a risk to consumers and failure to recognize existing federal regulations for antibiotic use in food animals.

The organization also helped Indiana – joined by a number of other states – draft a complaint against a Massachusetts initiative approved in 2016 that outlawed the use of gestation stalls for pregnant sows and banned the sale of pork from hogs born to sows raised in such housing anywhere in the country.

NPPC also backed a lawsuit brought by Missouri and other states against an initiative similar to the Massachusetts one approved last November by California voters. (NPPC opposed the California initiative.) The two cases were filed with the U.S. Supreme Court.

USDA WILL OVERSEE LAB-GROWN MEAT, ANIMAL DRUG LAW RENEWED, ORGANIC LIVESTOCK RULE WITHDRAWN

In the science and technology area, the National Pork Producers Council in 2018 was involved in a number of issues affecting pork producers, including ones dealing with lab-grown meat and reauthorizing animal drug approval laws.

USDA WILL HAVE ROLE IN LAB-GROWN MEAT



NPPC got a big regulatory win when the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in November agreed to jointly oversee the production of laboratory-produced cultured protein (L-PCP) derived from livestock and poultry cells. FDA had sought sole authority over lab-grown meat.

FDA will oversee cell collection, cell banks and cell growth and differentiation; USDA will oversee the production and labeling of food products derived from the cells of livestock and poultry.

NPPC and other meat and livestock organizations sent a letter to President Trump in late July urging him to take a stand on the regulatory dispute between FDA and USDA over L-PCP. The groups want L-PCP to comply with the same regulatory standards – USDA's – as conventionally produced red meat and poultry products, including product name and labeling standards, continuous inspections, process controls and antemortem and postmortem inspection of source animals.

ANIMAL DRUG LAW REAUTHORIZED

NPPC helped win approval of reauthorizing legislation for the Animal Drug User Fee Act (ADUFA) and the Animal Generic Drug User Fee Act (AGDUFA), both of which allow the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to collect from animal health companies fees for timely review of animal drug applications. NPPC briefed congressional staff on the need to reapprove the animal drug laws.

The reauthorizing bill included a new provision that expands FDA authority for conditional approval of new animal drugs, addressing serious and life-threatening unmet medical needs for major animal species. Conditional approval allows an animal drug to be available for use before all necessary

data for approval is collected but after the drug is deemed safe for use, so long as it is expected to be effective. The provision expands FDA's authority to conditionally approve new animal drugs for major use and major species from minor use and minor species.

NPPC also led the animal agriculture industry's efforts to preclude from the bill report language requiring prescriptions for uses of medically important antibiotics that were not covered under the recent implementation of FDA Guidance 213 and revisions to the Veterinary Feed Directive rule. The FDA, NPPC argued, should have the authority to make that decision based on science rather than have it legislated.

ACTION TAKEN TO PREVENT, PREPARE FOR AFRICAN SWINE FEVER

Although it wasn't a legislative or regulatory victory, NPPC's efforts last year to prevent African Swine Fever (ASF) from infecting the U.S. hog herd, and to make preparations for if it does, were still important to the U.S. pork industry.

ASF, a highly contagious disease affecting only pigs, was detected in China last August and is in Eastern Europe and Africa.

Collaborating with the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, the National Pork Board, the Swine Health Information Center and

the U.S. Department of Agriculture, including U.S. Chief Veterinary Officer Jack Shere, NPPC worked on increasing producers' awareness of the need for enhanced on-farm biosecurity and urged them to enroll in the industry's Secure Pork Supply Continuity of Business Plan, which would allow producers whose herds comply with the requirements of the plan and show no evidence of infection to provide state and federal animal health officials information necessary for them to permit movement of animals and product.

It also worked with USDA and the Department of Homeland Security to strengthen U.S. Customs and Border Protection inspections – looking for contraband food products that could harbor ASF – communicate the risks of the disease to livestock feed importers and prevent the virus from entering the country through Chinese feed products. (Those efforts got a big boost in the 2018 Farm Bill, which included funding for foreign animal disease prevention and preparedness. See Page 4.)

USDA WITHDRAWS ORGANIC LIVESTOCK RULE

A process that started in late 2017 concluded last May when the U.S. Department of Agriculture formally withdrew the proposed Organic Livestock and Poultry Practices rule.

In abandoning it, USDA agreed with NPPC that the regulation exceeded the scope of the Organic Food Production Act of 1990, which set uniform handling and processing standards for organic production, including confining organic production for livestock strictly to feeding and medication practices. The proposed Obama-era rule would have incorporated animal welfare standards

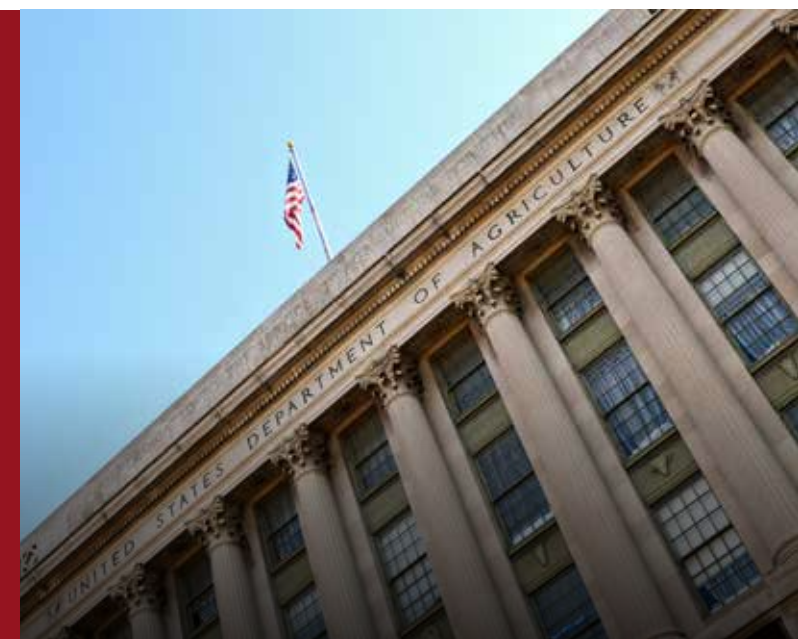
not based on science into the National Organic Program and would have jeopardized animal and public health while adding complexity to the organic certification process, according to NPPC.

In comments, NPPC pointed out that the standards outlined by the rule were not limited to organic production and were incompatible with disease management practices used by pork producers. The regulation also would have had a greater economic impact on farmers than USDA estimated in 2016 when the rule first was proposed.

NEW PORK SLAUGHTER INSPECTION RULE ADVANCES

The U.S. Department of Agriculture in January 2018 issued its proposed Modernization of Swine Slaughter Inspection rule, which would make available to market hog packing plants a 20-year-old pilot program that lets USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) better use its resources to ensure safe products are entering the food supply.

NPPC in May submitted comments on the pork slaughter inspection rule, which would give packing plant personnel greater responsibility for food safety tasks and allow FSIS employees to do more focused inspections. In its comments, NPPC expressed support for the new regulation, which, it said, will enhance food safety, humane handling and better utilize FSIS and industry resources. The organization did recommend some technical changes to the rule.



INDUSTRY COMMENTS INFORM STANDARDS FOR ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

NPPC provided to the U.S. delegation to a U.N. antibiotic-resistance task force recommendations and scientific evidence to inform the development of international standards on antibiotic residues.

The Codex Intergovernmental Task Force on Antimicrobial Resistance is revising its "Code of Practice to Minimize and Contain Foodborne Antimicrobial Resistance," as well as developing "Guidance on Integrated Surveillance of Antimicrobial Resistance." The task force is part of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, the U.N.'s international food-safety standards-setting body.

NPPC's efforts, including in-depth comments, resulted in a draft document that has practices and guidelines largely consistent with current U.S. regulations and policies on residues.

FDA WON'T APPLY VERIFICATION PROGRAM TO LIVE ANIMAL IMPORTS

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration, at the request of NPPC and other groups, in March agreed – through guidance to its inspectors – not to apply the Food Safety Modernization Act's Foreign Supplier Verification Program (FSVP) to importers of live animals.

The FSVP requires food importers to ensure that their foreign suppliers are held to the same standards as those in the U.S. food safety law. The statute exempted meat imports subject to inspection by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service but did not exempt the importation of live animals intended for food. Inspection of most live animals imported for food use, including pigs, falls under the jurisdiction of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.



NPPC HELPS REIN IN REGULATIONS THAT HURT PORK PRODUCERS

On the environment front, the National Pork Producers Council in 2018 continued its efforts to dismantle regulations that proved detrimental to the U.S. pork industry.

FARM EMISSIONS REPORTING RULE RESCINDED

NPPC got Congress to approve legislation exempting livestock farmers from reporting routine emissions from their farms and urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to propose a rule exempting farmers from a related emissions reporting mandate.

The Fair Agricultural Reporting Method (FARM) Act, passed in April, fixed a problem created in 2017 when a U.S. Court of Appeals rejected a 2008 EPA regulation that exempted farmers from reporting emissions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA).

The court decision would have forced tens of thousands of livestock farmers to “guesstimate” and report emissions from manure to the U.S. Coast Guard’s National Response Center and subjected them to citizen enforcement lawsuits from activist groups. The FARM Act reinstated the CERCLA exemption for agriculture.

The court ruling also required all livestock farmers to comply with the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), which mandates that certain entities notify state and local first responders about potential emissions.

EPA has interpreted the law as exempting agriculture. The agency proposed a regulation last year – expected to be finalized this year – to add an exemption from the EPCRA reporting requirement for livestock farmers. NPPC filed comments in support of the proposed rule.

Additionally, early last year, NPPC Past President Dr. Howard Hill, a veterinarian and pork producer from Iowa, testified before the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on the impact of environmental regulations on the nation’s livestock farmers. He urged lawmakers to find a legislative solution for the CERCLA and EPCRA reporting issue.

CONGRESS URGED TO REIN IN COSTLY REGULATIONS

NPPC also commented generally on the effects of regulations, including environmental rules, on the U.S. pork industry. John Weber, left, NPPC past president and an Iowa pork producer, in June testified on the burdens and costs of federal regulations on small farms.

The U.S. pork industry has had to contend with several ill-conceived, burdensome and potentially costly regulations over the past 10 years, including ones related to the buying and selling of livestock, labeling meat, trucking, air emissions, clean water, antibiotics use and organic livestock production, Weber told the House Committee on Small Business Subcommittee on Agriculture, Energy, and Trade.

NPPC asked Congress to reduce the regulatory burden on U.S. pork producers and American agriculture by increasing accountability and transparency in the federal regulatory process, broadening the scope of required economic analyses, requiring agencies to work with key stakeholders throughout the rulemaking process and strengthening congressional oversight of regulatory agencies.

IMPLEMENTATION OF WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES RULE STOPPED

NPPC helped lead the charge against the Obama-era Waters of the United States (WOTUS) rule, winning in 2018 two federal court stays on implementing the regulation in 15 states – a U.S. District Court in 2015 issued an injunction against the rule’s implementation for 13 states – and getting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to propose a new, workable WOTUS rule in mid-December.

The Clean Water Act regulation was issued in August 2015 to clarify EPA’s authority over various waters. That jurisdiction – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – included “navigable” waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters. The WOTUS rule

broadened that to include, among other water bodies, upstream waters and intermittent and ephemeral streams such as the kind farmers use for drainage and irrigation. It also encompasses lands, such as farm fields, adjacent to such waters.

Also last year, NPPC joined other agricultural and business groups in filing a request in a U.S. District Court for a nationwide preliminary injunction against the WOTUS rule. (That petition is still pending.)

The organization also weighed in on EPA’s proposed replacement WOTUS rule, which would amend the existing regulation.

GAG ORDER ON N.C. NUISANCE SUITS AGAINST HOG FARMS LIFTED

In a big court victory, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth District struck down a gag order related to hog farm nuisance lawsuits over odor and noise brought against pork producers in eastern North Carolina.

NPPC and the North Carolina Pork Council filed a friend-of-the-court brief in support of lifting the order, arguing that there was no compelling need for the order, that the U.S. District Court that issued it did not consider alternatives to the order – including the jury selection process or jury instructions – and that the order was overbroad and vague and wouldn’t be effective.

The appeals court agreed that the order undermined the ability of pork producers to defend themselves and communicate with their elected officials.

More than two dozen nuisance suits have been filed against N.C. hog farms, with juries in three of the four cases decided in 2018 returning significant awards against farmers.

In early August, former NPPC President Howard Hill, right, a pork producer from Iowa who previously worked for a pork operation in North Carolina, joined two of the state’s congressional lawmakers – Sen. Thom Tillis and Rep. David Rouzer – U.S. House Agriculture Committee Chairman Mike Conaway, R-Texas, U.S. Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Bill Northey, North Carolina Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler and agricultural officials from several other states to discuss the lawsuits’ impact on the North Carolina pork industry and their implications for pork producers nationwide.



NPPC PROTECTED AGREEMENTS

ACCESS TO MARKETS MAINTAINED, NEW ONES OPENED

While the Trump administration's efforts in 2018 to realign U.S. trade policy caused the U.S. pork industry some financial pain, the National Pork Producers Council pressured the White House to provide some relief for producers, including through opening new markets to U.S. pork. Here are details on NPPC's victories in the international trade arena:

PRODUCERS GET RELIEF FROM PUNITIVE TARIFFS

After several meetings with NPPC – and other agricultural organizations – the U.S. Department of Agriculture in August offered relief for pork producers and other farmers suffering from the effects of punitive tariffs imposed on American products by some U.S. trading partners.

USDA's trade-mitigation program included unprecedented aid for U.S. pork, including \$559 million for purchases of pork to be used to feed the needy – the largest share of the agency's assistance program. It also included a Market Facilitation Program that paid pork producers \$8 per market hog on 50 percent of their inventory on any date between July 15 and Aug. 15, 2018. Additionally, the program had \$200 million for developing foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products.

NPPC worked with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, which oversees the federal food assistance programs, to determine the ideal product mix that would have the largest impact for farmers, be fiscally responsible and provide food for those in need. It also worked with USDA and food banks around the country to ensure that product could be delivered over a year-long period.

While NPPC supported USDA's assistance, it continued to advocate for an end to the trade disputes that caused financial harm to farmers.

ZERO-TARIFF ACCESS FOR U.S. PORK PRESERVED IN RENEGOTIATED KOREA DEAL

The United States and South Korea in late September signed a revised free trade agreement that maintained the U.S. pork industry's zero-tariff access to the Asian country.

NPPC was a leading voice in urging the administration to keep in the renegotiated deal the favorable terms won by U.S. agriculture in the 2012 Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, including access for U.S. pork without duties. South Korea is a top five market for the U.S. pork industry, which shipped \$475 million of pork there in 2017, making it the No. 5 U.S. pork export destination.

USMCA HAS DUTY-FREE ACCESS FOR U.S. PORK

Although it is yet to be finalized, the new United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) also has duty-free access for U.S. pork to two important markets, thanks to the efforts of NPPC.

The organization continuously pushed Trump trade officials to ensure that the renegotiated North American Free Trade Agreement allowed U.S. pork to be sent to Canada and Mexico with no tariffs. NPPC's Maria Zieba, director of international affairs, testified on the USMCA at a hearing held by the U.S. International Trade Commission and spoke about the benefits of the deal at panels hosted by the Heritage Foundation and by the Atlantic Council.

An important adjunct to the USMCA was – and remains in 2019 – a resolution to trade disputes the United States has with Mexico and with

Canada. The United States last year imposed tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from those countries – and many others – which, in turn, placed retaliatory duties on a host of American products; Mexico put a 20 percent tariff on U.S. pork.

NPPC, which joined the Alliance for Competitive Steel and Aluminum Trade to communicate the impacts of tariffs on U.S. exports, economic growth and production costs, asked the administration to repeal the metals tariffs so that Mexico would drop its duties on pork. (NPPC also asked the administration to provide pork producers some relief from the economic effects of the Mexican tariff – and duties from China – which NPPC's Nick Giordano, vice president and counsel, global government affairs, addressed at a June Global Business Dialogue event.)

ADMINISTRATION COMMITS TO NEGOTIATE NEW TRADE DEALS

As part of its 2018 trade agenda, NPPC made repeated requests of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to begin negotiating new trade agreements with countries, and the Trump administration came through.

The White House announced in late September that the United States would begin trade talks with Japan, the U.S. pork industry's No. 1 export market, and in October said it would work on deals with the European Union and the United Kingdom.

NPPC submitted comments to USTR on negotiating objectives for a U.S.-Japan trade agreement. It urged the administration to expeditiously complete talks to moderate the effects on the U.S. pork industry of expected losses in the Japanese market because of recent trade deals Japan concluded with other countries, including the European Union.

On a potential U.S.-EU trade agreement, NPPC last year led an *ad hoc* coalition of more than 50 food and agriculture organizations in asking USTR to ensure that any deal between the United States and the European Union include agriculture and that it address the EU's restrictive tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. farm products.

The EU has expressed reluctance to include agriculture in trade talks with the United States – as it did during negotiations on the now-dormant U.S.-EU Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership – knowing it would require lifting import barriers that protect EU farmers and removing regulatory measures that are scientifically unjustified or overly restrictive.

Additionally, the administration, at the urging of NPPC, worked on trade issues under the bilateral U.S. Trade and Investment Framework Agreement with the Philippines, moving the United States closer to initiating trade agreement negotiations with the island nation.

NEW MARKETS OPENED TO U.S. PORK

After laying the groundwork in 2017, NPPC last year worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative to finalize export certificates with two South American nations.

The U.S. pork industry in 2018 got access to the Argentine market for the first time in 25 years and now may ship fresh, frozen and processed pork to the South American country. Argentina, which had a *de facto* ban on U.S. pork, has a population of more than 44 million and a per capita income of \$17,250 – higher than Mexico's – making it an attractive market for U.S. pork.

NPPC also helped gain access to Paraguay and its nearly 7 million people. The U.S. pork industry can ship fresh, frozen, processed and thermally processed/commercially sterile pork there.

USTR AGREES TO REVIEW THAILAND'S U.S. TRADE BENEFITS

At the request of NPPC, the U.S. Trade Representative agreed to review Thailand's eligibility for the U.S. Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) program, which gives duty-free treatment to certain goods entering the United States, because of the Asian nation's failure to provide access to its market for U.S. products, including pork.

NPPC, which filed a petition asking for the review, testified at a June USTR hearing about Thailand's tariff and non-tariff barriers to U.S. pork, including a ban on the use of the feed additive ractopamine, restrictions on uncooked pork products and on offal and limits on import permits. The GSP program, NPPC pointed out, allows for removal of a country's benefits if it fails to provide the United States "equitable and reasonable access" to its market.

NPPC also led the efforts to get more than 40 members of the House of Representatives to send a letter to Thailand's ambassador to the United States, calling for the removal of restrictions on imports of U.S. farm products.



NEW TRICHINAE SURVEILLANCE, TESTING PROGRAM IMPLEMENTED

NPPC secured funding for USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) to develop a new surveillance and testing program for trichinae that should eliminate the U.S. pork industry's need for costly and inefficient mitigation efforts now required by some U.S. trading partners.

USDA's Agricultural Research Service will conduct the trichinae tests, train personnel to ensure quality in performing them, maintain and report on test results and provide meat packers with appropriate materials for shipping samples to testing facilities. The program will test 3.1 million samples each year for two years.

NPPC also worked with the National Pork Board and APHIS to change trichinae standards within the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and the U.N.'s Codex Alimentarius Commission to make them science-based and fair.

The standards apply to all OIE member countries and will help facilitate access to markets that previously have used the risk of trichinae to limit U.S. pork imports and protect their domestic pork industries.



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Washington Public Policy Center
122 C Street, N.W., Suite 875
Washington, D.C. 20001
www.nppc.org

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