



JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015



**T**he National Pork Producers Council in 2014 worked for reasonable legislation and regulation, to open new and expand existing export markets and to protect the livelihoods of America's pork producers, getting several victories and making progress on issues of importance to the U.S. pork industry.

A couple of NPPC's biggest wins came in December as the 113th Congress came to a close, with lawmakers approving legislation to extend a number of tax breaks that expired at the end of 2013 and passing a \$1.1 trillion fiscal 2015 spending bill that included a number of priority pork industry provisions. Among them are ones that:

- Provide \$2 million for biosecurity and herd management to address the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus.
- Provide a \$3 million increase over the previous year's funding for the National Antimicrobial Resistance Monitoring Service, bringing total NARMS funding to \$10.6 million.
- Require the U.S. Department of Agriculture to submit to Congress within 15 days of a final resolution from the World Trade Organization on complaints related to the U.S. Country-of-Origin-Labeling (COOL) law or by May 1, 2015, recommendations for changes in federal law that would

be required for a COOL law that does not violate U.S. international trade obligations.

- Preclude the use by USDA of funds to write, prepare or publish a final rule or an interim final regulation related to the buying and selling of livestock under the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Act unless the annual cost of the rule does not exceed \$100 million. USDA is prohibited from implementing provisions related to competitive injury, packer-to-packer sales, additional capital investments, three-day right to cancel contracts, "undue and unfair" preferences and business justification, among others.
- Express concern that the advisory committee on the 2015 Dietary Guidelines for Americans is considering issues outside its scope, including agriculture production practices and environmental matters. Language in the measure directs USDA to include in the final 2015 Dietary Guidelines only nutrition and dietary information.
- Require the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to rescind the "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) interpretative rule. The agency is not, however, prevented from finalizing a WOTUS rule.

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## YEAR IN REVIEW



Neil Dierks  
NPPC CEO



Dr. Howard Hill  
NPPC President

# PERSPECTIVE

## 2014: Year Of Challenges, Victories

lance and for antibiotic-resistance monitoring; stopping an ill-conceived environmental regulation; extending important tax provisions; and advancing our trade agenda.

Of course, NPPC, along with the National Pork Board and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians, continued to address the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV). One of the most important successes on that issue was getting the U.S. Department of Agriculture to focus its efforts with the disease on monitoring and researching it.

We also continued to communicate with and to educate companies throughout the pork chain about the pork industry's commitment to continuous improvement and to the ethical principles embodied in the We Care program, which affirm that producers do the right things on their farms – for their animals, their workers and the environment – every day.

Those efforts have been critical in helping us blunt attacks from animal-rights groups, which continued in 2014 to try to coerce companies into requesting that their pork suppliers move away from gestation stalls for sows.

And, as we did in 2013, we worked in a number of Northeast states to stop legislation that

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*“Accept the challenges so that you can feel the exhilaration of victory.”*  
 ~ Gen. George S. Patton

While federal Washington continued to be in virtual gridlock last year, the National Pork Producers Council had plenty of challenges and several successes in 2014.

As we do every year, NPPC spent hundreds of hours lobbying members of Congress and executive branch officials, participating in dozens of meetings as part of various coalitions and working with representatives of foreign nations and other agriculture industry groups to advance proposals beneficial to the U.S. pork industry and to stop ones that would have been detrimental to pork producers. The organization weighed in on numerous issues last year, submitting comments to regulatory agencies and sending letters to congressional lawmakers.

All of those efforts helped us secure victories for pork producers, including: getting more funding for swine disease surveil-



## Social Media Effective Tool For U.S. Pork Industry



◀ Bloggers on the "pork to fork" tour.



profile, NPPC this year hosted three regional social media training sessions for swine veterinarians, which resulted in 10 new Twitter accounts. Those veterinarians now are part of NPPC's grass roots army, which can be activated when needed.

**S**ocial media quickly is overtaking tradition media as the preferred way to communicate information, and the National Pork Producers Council over the past few years has embraced it, with 2014 being a very successful social media year for the organization.

The highlight of the year was a September "pork to fork" tour for 12 prominent bloggers. NPPC partnered with the Animal Agriculture Alliance, the National Pork Board, the North Carolina Pork Council, Prestage Farms and Smithfield Foods to host the farm and processing plant tour. The bloggers, all but one of whom had little to no agriculture background, visited a sow farm, nursery, finisher and the Smithfield processing plant in Clinton, N.C.

While the hosts entered the undertaking with some trepidation, it proved to be an enormous success, with positive blogger posts viewed nearly 20 million times. That's double the combined

circulation of *Family Circle*, *Good Housekeeping* and *Martha Stewart Living* magazines.

NPPC also used its social media outlets – Facebook and Twitter – to help pork producers Erin Brenneman from Iowa and Thomas Titus from Illinois win the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance (USFRA) "Faces of Farming and Ranching" competition. Brenneman and Titus will spend the next year sharing their agriculture stories on a national stage through public appearances, events, media interviews and social media.

To add more scientific authority to the pork industry's online

Last year, NPPC's Twitter following organically – meaning no money was spent – increased by almost 30 followers a week, responding to the organization's posts that contained a mix of humor, news and advocacy content and pork industry information, including "Tweets" on the National Pork Board's #RealPigFarming campaign, which tells the stories of pork producers across the nation.

With a low-cost, specific targeting campaign, NPPC's Facebook "Likes" increased by more than 12,000 over the year. The new followers often came to the pork industry's defense when animal-rights activists attacked producers on NPPC's social media pages.



"Like" NPPC on Facebook - [www.facebook.com/nationalporkproducerscouncil](http://www.facebook.com/nationalporkproducerscouncil)



Follow on Twitter at - <https://twitter.com/NPPC>

## Wins Scored On 'WOTUS,' GIPSA Rules, Tax Provisions

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- Prohibit EPA from requiring livestock producers to report greenhouse gas emissions.

### TAX EXTENDERS

The so-called tax extenders bill – the Tax Increase Prevention Act of 2014 – included more than 50 expired tax provisions, including bonus depreciation and business expensing under tax code Section 179, which are important to pork producers.

NPPC, along with more than 40 organizations, in November urged House and Senate lawmakers to include the tax measures in a multi-year tax extenders package. Section 179 allows agricultural producers to write off capital expenditures in the year that purchases are made rather than depreciate them over time while providing a way to maximize business purchases in years when they have positive cash flow. Without the tax provision, the maximum amount a small business could immediately expense when purchasing business assets instead of depreciating them over time would have been \$25,000 adjusted for inflation. NPPC urged lawmakers to restore the maximum amount of expensing to \$500,000 – as it was set previously in 2013.

Congress also voted to reinstate the bonus depreciation provision for the purchase of new capital assets, including agricultural equipment. Most property and equipment must be depreciated over their useful

life. Under the bonus depreciation provision, business owners (and farmers) can deduct 50 of the cost of an asset in the first year and the remaining cost using regular depreciation or Section 179 expensing.

NPPC also made sure that draft tax reform legislation did not include a provision that could have been detrimental to pork producers. An initial discussion draft included a provision that would have required farmers who have gross receipts of \$10 million or more to switch from using cash accounting to accrual accounting; current law requires this of operations of \$25 million or more. For many pork producers, the accrual method would result in, for example, the taxation in one tax year of pigs (inventory) that go to market in the next tax year. The switch also would have subjected pork producers to new compliance regulations – which are hundreds of pages – on inventory capitalization rules.

Among other efforts, NPPC signed a letter to the Senate Finance Committee, opposing the detrimental provision and a joint agriculture letter to House Ways and Means Committee members expressing concerns about the proposal's elimination of "special exceptions" for farming businesses. In addition, NPPC staff, several pork producers, bankers and accounting firm representatives met with key Ways and Means Committee staff to articulate the pork industry's concerns.

### 2014 FARM BILL

As the year began, NPPC weighed in on the 2014

Farm Bill, which was signed into law in early February. The \$956 billion measure, among other things, included trichinae surveillance and feral swine control programs, a provision requiring USDA to establish an Undersecretary for Trade and one requesting the agency to study the efficacy of a catastrophic disease event insurance program and reauthorization of export promotion programs.

In late April, NPPC President Dr. Howard Hill testified on the state of the U.S. pork industry before the House Agriculture Subcommittee on Livestock, Rural Development and Credit, noting that pork producers were dealing with PEDV and the threat of trade retaliation against their products because of COOL.

### FIRE PROTECTION

NPPC also was again involved with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which was looking into revising its model fire code. The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) and other animal-rights groups in 2012 pressured the organization into requiring that all animal housing facilities, including swine barns, be equipped with sprinkler systems and that they be inspected annually. NPPC appealed the decision, citing the NFPA's failure to get input from the livestock industry and to research the causes of barn fires. It also cited the significant cost of installing sprinklers, issues related to accessing water for them and biosecurity issues with inspections. NFPA subsequently dropped the requirement



and directed its Technical Committee to reconsider the issue.

Last year, HSUS again urged the NFPA Technical Committee to approve sprinklers for all barns, but after hearing from NPPC and other livestock groups about how food animals are housed, the committee rejected the HSUS request in approving a final NFPA draft 2016 fire standard, which will come up for a final vote in 2015.

On another issue involving HSUS, NPPC continued to defend pork producers' ability to use housing systems that are best for the well-being of their animals, meeting with dozens of food companies to educate them on modern pork production practices. HSUS has coerced a number of food companies and restaurant chains into demanding that their pork suppliers abandon individual sow housing systems.

The pork organization also fought against legislation at the state level to ban the use of sow gestation stalls, beating back HSUS-supported measures in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Jersey and New York in 2014.

## FUTURES MARKETS



In a move strongly supported by NPPC to protect pork producers who use the futures markets to manage their risks, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) last year proposed to revise a regulation related to customer margin calls. The current regulation requires Futures Commission Merchants (FCMs) to

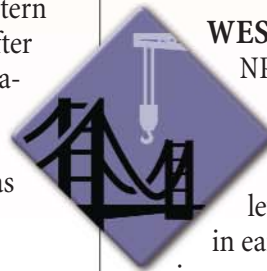
compute, as of the close of each business day, the amount each customer's account might be "undermargined." An FCM must maintain a sufficient amount of its own funds – "residual interest" – equal to or in excess of the total customer undermargined amount, and customers must provide funds for margin calls by 6 p.m. Eastern Time the next business day after the close of a trade. The regulation calls for a deadline of 9 a.m. the next business day in 2018. (The 9 a.m. deadline was set to be phased in.)

NPPC told the CFTC the 9 a.m. deadline likely would force many farmers who use futures for risk management out of the markets because of the added cost. In addition, said NPPC, prefunding margin accounts would mean pork producers would have more capital at risk of being used fraudulently, such as happened with MF Global and Peregrine Financial. Because the 9 a.m. deadline would cause problems for pork producers and producers in other agricultural sectors, the CFTC proposed to keep the deadline at 6 p.m. the next business day.

In a related matter, NPPC, along with others agricultural groups, last year urged the Senate to fill a vacancy on the CFTC with an individual with a strong understanding of agriculture. The Senate is expected to consider the matter in early 2015.

The organization also weighed in with the CFTC on repayment of \$1.2 billion from customer accounts, including those of many pork producers, lost by commodities futures trading firm MF Global.

The CFTC announced in April that customers would begin receiving funds, which were comingled with MF Global's own money and used to buy risky European debt. NPPC previously had urged the trustees overseeing MF Global's bankruptcy to provide safeguards and protections for customers.



## WEST COAST PORTS

NPPC was one of 105 national, state and regional trade associations that sent a letter to President Obama in early November, expressing concern about ongoing interruptions to the West Coast port system by the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU). The groups urged the federal government to ensure the situation does not escalate to a shutdown of West Coast ports.

The ILWU, which is negotiating a new contract with the Pacific Maritime Association, is refusing to send qualified workers to the ports, causing congestion in the ports and uncertainty among importers and exporters. U.S. pork producers exported more than \$6.5 billion worth of pork in 2014, accounting for about 27 percent of total U.S. pork production. Much of those exports go to Asia, making the West Coast port system a crucial part of the pork supply chain.

Finally, in 2014 NPPC continued its relationship-building efforts with non-traditional constituencies, reaching out to members of Congress from urban and suburban areas of the country and to lawmakers in the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

## NPPC Tackles PEDV, Antibiotics, Hours-of-Service Rule

**T**he National Pork Producers Council in 2014 worked with the National Pork Board and the American Association of Swine Veterinarians to address the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV), which continued to plague pork producers around the country.

First identified in the United States in May 2013, PEDV has caused significant losses to producers, with an estimated 8 million-plus pigs lost over a 20-month period.

NPPC convinced the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which insisted that pork producers who had an outbreak of PEDV report the disease, to focus on researching the disease. To that end, in June at NPPC's World Pork Expo, Agriculture

Secretary Tom Vilsack announced the agency would commit \$26.2 million in funds to address the disease, including:

- \$3.9 million to be used by USDA's Agricultural Research Service to support the development of vaccines.
- \$2.4 million for cooperative agreement funding for states to support management and control activities.
- \$500,000 for herd veterinarians to help with developing and monitoring of herd management plans and sample collection.
- \$11.1 million in cost-share funding for producers of infected herds to support biosecurity practices.

- \$2.4 million for diagnostic testing.
- \$1.5 million to National Animal Health Laboratory Network diagnostic laboratories for genomic sequencing for newly positive herds.

### FERAL SWINE CONTROL



In early April, USDA announced a \$20 million national program to reduce damage caused by feral swine.

USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services manages the program in 39 states to control populations, test animals for diseases and research methods to better control damage. A significant portion of the program includes surveillance and disease monitoring to protect the health of domestic swine herds. APHIS is testing feral swine for diseases of concern to U.S. pork producers, such as classical swine fever (which does not exist in the United States), swine brucellosis, porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, swine influenza and pseudorabies. Feral swine have caused \$1.5 billion in annual damage and carry diseases that can affect people, domestic animals, livestock and wildlife, as well as local water supplies. The \$20 million in funding, which was supported by NPPC and represented a significant increase over fiscal 2013, was included in a fiscal 2014 spending bill approved last January.

In another victory, the NPPC-backed Veterinary Medicine Mobility Act was signed into law

in early August. The statute allows veterinarians to transport and use controlled substances beyond their primary place(s) of practice.



### ANTIBIOTICS

NPPC also fought efforts in 2014 by those opposed to modern food-animal production to place (further) restrictions on and to require data collection on antibiotics use.

Some lawmakers and groups such as Keep Antibiotics Working sought to prohibit the use in livestock and poultry of antibiotics used for preventing and controlling disease. Use for growth promotion-feed efficiency is being phased out under the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's Guidance for Industry 213.

In an August op-ed that ran in a number of newspapers, NPPC President Dr. Howard Hill detailed the efforts of livestock and poultry producers and government actions, including Guidance 213, that have reduced the use of antibiotics. He urged federal regulators to consider those efforts before they place more limits on farmers' ability to keep their animals healthy.

On the data collection issue, NPPC made clear that it is not opposed to collecting more data if it can inform the collective knowledge of antibiotics use and antibiotic resistance. But many groups asking for more data simply want raw numbers that can be used against animal agriculture.

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## 2014: Year Of Victories

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would outlaw gestation stalls. (We again stopped all of those ill-advised proposals.)

In addition to our legislative and regulatory efforts, NPPC continued reaching out to lawmakers from non-agricultural districts, talking about pork industry issues with, for example, members of the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

Part of that outreach also included supporting congressional candidates whose views represent the interests of U.S. pork producers. We do that through our political action committee, PorkPAC, and last year, using the record amount of funds we raised, NPPC supported more than 100 candidates.

As we begin this new year and a new Congress, NPPC again will accept the challenges of fighting on your behalf to get reasonable legislation and regulation, to open new and expand existing export markets and to protect your livelihood.

And with your support and involvement, the U.S. pork industry in 2015 will feel the exhilaration of victory.



▲ 2014 Swine Veterinarian Public Policy Advocacy Program graduating class.



### HOURS OF SERVICE

NPPC, along with other livestock, poultry and food organizations, in June secured from the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration a one-year waiver for truck drivers hauling livestock and poultry from complying with a rule that requires drivers to take a 30-minute break for every eight hours of service. That service would have included time for loading and unloading animals. NPPC hailed the move as a victory for animal welfare, since summer temperatures can cause livestock health problems, particularly for pigs, which do not sweat.

Finally, in 2014 NPPC continued to add to its grassroots ranks, graduating another class from its Swine Veterinarian Public Policy Advocacy Program, which educates swine veterinarians about the public-policy and regulatory processes and about the impor-

tance of pork trade, international trade standards and comprehensive surveillance and swine influenza reporting. Graduates of the program can be called on to write comments on proposed federal regulations, participate in congressional briefings and act as spokespersons for the U.S. pork industry.

▶ **NPPC convinced the U.S. Department of Agriculture to focus on researching PEDV, resulting in a commitment of \$26.2 million in funding.**



## NPPC Worked To Expand U.S. Pork Trade

The National Pork Producers Council had a successful year on the international trade front, with much progress made toward finalizing a multilateral free trade agreement (FTA) and eliminating non-science-based barriers to U.S. pork.

Here are several important 2014 trade victories for U.S. pork producers.



### TRANS-PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP (TPP)

The Asia-Pacific region is the fastest growing economic area in the world and has the greatest potential for increased pork exports. Consequently, NPPC led the charge in the early days of the Obama administration for the initiation of an Asia-Pacific FTA. During the past year, NPPC led a massive effort aimed at securing the best possible deal for U.S. pork and other products in Japan, one of 12 TPP countries – the others are the United States, Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam – which account for 40 percent of global GDP. NPPC single-handedly changed the dynamics in the TPP negotiation to make it more difficult for Japan to exempt many of its products from tariff elimination. The organization employed a strategy that, among other things, resulted in

140 House members sending a very strong letter to President Obama that singled out Japan's TPP offer as insufficient. The letter was initiated by House leadership, and most of the members signing the letter are pro-trade and, therefore, important in terms of a future vote on a final TPP agreement and/or one on Trade Promotion Authority, which sets the parameters of FTAs.

In addition, NPPC representatives circled the globe meeting with foreign government officials and private-sector representatives in the other TPP nations to build support for a strong market access package in Japan. While Japan has rightfully consumed much of NPPC's trade policy efforts, the organization worked hard on issues in all the TPP countries. NPPC scored a number of TPP market access successes in 2014, gaining the ability to sell chilled pork in New Zealand, getting a ban on variety meats in Vietnam lifted and getting a ban lifted on U.S. pork sales to Malaysia.

According to Iowa State University economist Dermot Hayes, increased pork exports resulting from a TPP agreement that eliminates all tariffs and non-tariff barriers would create more than 15,500 direct and indirect U.S. pork-related jobs.



### INTERNATIONAL TRICHINAE STANDARD

There are many nations that do not permit the United States to ship chilled pork without trichinae testing. While NPPC worked – and is continuing to work – bilaterally with a number of countries to address the issue, getting an international standard established is the best way to deal with such non-science-based barriers. To that end, and in large part due to the efforts of NPPC, the U.N. Codex Committee on Food Hygiene in 2014 agreed on a standard favorable to U.S. pork producers, which should be adopted in the summer of 2015.







### COLOMBIA

Thanks to the recent FTA with Colombia, U.S. pork exports to that nation are growing rapidly, and it is becoming the most important market in the hemisphere after Canada and Mexico. NPPC worked to defend U.S. pork exports to and to avoid conflict in Colombia, reaching out to and coordinating closely with the leadership of the Colombian pork industry on a number of issues of mutual benefit. While certain Colombian agricultural groups expressed concerns with the increasing U.S. imports, and the issue was front and center in the country's 2014 presidential election, NPPC was able to stave off pressure from Colombia's domestic pork produc-

ers to limit U.S. pork imports. (NPPC learned from the Mexican pork industry's response to increased U.S. pork imports following the North American Free Trade Agreement: two safeguard cases, four dumping cases and multiple border closures.)



### SOUTH AFRICA

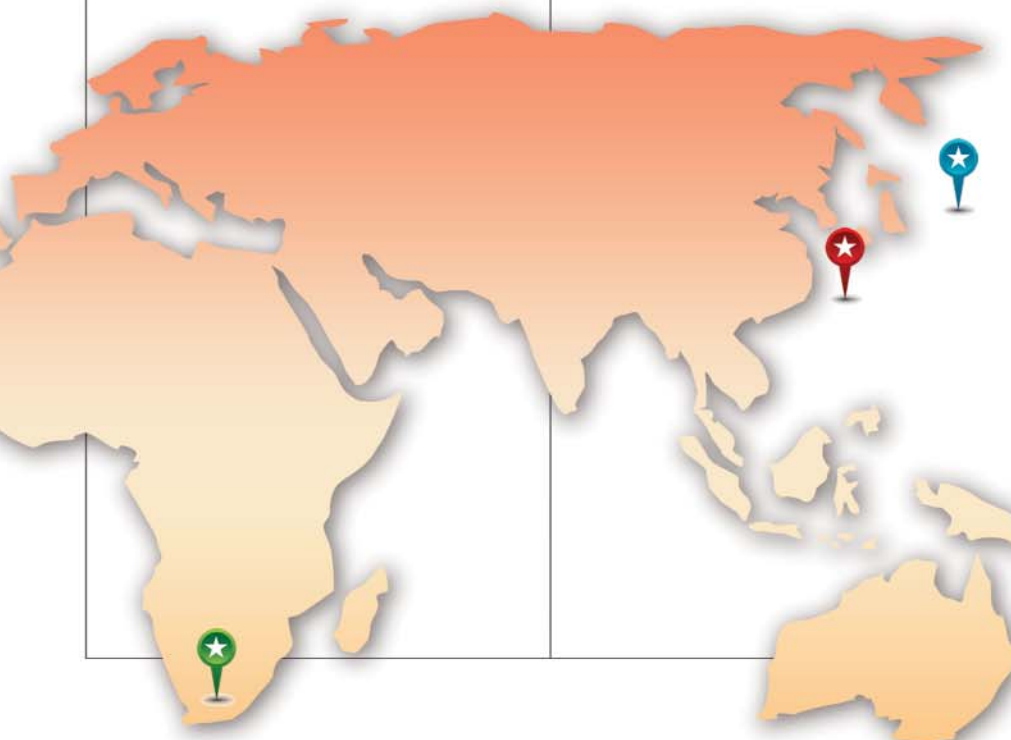
In 2014, NPPC significantly raised the profile of pork in South Africa, which blocks U.S. pork exports based on non-science-based barriers, including ones related to porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome, pseudorabies and trichinae. NPPC used the 2015 expiration of the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), a

preferential trade program that provides recipient countries in Sub-Saharan Africa with access to the U.S. market, as leverage to highlight the U.S. pork industry's concerns. Among other things, NPPC drafted and spearheaded a letter from many U.S. agricultural groups, expressing concern about the lack of reciprocal market access in South Africa. The letter as well as outreach to the Obama administration and congressional lawmakers paid big dividends when South African Trade Minister Rob Davies over the summer recognized that U.S. pork market access "very strongly is linked to our continued presence in AGOA."



### TAIWAN

Because of its unwarranted ban on U.S. pork from hogs fed ractopamine, NPPC worked against Taiwan's campaign to negotiate a bilateral investment agreement with the United States. Taiwan has no scientific basis for its ractopamine ban, which is a blatantly political ploy designed to protect the politically powerful Taiwanese pork industry. Pork is the lead trade issue in U.S.-Taiwanese relations, and the Obama administration and congressional lawmakers – through the education efforts of NPPC – are very sensitive to U.S. pork producers' concerns.



## 'Waters of the United States,' Environmental Issues Addressed

The National Pork Producers Council in 2014 focused much of its attention in the energy and environment areas on the proposed "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The regulation would expand the scope of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to cover most of the country's water bodies, ditches and gullies, land characteristics that exist on almost every farm. The rule would give EPA and the Corps of Engineers jurisdiction over those waters; currently, that jurisdiction – based on several U.S. Supreme Court decisions – includes only "navigable" waters and waters with a significant hydrologic connection to navigable waters.

In a significant victory for agriculture, Congress mandated that the agencies rescind an accompanying interpretive rule, which enumerated 56 agricultural practices that would be exempt from the WOTUS rule. NPPC and other agricultural groups expressed concern that practices not listed would run afoul of the new

CWA rule and would require farmers to obtain federal permits. The congressional request was included in a fiscal 2015 comprehensive spending bill signed into law in December.

Earlier in the year, after receiving a request from NPPC and other agricultural organizations, EPA agreed to extend the comment period for the WOTUS rule. It did so after NPPC and dozens of agricultural and business organizations sent a letter to EPA and the Corps of Engineers raising "serious concerns" with the rule-making process for the proposed rule and urging the agencies to withdraw it and after NPPC and other groups convinced the U.S. House to approve legislation to prevent the development and implementation of the regulation. NPPC also unveiled maps showing the land likely to be regulated under the rule.

### 'WOTUS' RULE

In its November comments on the WOTUS rule, NPPC again urged EPA and the Corps of Engineers to withdraw the proposal, citing its "numerous and substantial flaws." (NPPC also

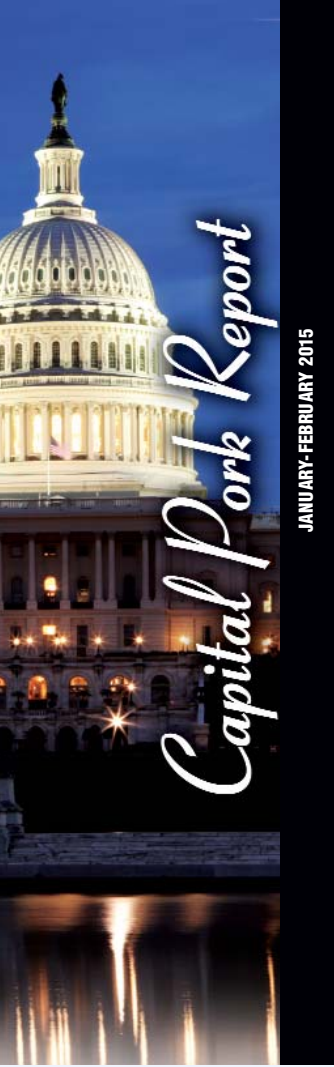
wrote comments for an agricultural coalition and for a broader business coalition.) According to analyses by agricultural organizations, including NPPC, and federal agencies, the rule would encompass millions of miles of streams and adjacent lands, subjecting any activity near or on them – including, for farmers, applying fertilizers and pesticides and (potentially) planting crops – to CWA permitting. The regulation also would expose farmers to citizen lawsuits, alleging, for example, that ditches on cropland should be regulated under the CWA.

### EPA DATA RELEASE

NPPC also continued to go after EPA for its 2013 release to environmental groups of the personal data of thousands of livestock producers, pressing a lawsuit to prevent future releases.

EPA's Office of Water had released raw data from farms in 30 states to the Natural Resources Defense Council, Earth Justice and the Pew Charitable Trusts under Freedom of Information Act requests the groups filed. The information included, in some instances, farmers' home addresses, phone





# Capital Pork Report

JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2015

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*The National Pork Producers Council would like to thank the individuals and organizations who support our mission to be the global voice for the U.S. pork industry.*



Because these groups invest their time and resources, NPPC can focus on identifying and addressing critical issues.

- Develop and defend export markets
- Fight for reasonable legislation and regulation
- Inform and educate legislators



**NPPC encourages all of you to get involved *TODAY* to continue to strengthen our industry.**

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[www.nppc.org](http://www.nppc.org)

numbers, e-mail addresses and personal medical information.

In December the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, which in mid-2013 placed a temporary restraining order on EPA to stop it from releasing more personal information of farmers, heard arguments on a motion from NPPC and the American Farm Bureau Federation for summary judgment on the lawsuit.

Legislatively, NPPC supported bills introduced in the Senate and House – the “Farmer Identity Protection Act” – to prohibit EPA from disclosing to the public the private and confidential information of livestock and poultry producers.

NPPC also continued to manage agriculture’s opposition to EPA imposing restrictive water-quality standards on the Mississippi River watershed. The organization is part of a pending lawsuit against the agency over its proposed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) – amounts of various nutrients – for the seven-state Chesapeake Bay watershed, a proposal NPPC believes will serve as a model for the Mississippi watershed and could be used to limit the size of farms and restrict the application of manure to cropland.

### PROPANE SHORTAGE



When pork producers in the Midwest were faced in late 2013 and early 2014 with shortages of propane, NPPC worked with Congress, the Obama administration and the energy industry to address the supply issue.

NPPC pressed the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to use – for the first time ever – its emergency authority to order the operator of the major Midwestern propane pipeline to allocate sufficient “available capacity” to address the supply concerns, which were brought on by extremely cold temperatures in much of the region.

The late January 2014 action helped check record-high propane prices and alleviated pork producers’ concerns about short-term spot market availability and costs associated with providing heat for their operations. In addition to FERC’s move, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued emergency orders for 10 Midwestern and 12 Northeastern states, suspending the limits on the amount of time drivers hauling propane could spend on the road.



## PorkPac Has Successful Year

The political action committee of the National Pork Producers Council, PorkPAC, had a tremendous success rate in 2014, with 93 percent of the candidates to whom it contributed winning their November election.

PorkPAC disbursed more than \$447,000 over the two-year election cycle, supporting 33 Democrat and 70 Republican candidates in 36 states; 96 of those 103 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.