



PORK CHECKOFF REPORT

JULY AUGUST 2021



By: Heidi Hoffman and Bailey Ruen

Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference: The Experience

This year's 2021 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference (YLAC) was based in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and took place June 14-16. The conference featured speakers who spoke on a wide variety of topics, ranging from managing farmer's mental health to farm level decision-making to motivational speeches on making an impact in the world. The conference hosted around eighty college students representing all different ages, majors, companies, and backgrounds from across the country. The event emphasized important themes such as encouraging leadership in agricultural careers, working as a team player while strategically utilizing personal strengths and weaknesses, managing mental health and well-being in a stressful industry, gaining real teamwork experience by delving into Case Studies, and stressing the impact of day-to-day decisions.

The conference received an overwhelming amount of positive feedback from attendees, many mentioning they learned valuable lessons that would stick with them the rest of their lives.

Ideal Team Player

YLAC began with a welcome from Minnesota Pork COO and conference coordinator, Jill Resler. Attendees were encouraged to carry with them the idea of "fulfillment over achievement" as they participated in the upcoming workshops and sessions. John Rodriguez from The Table Group led the first session called "The Ideal Team Player". The Table Group, owned by best-selling author Patrick Lencioni, is an organization that focuses on building organizational health within teams. In this first session, attendees learned about a variety of team aspects including the requirements for success, the five behaviors of a cohesive team, and the three aspects of an ideal team player. After taking a brief assessment, each attendee learned which of the three they both possessed and lacked, providing them with knowledge to better improve themselves. One attendee stated, "Thinking about how I can be a team player in all of my life relationships is something I'm looking forward to. John brought great energy!"



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MN PORK CALENDAR

AUGUST 3-5

Farmfest

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Morgan, MN 56266

AUGUST 7

Tour de Tonka

18301 MN-7
Minnetonka, MN
7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

AUGUST 10

PQA+ & TQA

Farmers Room Government Center
315 10th St.
Worthington, MN
PQA+: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
TQA: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Pre-register: colleen@mn-pork.com
or 1-800-537-7675*

AUGUST 12

PQA+ & TQA

South Central Research Center
35838 120th St.
Waseca, MN
PQA+: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
TQA: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Pre-register: colleen@mn-pork.com
or 1-800-537-7675*

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 6

Minnesota State Fair

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SEPTEMBER 8

PQA+ & TQA

West Central Research and
Outreach Center
46352 State Highway 329
Morris, MN
PQA+: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
TQA: 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

*Pre-register: colleen@mn-pork.com
or 1-800-537-7675*



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Six Types of Working Genius

John continued the day with his second workshop titled “The Six Types of Working Genius”. Prior to the conference, attendees were asked to take a self-evaluation which analyzed them for six different traits categorized into three areas: skills that come easy and are fulfilling (Working Genius), those that are difficult and draining (Working Frustration), and traits that may come naturally, but are not particularly fulfilling, or vice versa (Working Competency). The six traits analyzed include Wonder, Invention, Discernment, Galvanizing, Enablement, and Tenacity and are remembered using the acronym W.I.D.G.E.T.

W ONDER

The gift of pondering the possibility of greater potential and opportunity in a given situation

I NVENTION

The gift of creating original and novel ideas and solutions

D ISCERNMENT

The gift of intuitively and instinctively evaluating ideas and situations

G ALVANIZING

The gift of rallying, inspiring, and organizing others to take action

E NABLEMENT

The gift of providing encouragement and assistance for an idea or project

T ENACITY

The gift of pushing projects or tasks through to completion to achieve the desired results

By understanding the definitions of each trait and how they can be uniquely personalized into three categories, attendees were able to better understand their natural, and unnatural, abilities when working on a team. Attendees commented that the session provided “great info for trying to pick a career path right now,” and that they “loved learning about how to work better in a team, even a new team.”

Be Well

Emily Krekelberg, an Extension Educator from the University of Minnesota who focuses on farm safety and health, spoke on the important topic of mental wellness in the agricultural industry. She touched on the most common pitfalls of high achievers, including how they can have a fear of being worthless, how they can be perceived as vain, and how they are more prone to burnout. A three-legged milking stool was used to describe overall wellness, each leg representing either physical, emotional, or mental health and how all three are of equal importance for proper function. She stressed that if even just one area of someone’s overall wellness is suffering, it affects



all the other areas that make up total wellness. Emily provided each of the attendees with simple and practical tools to help them manage stress and their own mental health in a particular taxing working environment.

Start with a Conversation

Attendees then had the privilege of hearing from Whitney Kinne, a Career and Leadership Coach, in her session titled, “Start with a Conversation: Finish with Success”. For attendees still exploring their career options and deciding what they want to do post-graduation, Whitney provided a great reminder that many people’s career paths are not linear, but rather a constant journey. She stressed the fact that many passions are not discovered until after one enters the workforce and holds numerous positions in different jobs. Whitney also taught attendees how to ask the right questions at the right time and stressed the importance of making as many meaningful connections with others as possible and staying in touch with them long after the networking event concludes. One attendee commented after her session, “Whitney gave us great professional and networking advice. She was really dynamic!”

Five Dysfunctions of a Team

John gave his final session titled, “The Five Dysfunctions of a Team”. In this session, he explained the areas many teams struggle with and provided tips on how to maintain a functional team. The five areas include: trust, conflict, commitment, accountability, and results. An interactive activity was conducted where students had the opportunity to learn about a four-quadrant model including four working personality types that are most found on a team: driver, analytical, expressive, and amiable. “Learning about what makes a great team and my personality was super helpful and engaging,” one attendee said. John left his listeners with a pallet of skills, positivity, and knowledge to apply to their everyday lives!

Dollars and Cents

Attendees learned about the financial side of agribusiness from Justin Roelofs, CFO of Pipestone Systems, in his talk titled, “Dollars and Cents: The Impact of Day-to-Day Decisions”. Justin stressed to attendees that we all can be more successful in the agricultural industry when we better understand our profitable assets such as herd health, facility scale and age, and location. He also touched on how taking actionable, sustainable measures add up in the future. Some of Justin’s key points of advice for the attendees was to know when and how to take risks, know their industry and business’ financial structure, and know their limits and boundaries.

Case Studies

New to YLAC this year, attendees had the opportunity to work on a set of Case Studies in a team-oriented setting. Industry mentors across many professions were invited to create Case Studies relevant to their line of work. After being placed into groups, attendees were encouraged to utilize the information they learned from previous speakers and focused on how to work on a team successfully and efficiently. They were able to gain real world experience by learning how to work with a brand-new team composed of peers they did not know and having to complete important task work with a deadline.

Along with creating new ideas to help solve the issue of their Case Study, attendees wrote a formal report and created a presentation that they would later present to a panel of industry professionals. The panelists asked tough questions following each group’s presentation, and each group did an excellent job making sure they answered questions on topics some of them had little knowledge on prior to the conference. Although it was challenging for many attendees at first, many commented that the overall experience was very rewarding, applicable, and implementable for their future career plans.

Making an Impact

Once the last Case Study group presented, internationally acclaimed speaker Dr. Rick Rigsby closed out the conference with an outstanding and inspiring speech that left attendees speechless. Dr. Rigsby, a former award-winning journalist, followed a television career with graduate school and two decades as a professor at Texas A&M University. More than 300 million people globally have viewed his sensational speech in the viral video, Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout. Attendees had nothing short of great reviews, with one saying Dr. Rigsby was the best speaker they have ever heard. It was a perfect way to end the conference and leave a lasting impression on all attendees.

The 2021 Young Leaders in Agriculture Conference was a great success. The opportunities given to learn, network, and develop professional skills are all benefits attendees will value for years to come.





Pork-A-Palooza Food Truck Success

For the first time in its history, the Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) put on a new event titled Pork-A-Palooza. The event took place on Friday, June 25, at the Carver County Fairgrounds in Waconia, Minnesota. MPB partnered with Ronald McDonald House Charities, Upper Midwest as a way to raise funds for the charity. The event featured multiple food trucks who offered homemade pork-centric dishes, a bar with ice cold tap beer, fun games and prizes for children, a silent auction with high quality items including a brand-new grill, and a live band who brought additional energy to an already lively event. The live band featured this year was the 2018 runner-up from NBC's The Voice, Chris Kroeze. Chris did an excellent job of keeping the crowd engaged and entertained all throughout the evening.

Although it was only the debut of Pork-A-Palooza, the event was a success, raising over \$1,700 for the Ronald McDonald House through both the silent auction and general donations! The food trucks' featured

pork dishes were enjoyed by many, along with fresh squeezed lemonade, homemade pizza, sandwiches, and more. Each food truck entered their signature pork dish in a food tasting contest where three judges ranked the dishes. The Burnt Chicken Cafe, which operates out of St. Paul, Minnesota, took home the win with their specialty dish titled "Up North Caribbean Pork". Burnt Chicken not only won prize money, but they will also receive a full reimbursement of all pork used in their sold dishes within the next month, as well as waived entrance fees for all their next month's events. Pig farming informational signs were also put on display for event goers to read about. Overall, the word of pork was well received at the first annual Pork-A-Palooza!



**This event was created in response to National Pork Board data insights to reach urban Minnesota audiences by utilizing non-traditional partnerships.*

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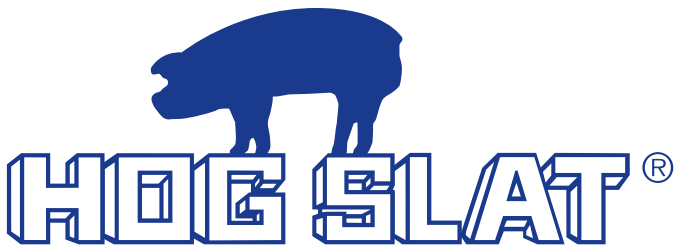
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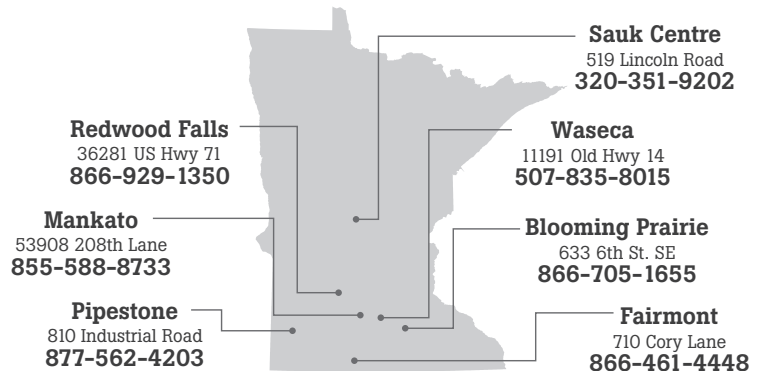
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Learn more about Minnesota Pork Board Executive



In the coming issues of the Pork Checkoff Report, the newly-elected Minnesota Pork Board directors will introduce themselves and share their involvement in the pork community.

Tell us about yourself and how you became involved in the farm/company.

I was born and raised in New Ulm, Minn. and now live on a small farm just outside of this community where my long-time boyfriend, Brandon, and I raise a small herd of beef cattle. I grew up working for my dad (Kevin Portner, 2007 MN Pork Swine Manager of the Year) on sow farms he has and is currently managing, starting at a young age. I also grew up connected to family who row crop farms, and also runs a dairy operation. With the desire to grow my passion for pigs and livestock, I got my B.S. in Animal Science from South Dakota State University (SDSU). Following my graduation from SDSU, I joined the team at Christensen Farms (CF) and have been with the company ever since (10 years in January 2021). I've held a few different roles within my time at CF, starting within grow finish production. In 2013, I transitioned into a newly established communications role, which has been a fun journey getting to further leverage my longtime livestock experience and education. Since then, my role has evolved to managing the company's communications and marketing functions, with the support of a small team.

Why did you decide to run for a position on the Minnesota Pork Board (MPB)?

I decided to run for the MPB for a few reasons. First and foremost, the pork industry has been my life, from a young girl to current day, and is where my passion and commitment reside. Wrapped into that, I have such a great deal of respect for the people and families who make up the fabric of the pork community, along with everyone else who plays a direct and indirect role in agriculture and food production. For those reasons and through the opportunities I've had to expand my depth, breadth and experience in this business thus far, felt it was the right time for me to serve the industry at this

level as we look at the current and future needs of the MPB and industry challenges and opportunities.

What do you hope to accomplish during your time on the board?

In addition to the role I currently play at Christensen Farms, I would like to have the opportunity to further leverage my experiences and background to support my fellow Minnesota pork producers in taking on the challenges and opportunities our industry both state-wide and nationally currently faces, as well as what is coming around the corner. Some hot topics that are top of mind include sustainability, foreign animal disease preparedness, continuing to seek market access domestically and globally, diversity, equity and inclusion, and consumer education and trust. Additionally, no different than the rest of my peers, I want to be able to find unique and creative ways to enhance the rural communities we all live and operate in and reach our consumers, promoting their confidence in us, in every purchase of pork they make!

What other pork-related activities are you involved in?

In addition to my role at Christensen Farms, I currently serve as the Vice Chair of Minnesota Pork Board's Promotion and Image (P&I) Committee and the Foreign Animal Disease Depopulation and Euthanasia Strategy Task Force for the National Pork Board (NPB). I previously served on the NPB's Domestic Marketing Committee and in the 2015-2016 Pork Leadership Institute program. While serving on committees and task force teams at both the state and national level, I have also had great experiences in the volunteer opportunities the organization coordinates to support the efforts of promoting and educating Minnesota consumers about what pig farmers do, who we are and how we produce pork. I think I speak for many of my friends on the board and committees, I'm excited to get back to the promotion activities following the year of COVID and shutdowns.

In your opinion, what is the biggest challenge facing today's pig farmers in Minnesota?

A few things come to mind in thinking about the evolution of the swine industry in Minnesota, but I believe they all connect back to people being our greatest challenge and opportunity all at the same time. First, labor is a critical topic to continue to be able to do what we do best in producing food. We will have to continue to attract new, diverse talent and furthermore, identify ways to retain and engage these individuals. Additionally, to help us improve in the arena of labor, I believe we need to continue to see an increase in the development and adoption of technology and innovation across the industry. This supports greater efficiency, food safety, people safety, engagement and

Board Member - Amber Portner

job satisfaction, animal welfare, continued reduction of environmental impacts, amongst much, much more. Lastly, we must continue to enhance our efforts to connect with consumers. The livestock sector needs to be proud of and embrace the progress we have made, and even more proud of our commitment to continuous improvement, year after year. Each one of us has the opportunity and responsibility to share the unique, important role we play in producing safe, nutritious, and reliable protein, and in doing so, I believe will also aid in the success of my main point in attracting, engaging, and retaining talent, ensuring our industry's long-term viability and sustainability!



What is your vision for the future of MPB?

Regardless of what anyone who does not live in our world of producing safe, affordable, and nutritious pork might think, we are a complex business and industry. I do not see this changing any time soon, but rather, continue to evolve in complexity and challenges. Building off the previous question when looking at the challenges we already or will face, the MPB staff and board must focus on the goals and strategies that will ensure MN pork producers long-term viability and sustainability. To help us do that, we will leverage the guidance of our mission, aspirations and ultimately, specific strategic initiatives that will allow us to employ tangible actions and outcomes to help us take on whatever we have coming our way.

What are you most looking forward to as a member of the MPB board?

I go back to the people. Raising pigs and producing food is at the core of who we are and what we do, but this would not be possible if it weren't for all of the great people who show up every day to make it happen. To that end, I'm looking forward to working alongside great representatives of the state's pork industry and leveraging our varied strengths and skillsets to provide positive outcomes for MN's pork producers.



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AVOID THESE 10 MISTAKES WITH

Building a legacy business for future generations takes planning and preparation no matter the operation's size or structure. It is also important to plan for life's uncertain and unannounced moments.

Pork Checkoff sponsored Pork Academy seminars at World Pork Expo to allow producers to learn about industry topics from leading experts. Melissa O'Rourke, an attorney and Farm Management Specialist at Iowa State University Extension, shared 10 farm transition and estate planning mistakes to avoid.

1 Procrastination and Waiting for the "Perfect Plan"

The old saying holds true, failing to plan is planning to fail. O'Rourke mentioned 89% of individuals do not have a farm transfer plan. The "perfect plan" for your operation does not exist, so there is no reason to hold off on ensuring your estate and farm transfer plan is updated, organized and constituents know where to find the content.

2 No Plans for Substitute Decision Making Due to Health Complications

Designate additional people in writing, preferably from the younger generation, to make decisions if there are mental or physical medical conditions of the main beneficiary that inhibits their ability to make decisions on the farm owner's behalf.

3 Miscommunication

Keep your goals, paperwork and assets clear and organized to ensure family members can find everything they need when there is a change in operation ownership. Host regular meetings complete with agendas and notes to update legacy terms and ensure there are no secrets in the family.

4 Treating People Equally Rather than Fairly

There are individuals in the family who may have different goals and move off the farm. With the help of legal professionals, host honest conversations with multi-generational family members about the operation's future and how they can be part of the legacy fairly, but not necessarily equally.

There is value in sweat equity. Comprehend the intentions of all family members (generally spouse, and then children) who may receive a portion of the farm's value and their desire to actively take part in farming operations.



FARM TRANSITION PLANNING

5 Lack of Comprehension for the Inheritance

Eighty percent of Americans do not receive an inheritance, and the average inheritance is \$49,000 for the remaining 20%. The inheritance may be much larger for farm families, so it is important to understand its capacity and ensure all paperwork and policies are updated.

6 Not Knowing the Value of their Assets and How they Own It

Identify these assets in the farm's portfolio to recognize the terms of "keeping the farm in the family" and how long the family tree branches will extend:

- Buildings
- Land
- Machinery
- Liquid assets
- Tangible and intangible assets

Answer these questions when reviewing your assets:

- How is all real estate owned?
- How are all bank accounts, CDs, investments and other intangible assets owned?
- Do you know how all pensions and life insurance policies are owned, and who the beneficiaries are?
- Do you know how you will distribute or dispose of tangible personal property?

7 Failure to Research Federal and State Inheritance Tax

Check the terms of gift and inheritance taxes, unified credit and lifetime exemption conditions impacting farm families. Farmers may need to reduce the size of their estate for tax purposes.

8 Disorganization

Along with meetings to review documents, do a show and tell session to ensure everyone knows where the printed copies of documents are stored.

9 Failure to Build a Team of Professionals to Help with the Planning Process

There is a team of professionals helping you with finances each year, so why not have a team guiding your farm's transition? Meet with an attorney once per year to review documents, build relationships and initiate life changes and goals.

10 Stopping the Planning Process

Planning never stops since life keeps moving and goals change. Individuals should not be embarrassed to ask questions and request pricing rates to their professionals.





Bridging the Knowledge Gap Between Pork Producers and Non-Consumers

By Heidi Hoffman, MPB Intern

Every day, it seems more and more people ask questions about the food they purchase and consume. Questions such as, “Where did this product come from?”, “How was it produced?”, and, “Should I support this industry? And if so, why?” are all very relevant and justifiable questions one may ask. That is why it is more important than ever that all consumers and non-consumers of pork have access to the resources they need to become more knowledgeable on all the elements and good practices that go into making our industry successful and sustainable. After all, consumer trust and quality assurance are only built from a strong foundation of transparency, truthful information, and proof of good practices.

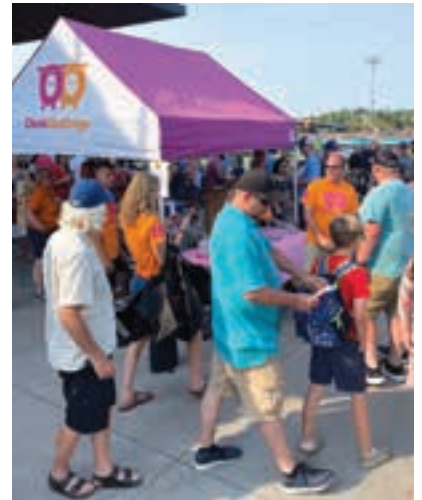
As we work to eliminate the knowledge gap that exists between pig farmers, consumers, and non-consumers, building trust between these people in our community continues to be one of our key motivators here at the Minnesota Pork Board (MPB). With trust, consumers can continue to feel confident in their purchases of pork products, and non-consumers may begin to reconsider their reasons for not purchasing pork products.

A large part of my position as an intern with MPB involves pork promotion and advocacy through my attendance at a wide variety of events all throughout Minnesota during the summer. A large, well-known program of ours, called Oink Outings, is now going on its eleventh year of existence. The mission of Oink Outings is to help bring knowledge and confidence to those unfamiliar with our industry of the safe and ethical practices pig farmers abide by on their farms all throughout Minnesota. We invite conversations with those who may have little background knowledge on pig farming or may have been questioned in the past how pigs are raised. Not to mention, for every question asked by event attendees, MPB donates one pound of ground pork to Second Harvest Heartland, a local food bank whose mission is to work to “end hunger together”.

It is also important to give recognition to all our pig farmer volunteers who donate their time during the busyness of summer to work at these events and help spread truthful messages surrounding pork and pig farming. The Oink Outings program would not be successful without them thanks to their invaluable knowledge they have gained from firsthand experience and dedication to working in, and advocating for, the pork community.

Programs like Oink Outings provide great first steps towards bringing pig farmers directly to consumers to communicate and reiterate the great lengths they go to ensure their pigs are raised safely, ethically, and sustainably. Event attendees who come to visit the

booth walk away feeling better about their decision of supporting pig farmers after having a better understanding of where their food comes from and how it was raised. The hope is they will then use their newfound knowledge to continue promoting pork themselves and encouraging others to do the same.



Unfortunately, we can only reach so many people through face to face contact at these events, even though these conversations tend to lead to the most impactful and memorable experiences. As technology continues to evolve and become an integral part of everyone’s lives, it is essential that we all continue to build our presence on various social media platforms and news media outlets. Doing so will ensure the common myths surrounding pig farming continue to be debunked and everyone has the chance to hear the truth about the authentic “100% Real Pork” that is raised on family-owned pig farms all throughout Minnesota.

Here at MPB, the key messages shared with the public are straightforward because the messages themselves are simple. If there is anything we want our non-consumers of pork to know, it is this: pork is good for you, it is good for your family, and it is good for the environment. This simple and concise statement provides an excellent summation of all the facts we preach here at MPB day in and day out.

Pig farmers abide by, and take very seriously, the six ethical principles that make up the WeCare commitment. That is, pig farmers care about animal well-being, the environment, food safety, public health, our people, and our community. These principles show the public how much pig farmers care about their pigs, and it also holds the farmers accountable as they consciously recognize and protect all areas their farming impacts. After all, their work as a pig farmer goes far beyond the doors of their own barns. The world depends on farmers of every kind. Advocators and consumers of pork need to ensure we are supporting and standing alongside those who do far more than just raise pigs -- they are our family members, our friends, our food providers, and our connection to the land. They are our Minnesota pig farmers.

Volunteer for the 2021 Minnesota State Fair!

AUGUST 26 - SEPTEMBER 6



The Minnesota State Fair offers a unique opportunity for the Minnesota Pork Board (MPB) to reach a wide variety of consumers in one place. From young to old and pig farmer to social media influencer, one will find all kinds of kinds wandering the people-packed fairground streets.

Whether they are looking for their favorite food-on-a-stick, the infamous pig ears, or something new to discover, each person has something in common - they are all consumers with the potential to be influenced.

Each year, more than one million people visit the Minnesota State Fair. With MPB's prime booth locations in the Dairy Building, Swine Barn, and directly outside the Coliseum, there is a huge opportunity for impact. All Minnesota pig farmers are encouraged to volunteer at the fair to share the story of their pig farming journey and engage with fair-goers to start informative conversations.

The Minnesota Pork Board is stationed at two booths on the fairgrounds.

Oink Booth

- Along with handing out pig ears, playing games with children, and bringing piglets closer to onlookers for a closer view, volunteers will have meaningful conversations with fairgoers about pig farming.

Promotion Booth

- Located in the Dairy Building, volunteers will have the opportunity to speak with consumers about pork and hand out their favorite recipes and pork goodies.

Volunteers will receive free admission into the State Fair, along with a t-shirt to wear while working at one of the two booths. We ask you consider taking advantage of this opportunity to share your agriculture story with thousands of curious consumers at the 2022 Minnesota State Fair.

Farmers and industry partners can register to volunteer online at <https://www.mnpork.com/state-fair-volunteer-sign-up/> or contact Colleen Carey at the Minnesota Pork Board office at (507) 345-8814 or colleen@mnpork.com.

2021 Scholarship Recipients



Each year the Minnesota Pork Board awards five \$1,000 scholarships to young people who intend to pursue a career in the pork industry or a related supporting field. The 2021 MN Pork Scholarship recipients include:

Gabriella
LIMA

Gabriella attends the University of Wisconsin River Falls where she is pursuing a degree in Animal Science. Gabriella aspires to get her doctorate in Swine Nutrition.

Haley
VAN NURDEN

Haley will be a Freshman at South Dakota State University where she is pursuing a degree in Agriculture Business and a minor in Agricultural Communications.

Johanna
WELTER

Johanna will be a Junior at South Dakota State University where she is pursuing a degree in Agricultural Business and a minor in accounting.

Karli
KNOFF

Karli will be a sophomore at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities where she is double majoring in Agricultural Education and Agricultural Communications and Marketing.

Laura
DAVIS

Laura will be a Junior at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities where she is pursuing a degree in Animal Science.



Recognizing Minnesota Pork Industry Leaders



Honoring leaders in the Minnesota Pork industry was a success at the Chankaska Creek Winery near Kasota, Minnesota, on Thursday, June 24th. Normally held during Pork Congress, the Covid-19 pandemic provided a new event for Minnesota pig farmers to unite. With Mark Dorenkamp as Master of Ceremonies, five awards were presented to deserving recipients: Distinguished Service, Environmental Steward, Family, Swine Manager, and Pork Promoter.

The **Distinguished Service award** was presented to **Dr. Tim Loula** of St. Peter, Minnesota, a tireless leader who helped shape pig farming as we know it. His contributions to the state of Minnesota and the rest of the country have benefitted pig farmers, veterinarians, and researchers significantly and will continue to do so with future generations to come.

Stephan and Kristian Melson of Trimont, Minnesota, were named the **Environmental Stewards of the Year**. The brothers built their own pig barn in 2018. They aim to be as sustainable as possible by injecting manure into their fields, benefitting their farm, business, and environment.

Family of the Year went to the **Schafer family** of Goodhue, Minnesota. With the 7th generation establishing their roles in the family farm, the Schafers have set the framework for future generations to continually take over successfully since the farm was established in 1886.

The Swine Manager award was received by **Laura Sherman** of Hendricks, Minnesota. She is a dual-farm manager for Christensen Farms, and throughout her years has made an effort to not only push herself for further personal and professional growth, but also encourages each of her employees to strive for continuous development.

Mike Patterson of Kenyon, Minnesota was deemed the **Pork Promoter of the Year**. Once word of packing plant closures due to Covid-19 cases surfaced, new stations started reaching out to Mike, first locally, then reaching all the way to the national level. He was able to promote the industry like never before.

The reception was complete with a buffet of a variety of pork dishes at the scenic venue. Socializing with no restrictions brought an exciting atmosphere to the event. The program concluded with an announcement of Pork Congress 2022 being moved to Mankato, Minnesota, a pleasant surprise to the future attendees in the crowd.

*To learn more about the recipients, please visit <https://www.mnpork.com/awards-2/>.



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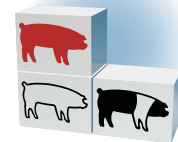
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SAVE THE DATE

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GRILLED PORK BURGERS WITH THAI-INSPIRED SAUCE

If you've never tried a pork burger before, you are in for a treat! Pork burgers are naturally tender and juicy and have a unique savory taste. Switch things up at the grill and serve this flavorful and healthy recipe for a burger like you've never had before!

INGREDIENTS

Makes 4 burgers and about 2 cups slaw

FOR THE BURGERS:

- 1 pound unseasoned ground pork
- 2 green onions, finely diced
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and finely diced
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger or ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil or cilantro (or mix of both)
- 1½ teaspoons coconut aminos or ½ – 1 ½ teaspoon fish sauce
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of salt

FOR THE SLAW:

- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- ½ cup shredded carrots (1 large)
- ½ medium red bell pepper (cut into thin strips, then strip cut into thirds)
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced (light and dark green parts)
- 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil or cilantro (or mix of both)
- 2 tablespoons chopped nuts (peanuts, almonds or cashews)

FOR THE CREAMY THAI-INSPIRED DRESSING:

- 2 tablespoons peanut butter, almond butter or cashew butter
- 2 tablespoons coconut aminos
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1 teaspoon toasted sesame oil
- 1 small garlic clove, minced
- 1 teaspoon grated fresh ginger or ¼ teaspoon ground ginger
- ¼ teaspoon red pepper flakes
- ¼ teaspoon fine salt
- Warm water if needed

DIRECTIONS:

1. Preheat the grill to 425°F-450°F. A grill pan sprayed with non-stick cooking spray over medium-high heat on the stove also works (follow the recipe as written).
2. In a bowl, combine all burger ingredients. Use your hands to mix well until all ingredients are incorporated together. Shape burgers into 4 patties, each with a slight indentation in the middle.
3. Grill for 9 to 10 minutes on one side, flip, and grill for another 5-8 minutes or until cooked through (160°F internal temp).

4. While the burgers are grilling, prepare the slaw ingredients and place in a medium bowl. In a separate bowl, whisk together all of the dressing ingredients. Pour dressing over slaw ingredients and toss together until well incorporated.
5. To serve, place burgers on buns or lettuce wraps. Top each burger with a generous amount of the slaw, and serve any extra slaw on the side.

Made in partnership with The Real Food Dietitians.



pork please!



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