

Washington Pork Producers Newsletter

Spring 2008

2002 FARM BILL GETS ANOTHER EXTENSION

The U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives agreed to extend the expiration date of the 2002 Farm Bill to April 18. The law originally expired on Sept. 30, 2007, with the current extension set to expire on March 15. The extension is aimed to give lawmakers more time to get a broad agreement on spending levels and funding sources for the next Farm Bill.

The short-term extension will enable America's farm and nutrition program to continue until the new Farm Bill. According to Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Tom Harkin (Iowa), if the new farm bill is not passed by April 18, it is likely the 2002 Farm Bill would be extended for one year. S. M. Smith

PORK PRODUCERS WILL NOT TOLERATE ANIMAL MISTREATMENT

The National Pork Producers Council is not going to put up with those who mistreat animals. They issued a statement Saturday saying as much. In light of a recent animal abuse incident videotaped by the Humane Society of the United States at a Chino, California packing plant, Don Butler from North Carolina, president elect of the NPPC, restated the council's position on the responsible treatment of animals.

"The U.S. pork industry recognizes its moral and ethical obligation to provide for the responsible treatment of its animals. Any willful mistreatment or neglect of animals is unacceptable; the industry does not defend those who mistreat animals.

"The U.S. pork industry takes animal well-being very seriously and has a history of developing programs that help train its members and their



employees on proper animal care, handling and transporting procedures.

"The U.S. pork industry affirms its obligation to act swiftly to end any mistreatment and take immediate corrective action to fully restore proper and responsible animal care."

In addition to restating the NPPC position making clear they will not tolerate the mistreatment of animals, policy passed by NPPC delegates included a statement of ethical principles. Butler explained for reporters that the statement is meant to solidify trust with the consuming public. *USAHA News Alert Summaries: Tom Steever*

ESTABLISH AN ON-FARM EUTHANSIA PLAN

Even under the best management systems animals can become ill, injured, or incurable to the extent, that to prevent further pain or suffering the animal should be euthanized. Euthanasia is defined as a humane death occurring without pain or distress.

Work with your veterinarian to develop a euthanasia plan appropriate for each species and stage of production on your farm. However, keep in mind that it may be impossible or impractical for the veterinarian to be available for all euthanasia's on-farms, therefore, producers need to develop a plan to perform humane euthanasia on-farm when necessary. When making decision regarding animals to be euthanized, producers must consider the animal's welfare, economics, human safety, animal restraint, skills required, and aesthetics. The decision for euthanasia can be difficult for producers to make, however remember the decision to euthanize an ill or injured animal will establish a producer's commitment to proper animal care and the livestock industry's humane production of food animals. The plan should be kept in an obvious location in the barn and reviewed annually with veterinarian and farm workers. S. M. Smith

PORK INDUSTRY HANDBOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The 2008 Pork Industry Handbook DVD and the three-volume (1500 page) book are on the shelf. The 2008 version contains over 50 new fact sheets.

You'll find up-to-date strategies on pork production management, including information to help you fine tune your approach and/or manage pork production in difficult times. You'll find fact sheets on swine health, facilities and equipment, swine nutrition, breeding and genetics, marketing for profit, and much more.

The new handbook is the premier reference for modern American pork production, with over 220 science-based and cutting-edge information fact sheets for pork producers and related industries. Written and reviewed by hundreds of experts, and it's brought to you by Purdue Extension and the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence.

The three-volume book is \$100, the DVD is \$45, and the combo is specially priced at \$130. They are available from Agricultural Communication, Media Distribution Center, 231 S. University Street, West Lafayette, IN 47907-2094. You may phone 765-494-6794 to place an order, or you may order on-line at www.ces.purdue.edu/porkindustryhandbook1

Be the best in the industry by having access to the best production knowledge that research has to offer.

Your WPP Board Members

Scot Cocking , President	208-668-1149
Danny Belton , Vice President	253-847-9127
Darryl Bayes , Secretary	206-948-0806
Mark Street , Treasurer	509-787-3728
Don Van Tine , State Contact	509-397-2694

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTORS AND/OR EDITORS:
Jean Smith, Benton-Franklin Area Extension Educator
Sarah M. Smith, Grant-Adams Area Extension Educator

MEETING THE PROFITABILITY CHALLENGE

While high feed prices, not low hog prices, are driving profitability challenges in 2008, you can still find bright spots in the swine industry.

"I think there are opportunities, if you use good discretion on hedging and forward pricing," says Steve Meyer, president of Paragon Economics.

Chicago Mercantile Exchange lean-hog futures are still offering prices that are near—and in some cases above—breakeven levels from May through February 2009, in spite of soaring corn and soybean meal prices. "While this doesn't mean you should immediately sell lean-hog futures, it does point out that the opportunity exists to lock in profits or limit losses," Meyer says. "It also indicates that futures traders believe hog prices are going to improve quickly and dramatically."

Although hog prices are the lowest in several years, they've been remarkably strong in light of high production levels and swine harvesting rates since October 2007, Meyer notes. In addition, domestic pork disappearance hit record levels in October and November, while the amount of pork in cold storage had not grown appreciably versus last year's levels. "The amount of pork in cold storage certainly has not grown by as much as production has," Meyer adds.

As a group, pork producers were in very good financial condition before losses began in October. Iowa State University's Estimated Costs and Returns for Iowa farrow-to-finish operations revealed a record string of 35 months of profits prior to January 2007, and then showed profits for February through August of 2007.

"That made 42 of our 43 months profitable and allowed producers to pay down debt and build equity," Meyer says. "That means producers should have some staying power."

Packers maximize capacity

The U.S. hog slaughter has risen substantially higher than the levels suggested by USDA's inventory data since October. The October 2007 Hogs and Pigs Report indicated that fourth-quarter harvest rates would be 2.9 percent larger than in 2006, while the actual rates ended up 7.7 percent higher. The December report indicated that December harvest rates would be 6.1 percent larger, although they ended up 9.1 percent larger. Meyer says there are three reasons for this, including:

1. Growth of the U.S. breeding herd in response to a record string of profitable months. This growth has been very logical and has actually been quite measured, amounting to a total of 3.6 percent since the second quarter of 2005, the last quarter of herd reduction. The U.S. herd growth has averaged just 1.1 percent, year-over-year, during those 11 quarters of growth.
2. The introduction of circovirus vaccines in late 2005 and their widespread availability beginning in the summer of 2006. This is the largest driver of the unexpected increases in slaughter in the fourth quarter of 2007.
3. Increased imports of feeder pigs and market hogs from Canada. Both of these hit records in 2007, with pig imports growing by 11.9 percent and hog imports increasing 22.6 percent. Unlike the expansion-driven increases in exports that prompted a U.S. trade action in 2004, these increases are part of a herd liquidation in Canada that began in the third quarter of 2005.

To meet the challenge, U.S. packers have fully used their capacity on many occasions. U.S. packing capacity was estimated to be 428,035 head per day this past fall. However, daily slaughter totals exceeded 430,000 head on many occasions,

eclipsing 442,000 head on November 26. In addition, the two largest Saturday slaughter totals, and four of the six largest on record, have occurred this cycle, Meyer notes.

Exports, domestic demand remain strong

It's also worth noting that exports rebounded in the third and fourth quarters to make 2007 the 16th straight record year. "China/Hong Kong has been a major driver of the recovery in exports and has been our second largest export market since July," Meyer notes.

Disease losses in China are a major reason for this growth, but the U.S. industry has been working to establish business relationships with China for many years. "Export growth involves more than chance," Meyer says. "Luck is where opportunity meets preparation, and U.S. producers and packers have been preparing for this opportunity for a long time."

On the home front, the record movement of pork to U.S. consumers in recent months was accomplished without significant reductions in retail prices. Meyer says there are two big positives to this development:

1. The amount of money flowing into the pork industry has not been significantly reduced, and few dollars ever reach a producer without first passing through the coffers of a retail or foodservice establishment.
2. Still-strong retail prices mean that the industry will not have to push prices back up when supplies fall. Consumers do not like price increases. Avoiding price decreases in the first place allows the industry to avoid the ill will that price increases create.

<http://wsu.porkgateway.org>

PRACTICAL IDEAS TO ADDRESS HIGH FEED AND PRODUCTION COSTS

Right now isn't an easy time to be a pork producer. Rapidly increasing feed and production costs are making it difficult for pork producers to turn a profit.

The U.S. Pork Center of Excellence (USPCE), Pork Checkoff and experts from universities around the country have created a tip sheet addressing current challenges facing the industry. The tip sheet "Practical Ideas to Address High Feed and Production Costs" is available on the Washington State University Pork Information Gateway (PIG) at <http://wsu.porkgateway.org>.

"We know that it has been difficult as of late for pork producers", said USPCE Director David Meisinger, "Our hope is with this document producers are able to find ways to cut down on their costs and ultimately improve their profitability".

In addition to strategies from researchers the tip sheet provides links to numerous resources located within PIG and throughout the web.

PIG is an online resource tool for the U.S. Pork Industry launched in 2006. PIG provides timely information, factsheets and references about pork production. A username and password is required to view the PIG Library, but the entire site is free for all users.

The U.S. Pork Center of Excellence. The Center, housed at the National Swine Research and Information Center at Iowa State University, was established in 2005 as a public/private partnership to bring together academic expertise in research, teaching and extension related to pork production. There are two governmental agencies, two industry associations, 14 state pork producer associations and 24 land-grant universities involved in the coalition.

NEWS FROM WSU...



WSU SWINE CENTER UPDATE

Dr. John McNamara just finished up with garbanzo and canola meal feeding trial for finishing pigs. The pigs looked good with no drastic visual or performance differences seen in the pigs on different diets.

The Whitman County Seltice Pool sent a load of pigs to Masami a couple weeks ago that the researchers went with and collected data on. This data collection is for the bench marking project initiated by Dr. Jan Busboom and Dr. Jason Mann.

One of Dr. Ruth Newberry's graduate students has started a new project on piglet behavior in newly weaned pigs. She will be observing behavior and changes in behavior with changes in their environment.

The Swine Center will be having its show pig sale days on April 12th in Moses Lake for August fair pigs, and one on May 10th in Pullman for September show pigs. See our website for rules and order forms.

The Swine Center will be hosting a youth field day on April 5th, where we will be discussing general care, health care, nutrition and selection for a project pig. Check out our website for educational information and links. www.ansci.wsu.edu/facilities/swine/swine.asp

Submitted by Ace Timms, Swine Center Manager

WSU STUDENT SWINE COOPERATIVE

The Student Swine Cooperative (SSC) was established as part of the Animal Science Department at Washington State University. The main goal is to allow students to gain hands-on experience in the swine industry. The members involved in SSC are responsible for making management decisions and maintaining a small herd of pigs at the WSU Swine Center. Since this is a cooperative, the members learn to work as a team to apply classroom knowledge in a modern swine environment.

A small group of members traveled to Pasco for Washington Swine Info Day, where we learned a lot and became PQA plus certified. We also started up "Cuts-and-Wraps" and a new Marketing officer position responsible for contacting the meats lab and customers was developed. We are currently marketing mostly to the families of our members, but still exceeding expectations in marketing most of the pigs. We also have a new assistant herd manager position for members who are not employees of the Swine Center; allowing this individual to gain experience of managing a swine herd.

With a fantastic group of members this year, SSC will continue to prevail, bringing passion of the swine industry back to students in WSU.

Submitted by Dor Dor Vuoug, WSU SSC Member

WSU VETERINARY EXTENSION WEBSITE

WSU College of Veterinary Medicine has developed a new Veterinary Medicine Extension website. The website has information about different species and animal health concerns, the WSU veterinary Extension Newsletter, and schedule of events. The website's is located at the following address: <http://vetextension.wsu.edu>.

PNW LIVESTOCK JUDGES AND SHOW MANAGEMENT SCHOOL JUNE 26-29

The 2008 Pacific Northwest Livestock Judges and Show Management School is scheduled June 26-28 at Washington State University.

The school, sponsored by Washington State University, the University of Idaho, and Oregon State University, is an excellent learning opportunity for new and experienced judges, show managers, fair superintendents, livestock sale committee volunteers, 4-H Leaders, FFA advisors, parents, producers, and livestock enthusiasts to enhance their understanding of exhibition food animal evaluation, and positive youth development.



The event has been organized to improve the livestock industry by developing participants' skills to effectively and accurately evaluate exhibition food animals; promote positive youth development; and showcase the benefits of animal agriculture and youth development programs.

Participants can select either the Judges or Show Management Track. Individuals completing the Show Management Track will gain many helpful tools to improve the quality of their fairs and livestock shows. The show manager's track will focus on financial management and accounting of the sale of market animals, emergency planning, show management and livestock sale software, and expectations of the turned animal buyers. The show management section will feature state and national experts on the above topics.

The Judge's Track will focus on beef, meat goats, sheep, and swine. The sheep and meat goat section will feature Frank Craddock, Extension Sheep and Goat Specialist from Texas A & M. Craddock has coached a national champion collegiate livestock judging team, a national champion collegiate wool judging team (five times), and a state champion 4-H livestock judging team.

The swine and beef cattle evaluation section will be led by Mark Boggess, Director of Animal Sciences with the National Pork Board. Boggess has owned and operated purebred cattle and swine operations. Both Boggess and Craddock are recognized for their excellent communication skills and their knowledge of both the show and production livestock industries.

Completion of the livestock judges track will certify the person as a livestock judge and contact information will be distributed to shows and other livestock events throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Registration for the Livestock Judge's Track costs \$175 for three full days. The fee includes a judge's notebook, three lunches, a banquet, and refreshment breaks. Registration for the Show Management Track is \$100 for two days. The fee includes a notebook, two lunches, a banquet, and refreshment breaks. Registration deadline is June 1. Registration for the Livestock Judges Track is limited, register early to secure your spot.

For more information and to register, contact Sarah M. Smith, WSU Grant/Adams Extension, at (509) 754-2011, ext. 413 or smithsm@wsu.edu; Jerry Newman, WSU 4-H Livestock Program, at (509) 338-5938 or newmanj@wsu.edu; or Tiffany Boswell, 4-H Program Assistant, at (509)335-4128 or tiffany_boswell@wsu.edu. Complete registration information is also available at the following websites <http://animalag.wsu.edu> or <http://4-h.wsu.edu/news/index.htm>.

WSU FDIU NOTES:**THE CASE OF BLOTCHY PIGS**

Erysipelas was recently diagnosed in a four-week old pig in Washington. Because this finding is relatively unusual, we thought it would be worth reviewing the disease.

Cause: The bacteria *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae*

Source: Apparently normal carrier pigs. The bacteria live in the tonsils of carriers and are shed in the feces. The bacteria can survive in soil and water contaminated with feces for up to a month.

Signs of infection: Pigs of all ages are susceptible. The first signs of an outbreak are dead pigs and pigs with high fevers (104 to 108°F). Lameness, fever, vomiting and diarrhea are also seen. Unfortunately, these signs are not specific to erysipelas. Fever, arthritis causing lameness and death are associated with spread of the bacteria throughout the body in the blood. The red diamond patches that are classic for the disease is most commonly seen in swine that are recovering from the whole body infection (septicemia). Chronic arthritis and lameness as well as heart lesions seen at slaughter may occur for weeks to months after a disease outbreak.

Treatment: If caught early, before (or shortly after) septicemia has occurred, the disease is effectively treated with penicillin. However, the disease can progress rapidly and losses during an outbreak can be significant. Furthermore, mild chronic forms of the disease can result in significant long-term losses associated with arthritis and lameness which reduces growth rate and increases carcass trim at slaughter. Therefore, routine vaccination is recommended as 'insurance' against the risk of an outbreak.

Vaccination: Vaccination of sows and gilts should be performed a month prior to farrowing to provide colostral protection to pigs. Growing pigs should be vaccinated at 8-10 weeks of age. If pigs are vaccinated at 5-6 weeks of age the colostral antibodies may interfere. Remember if killed 'bacterins' are being used any animal being vaccinated for the first time needs to receive a second "booster" shot 2-3 weeks after the first shot. Thereafter, a single shot is adequate to increase immunity. Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best vaccination protocol for your operation and conditions. Finally, it is important to remember that Erysipelas is a zoonotic disease, meaning humans can become infected with the bacteria and potentially develop *erysipeloid* with is usually results in a cellulitis (inflammation under the skin).

By: John Wenz, DVM, MS -- FDIU



Diamond shaped lesions typical of Erysipelas .
Photo: thepigsite.com

In 2007 the Washington Pork Producer's Association pledged to donate \$1,500 for four years, totaling, \$6,000, to the Washington State University Clive Gay Endowment. Dr. Clive Gay was director of the WSU Field Diagnostic Investigative Unit and a strong supporter of the state's pork producers. To follow is a letter received on March 10th, 2008 from Dr. Clive Gay regarding the contribution and the endowment:

Dear Washington Pork Producers,

When I retired, you kindly donated to an endowment in my name at Washington State University. I am pleased to inform you that this endowment has now reached an amount that allows Washington State University to make awards off its proceeds. The fund will be used in support of developing academic excellence in young faculty pursuing training in large animal veterinary medicine. My intention is that this should promote research and teaching in agricultural animal veterinary medicine to the benefit of the agricultural industries. I will hope that among these young people will be some who will be involved with the intellectual challenges of swine production and swine disease and their control.

In the 25 or so years since I came to WSU, I have visited many of your farms and in the process made some close associations with you. I have always appreciated your willingness to talk and work with students who are with me on these visits and to take the time to do this. I have also met with a number of you at swine meetings, which I looked forward to attending and speaking at because the audience was always attentive and the questions interesting and challenging.

I have enjoyed my interaction with you over the past 25 years and thank you for your kind donation to the endowment.

Sincerely

Clive Gay, professor Emeritus, FDIU

NEW PORCINE CIRCOVIRUS WEB SITE AVAILABLE

A new online resource is available to help for pork producers and swine veterinarians understand, manage and prevent the effects of porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2), a viral disease that has triggered increased pig mortality and production losses around the world.

The Web site, www.stopcircovirus.com, was created by Fort Dodge Animal Health, as a one-stop collection of current information and management advice about porcine circovirus-associated disease.

"We are pleased to offer this valuable resource to the pork industry, as all of us contend with the effects of porcine circovirus," says Dan Ellsworth, Senior Product Manager, Fort Dodge Animal Health. "The Web site contains a wealth of information about PCVAD and how it can be managed. Over time, we will add technical data, links and other information to help both veterinarians and pork producers."

On the site, users will find basic information about the virus, including virus facts, history of the disease, prevalence information, disease costs, as well as clinical signs and diagnosis. *USAHA News Alert Summaries: The Farmer*

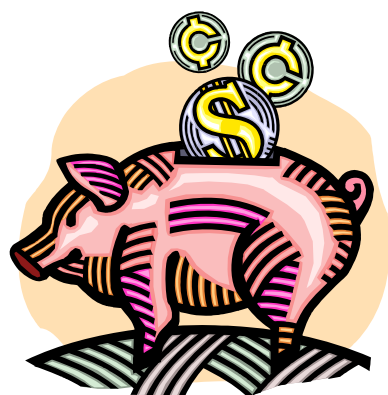
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SHOW PIG COST INCREASING

As many of you know or have overheard your parents talking—the basic costs of living has increased significantly in the past few years. Especially costs like fuel, feed, food, etc. Even though we are seeing record high agriculture commodity prices for grains, hay, and other food crops; the cost to raise those crops has raised significantly in this time. Livestock production is no exception—feed prices have over doubled in the last three years and like row crop production, equipment purchases/upkeep and fuel prices continue to rise. Unlike row crop prices, livestock prices have come down from their peak prices of a couple years ago, so livestock producers are experiencing a very tight profit margin and even profit losses.

So what does that mean for youth looking forward to being involved in a market animal project.—It means two (2) things: 1) Youth and their parents cannot expect to pay the same amount for a feeder pig, feed, equipment, etc. as you paid 20 years ago, 2 years ago, or even a year ago. The cost to produce those product, be it a pig, feed, or equipment, has



increased—so expect to pay more for them; and 2) Youth need to set down with their parents, leaders, and/or advisors and identify their resources, goals and production/show alternatives for being involved with a 4-H/FFA market animal

project. Both youth and parents need to develop a plan for purchasing and raising a market animal that fits into their budget.

I don't want to be accused of saying that the only reason to take a 4-H/FFA project animal is to make money—there are many important life skills that can be developed/learned from raising a food animal. However, in addition to these other life skills, sound financial decisions are critical life skills youth need to develop for future economic and personal success and satisfaction. Today, U.S. consumer debt is at an all time high and delinquency on credit card debt in America is rising at shocking rates. S. M. Smith

“PORKAPALOOZA” EDUCATION DAY PLANNED FOR MARKET SWINE PROJECT YOUTH

The Second Annual Porkapalooza will be held at the Klickitat County Fairgrounds in Goldendale, WA on May 31 from 8:30 AM to 4 PM.

“This program is a response to local 4-H and FFA leaders' requests for educational programs for market swine project youth,” said Dr. Susan Kerr, WSU-Klickitat County Extension Director. “After last year's successful Porkapalooza for Klickitat County youth, we decided to open up the event for youth throughout the area,” added Kerr.

Workshop topics will include selection, fitting and showing, herd health, quality assurance, feeding and nutrition, and record keeping. Some workshops will be repeated so they can be appropriate for the audience's age and experience. Parents and adults are also encouraged to attend.

Registration will begin at 8:30 AM on May 31 and programming will start at 9 AM. A barbecue pork sandwich lunch will be provided at noon. The afternoon workshops will be presented from 1 PM to 4 PM. An optional Skillathon will be available for

youth to engage in during the day.

Pre-registration of \$5 is required by May 16; scholarships are available. Registration includes lunch and an educational packet. Door prizes will be given away as well.

Many thanks to the Washington State Pork Producers Association for their support of this program.

For more information and to register, contact WSU-Klickitat County Extension at 509-773-5817 or klickitat@wsu.edu or visit www.klickitat.wsu.edu.

IMPORTANCE OF NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR YOUTH PRODUCERS

The Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA) is encouraging all livestock producers, including small farms and youth producers, to register their premise as part of the *voluntary* National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The NAIS is a database of livestock producer's contact information along with the livestock species location/transport information. The purpose of NAIS is to help animal health officials and producers respond quickly and effectively to animal health events. Participants in NAIS will be able to quickly notified individuals that register their premise about disease outbreaks or other animal health events that may put your animals at risk.

Youth producers are responsible for the production and care of over 10,000 pigs annually in Washington state. So, in the large picture, youth producers significantly contribute to the production of pork and can influence the success and perception of the swine industry. Even though many of the Washington fairs and shows do not have breeding swine shows, it is not uncommon for market pigs that don't make weight or gilts to return back to the farms. Swine that are commingled and/or return back to the farm pose greater risk to livestock biosecurity and animal disease traceability. A standardized tracking system will not only assist in tracking disease and promoting biosecurity for animals involved with the fair, but it will also help protect the entire animal agriculture industry and promote the future of events where animal commingling takes place (i.e. fairs, exhibitions, etc). An animal disease outbreaks could quickly cripple the infrastructure of the United States because the economy of this nation is based on agriculture and prevent or limit animal exhibition events.

Do your part to protect your animals and the rest of the U.S. animal agriculture industry—register your premise! Registering your premise is as simple



as listing the farm's address, contact person, checking the kinds of livestock and listing the contact information.

You can do it either by filling out a form and mailing it to WSDA or registering directly on-line at http://agr.wa.gov/FoodAnimal/Animal_Premise/default.htm. It is important to protect your animals, livelihood, and the health and safety of America's animal agriculture. For more information on premise identification, contact the WSDA office at 360.725.5493 or nais@agr.wa.gov.

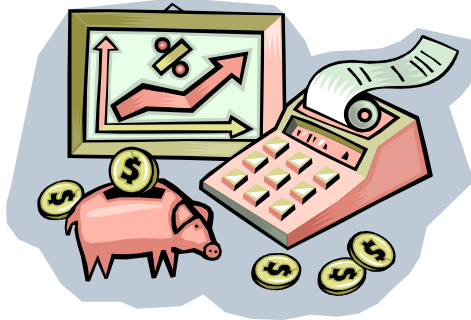
USDA Outlook Report Bleak for Pork

First-quarter U.S. pork production is expected to be 5.92 billion pounds, 9.6 percent above the same period last year, according to USDA's March Livestock, Dairy and Poultry Outlook Report. Total commercial pork production this year is expected to be 23.1 billion pounds, 5.4 percent above 2007.

First-quarter live-hog prices are expected to be \$40 to \$41 per hundredweight, 12 percent below the same period a year ago. As a result, many pork producers are operating at losses near \$30 per hog.

Meanwhile, gains in cold storage may signal a slowdown in pork demand.

February's beginning stocks of frozen pork grew significantly beyond recent levels. Frozen pork levels on Jan. 31, were 563.6 million pounds, 16 percent above year-earlier levels. Larger-than-expected increases suggest that pork products are entering the supply chain faster than they are flowing through to domestic and foreign consumers. www.porkmag.com.



Sow Slaughter Numbers Increase Moderately, With Prices Down Sharply

High feed costs have recently focused attention on year-over-year changes in U.S. sow slaughter. Higher sow slaughter often signals the beginning of a liquidation phase of the hog cycle. Through March 1, 2008 weekly U.S. federally inspected sow slaughter has increased moderately—4.2 percent over the same period last year. This slaughter number includes sows imported from Canada. For the first 2 months of 2008, Iowa/Minnesota negotiated prices for 300-449 pound sows averaged \$23.70, almost 31 percent below the same period in 2007. March 1, 2008 breeding herd inventories will be published in the *Quarterly Hogs and Pigs* report, to be released by USDA on March 28, 2008. *USDA, Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry Outlook*.

China to Increase 2008 Pork, Beef Imports

USDA is predicting that China's pork and beef imports will increase through 2008. According to a USDA agricultural attaché in Beijing, growth in pork and beef consumption in China continue to outstrip the country's production capacity. In a semi-annual report, the attaché said that increased import projections were due to the worst snowstorms in 50 years during January and February and a slow recovery from porcine blue ear disease, which has hampered production in China.

The attaché forecast an 8 percent rise in China's 2008 pork imports to 200,000 metric tons, as well as a 6 percent decline in the country's pork exports. The report put China's 2008 domestic pork production at 42 million metric tons, up 1 percent from 2007, but 16 percent below 2005. www.porkmag.com.

Canada to Reduce Sow Herd

The Canadian government has announced a program to reduce the sow breeding herds by 10%. The initiative is designed to remove 150,000 sows from Canada's breeding herd and to reduce annual production by about 3 million pigs.

Eligible producers will receive payment per sow or boars slaughtered, but must agree to empty at least one barn without restocking it for at least three years. Canada's announcement comes following a commitment by Smithfield to reduce their sow herd. Smithfield announced it would start phasing in a plan to reduce their sow herd by 4-5%, or 40,000 to 50,000 sows. This ultimately will result in the production of 800,000 to 1,000,000 fewer market hogs annually.

This newsletter can be accessed online at animalag.wsu.edu.

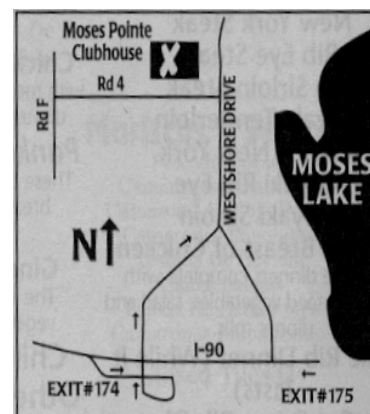
SAVE THE DATE

WPP SUMMER MEETING

Date: July 11th, 2008
 Time: 3:00-5:00 PM, hosted dinner to follow
 Location: Moses Pointe Steak House
 4524 Westshore Drive
 Moses Lake, WA

Topics will include: the budget, delegate selection for the 2008 Pork Forum, and Swine Information Day 2009

All Washington Pork Producers members are welcome and encouraged to attend



Washington Pork Producers
 PO Box 37
 Ephrata, WA 98823