

# porkline

The official publication of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council

January  
February  
March  
2026



**Meet Your 57th Annual Pork  
Congress Seminar Speakers**

see pg. 6

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**South Dakota Pork Producers Council**

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**Mission Statement**

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council is a unified and engaged advocate that promotes, with integrity, the image and growth of the South Dakota pork industry through education, research, marketing, and responsible policy.

**Vision Statement**

South Dakota Pork Producers Council is a respected leader advocating for sustainable, responsible growth of the South Dakota Pork Industry that benefits our producers, consumers, and communities.

**Follow us on:**



**YouTube**

**Calendar of Events**

**January**

January 1 – SDPPC Office Closed  
 January 13 – SD Legislative Session convenes  
 January 13 – Executive Board Meeting  
 January 14 & 15 – SDPPC 57th Annual Pork Congress

**February**

February 2 – Legislative Ag Fest in Pierre  
 February 16 – SDPPC Office Closed

**March**

March 4 – Ag Outlook  
 March 4-6 – Pork Forum, Kansas City  
 March 24 – Executive Board Meeting

**Looking ahead**

April 15-16 – Spring LAC, Washington, DC  
 June 3-4 – World Pork Expo, Des Moines, IA  
 July 12-15 – National Pork Industry Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI

**Useful web links**

South Dakota Pork Producers Council: [sdpork.org](http://sdpork.org)  
 National Pork Producers Council: [nppc.org](http://nppc.org)  
 National Pork Board: [pork.org](http://pork.org)  
 South Dakota Legislature: [sdlegislature.gov](http://sdlegislature.gov)

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# President's Message

SDPPC President Jason Foster

## Season's Greetings!

Wow—where has the year gone? It's hard to believe we are already at the end of 2025! What a great year we've had at SDPPC. From promotion events to educational programs, our office team and producers have been busy all year long.

As we move into 2026, our office staff and Trade Show Committee have been hard at work preparing for the 57th Annual Pork Congress and Trade Show—or as past president Adam Krause likes to call it, "Pig Farmer Christmas!" The event will be held January 14–15, 2026, at the Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel & Exhibit Hall. We invite each and every one of you to come and check it out.

The trade show is taking shape and will once again feature a strong lineup of vendors. You'll find the full sched-

ule for this event in this issue of *Pork Line*. We also have an excellent set of seminars planned this year:

**Wednesday** at 1:00 pm: Trent Loos

**Thursday** at 10:00 am: Holly Cook  
from the National Pork Producers Council

Producers—don't forget about our annual Checkoff and Non-Checkoff Meetings held during the two-day event. These meetings are a great opportunity to see how your investments in these organizations are working for you. We always welcome new ideas for programs you'd like to see added.

Please also join me and fellow pork producers at the Master Pork Producers Recognition Banquet on Wednesday evening. It's a wonderful night of celebration, followed by our Live Auction, which helps support SDPPC.

As we wrap up another successful

year, I want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all of you — our producers, partners, and supporters. Your hard work and dedication are what make this industry strong, and we are grateful for everything you do.

Wishing you and your families a joyful Thanksgiving, a Merry Christmas, and a New Year filled with good health, prosperity, and plenty of bacon!

May the warmth of the season bring you peace, and may 2026 be our best year yet.

**Jason Foster**

SDPPC President



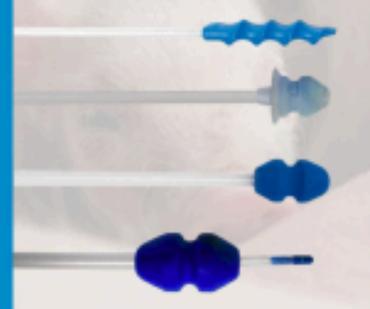
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# 57<sup>th</sup> Annual Pork Congress

January 14 & 15, 2026

Sioux Falls Ramkota Hotel & Exhibit Hall

## Tuesday, January 13, 2026

**Trade Show Set Up** 12:00 PM – 6:00 PM  
Exhibit Hall

**SDPPC Executive Board Meeting** 6:00 PM

## Wednesday, January 14, 2026

**Trade Show Set Up** 7:00 AM – 9:30 AM  
Exhibit Hall

**Checkoff Annual Meeting** 9:00 AM  
Amphitheatre I

Katlyn Cain/Manager of Industry Relations at NPB will give an industry update

**National Anthem - Dan Sahr** 9:30 AM  
Exhibit Hall

**Trade Show Open** 9:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Ramkota Exhibit Hall

**2027 Pork Act Delegate Election** 10:30 AM  
Amphitheatre I

**TQA Certification** 10:30 AM  
Amphitheatre II

**Lunch** 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Rushmore Room

**Seminar I - Trent Loos** 1:00 PM  
Amphitheatre II

Trent Loos is a 6th generation U.S. farmer and podcaster connecting producers and consumers

**PQA Plus® Certification** 3:00 PM  
Amphitheatre II

## **MPPC Recognition Banquet & SDPPC Awards**

Social Hour-Cash Bar-Popcorn 5:00 PM  
Dinner 6:00 PM

Washington Room

Tickets available at the SDPPC Information Booth

## **"Sold! What's Next?" Auction & Cash Bar**

Following the banquet

## Thursday, January 15, 2026

**Trade Show Open** 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

**Seminar II - Holly Cook Anderson** 10:00 AM  
Amphitheatre II

Holly Cook Anderson, NPPC Economist

**Lunch** 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM  
Rushmore Room

**Non-Checkoff Annual Meeting of Members (SIP Investors)** 2:00 PM

Amphitheatre I

Tyler Bettin/AVP Producer Services at NPPC will give an industry update

**SIP Membership Reception & Pork PAC Silent Auction** 4:30 PM – 6:30 PM

Roosevelt Room

All SIP investors & interested producers welcome

**SDPPC Executive Board Meeting** 7:00 PM  
Crystal Room

You can find more information on the SDPPC website ([sdpork.org](http://sdpork.org)) under the "Programs and Events" tab.

### **\*\* Public Notice \*\***

#### **By South Dakota Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board**

- The election of pork producer delegate candidates for the 2027 National Pork Producers (Pork Act) Delegate Body will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, January 14, 2026, in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Members of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council at the Ramkota Hotel Amphitheatre in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. All South Dakota pork producers are encouraged to attend.
- Any producer age 18 and older who is a resident of South Dakota and has paid all assessments due may be considered as a delegate candidate and/or participate in the election. All eligible producers are encouraged to bring with them a sales receipt indicating that hogs were sold in their name and the Checkoff deducted.

For more information: Contact Glenn Muller, SD Pork Producers Council | 4615 West Homefield Drive ~ Sioux Falls, SD 57106 ~ 1-605-332-1600

# 2026 SD Pork Congress Exhibitors

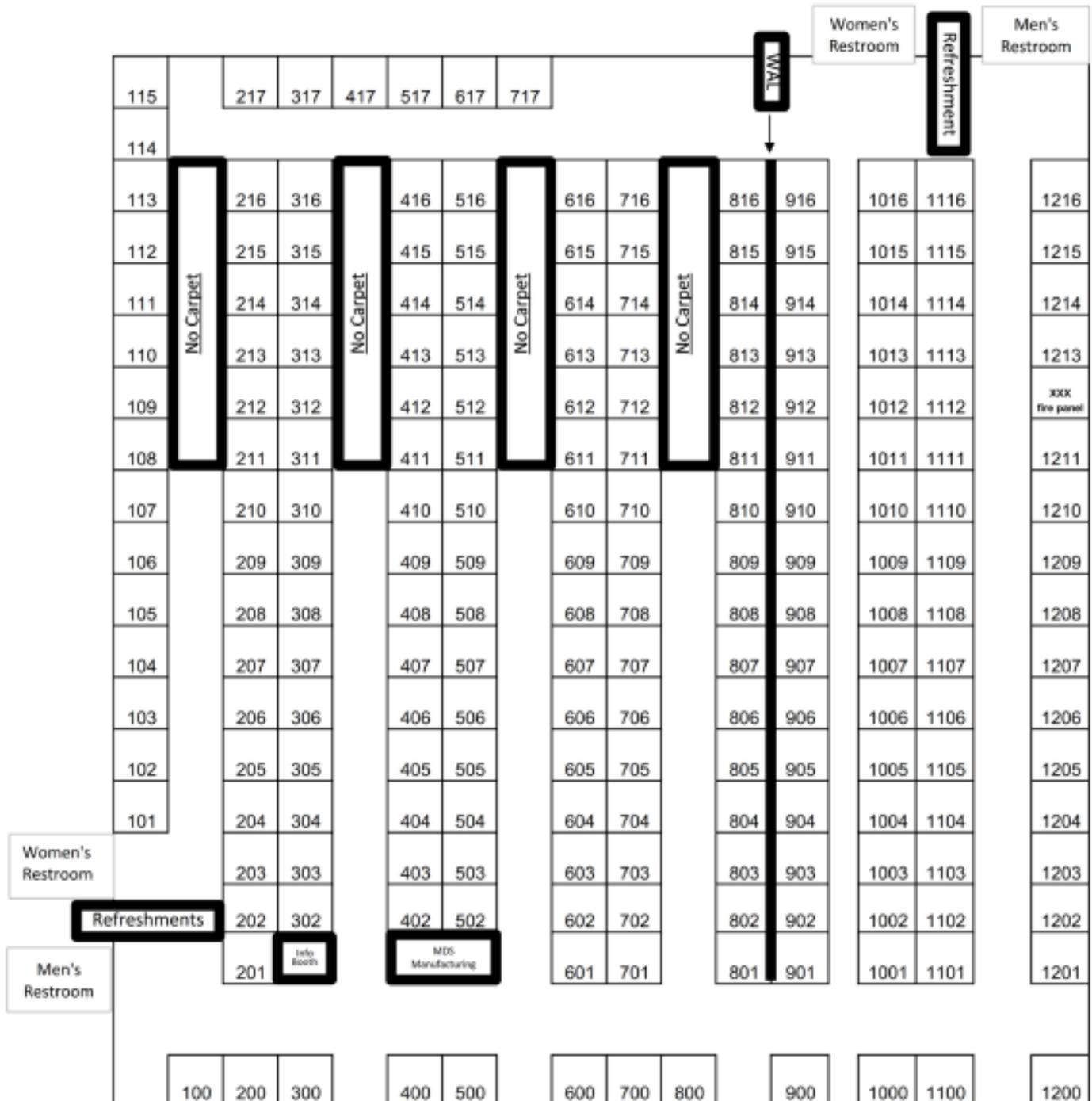
\* Denotes SDPPC Alliance Member

A.R. LLC	113	<b>*Farm Credit Services of America</b>	<b>701</b>	PALS, Inc.	506 606
Acres TV	1008	Farmweld	916	Pharmgate Animal Health	707
AcuFast	602	Feed Energy	813	PhytoCare	1216
ADA Enterprise, Inc.	1214	FERA Diagnostics & Biologicals	905	PIC	704 705
Advanced Ag Products	603 604	Form-A-Feed	201	Pig Champ, Inc.	609
Advancing Markets for Producers	712	Fortified Nutrition Limited	313 314	PigEasy, LLC	608
Ag Plus Farm & Ranch	211	Furst-McNess Company	711	Pig Tek/Chore-Time	1002
Ag Property Solutions	1116	GenePro, Inc.	714	Pit Charger	803
AgriCare Nutrition, LLC	105 106	Green Gable Contracting	510	POET	115
Agri-Tech Enterprises, Inc.	514	Hanson Silo Company	217	Pork Storks Midwest Semen Center	310
AgroTech USA-Triune	213	Healthy Farms by Bioverse	400	<b>*Professional Ag Marketing, Inc.</b>	<b>915</b>
Agrovive Biologicals	311	Heartland Builders	305	Profit Pro AG	308
Alkota Cleaning Systems, Inc.	1101	Hendrix-Genetics Swine	816	PSI	1210
All Pit Lagoon LLC	703	HerdStar, LLC	1003	Puck Enterprises	109
Alltech	600	Hofland Enterprises	312	PWA Solutions	912 913
<b>*Altenburg Construction, Inc.</b>	<b>402</b>	Hog Slat	204 205	Ralco	306 307
Anez Consulting, Inc.	1213	Hotraco	1007	Red Rock Holdings, Inc.	901
Animal Health International	809	Ikadan USA	1108	RMS Roller Grinder	1215
Artemis Ag Solutions	1005	Innovative Heating Technologies, Inc.	902	Scherer Inc.	303 304
Atmosphere Global	504	Jimdi	202	SD DANR	1102
Aurora Pharmaceutical	412	Johnson Engineering Group	1100	<b>*SD Industries LLC</b>	<b>216 316</b>
Automated Production	801 802	Jumpstart Enviro	103	Sharp Industries	300
Automated Waste Systems, LLC	610	Jyga Technologies	1104	Skattum Confinement & Superior Buildings, LLC	906
B & B Gas Piping Plus, LLC	206	Kersia	1204	SKOV A/S	209 210
Bassford Remele Law Firm	511	KT Pacer	700	Smithfield Foods	101 102
Best Veterinary Solutions, Inc.	1106	Lange Ag Systems	512	Solar Xpress	1211
Better Air Manufacturing	810	<b>*L.B. White Company</b>	<b>1001</b>	Solid Rock Precast	200
Bierman Equipment	903 904	LoneStar Enterprises, Inc.	203	Soppe Systems	108
Big Dutchman USA	317	Lynch Livestock	708	SD Soybean Checkoff	114
Bimeda	811	McFleeg, Inc.	100	Sowjoy-Den Hartog Industries, Inc.	601
Boehringer Ingelheim	804	<b>*MDS Manufacturing</b>	<b>401 501</b>	Space-Ray	1015
Central Confinement Service, LLC	1115	Merck	800	Stockwell Engineer	509
Central Life Sciences	208	MetaFarms, Inc.	1016	Sudenga Industries, Inc.	107
CIH-Commodity & Ingredient Hedging	702	Midwest Bath Company	1103	Swine Robotics	605
Creative Panel Solutions	207	Midwest Dry Cast	1000	Topigs Norsvin USA	709 710
Crystal Springs Hog Equipment	615,616,715,716	Midwest Livestock	713	Trackporter	812
		Minitube, USA	302	Tri-M-AI, LLC	1200
Current Defense	1202	Moore Automation	1004	United Animal Health	815
D & D Distributing	1201	Motomco	607	Val-Co	403 404
DanBred	415,416,515,516	Multifan	1203	VanBeek Natural Science	508
DNA Genetics	104	National Pork Board	611	Vantek	111
<b>*DODA USA, Inc.</b>	<b>613 614</b>	National Pork Producers Council	502 503	Walinga USA, Inc.	900
Double L Group, LLC	908 909	Nebula Group	417, 517,617,717	Washpower Inc.	907
Duopen	407,408,409,410	<b>*Nexgen Ag Supply</b>	<b>215, 413 414</b>	Whole Hog Genetics	110
Easy Automation, Inc.	507	New Standard US, Inc 1009-1012, 1109-1112		WS Construction Management	505
Endovac Animal Health	808	<b>*Nooyen USA</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>*XFE Products</b>	<b>411</b>
Eocene Environmental Group, Inc.	612	Northern Lakes Slat Replacement	805	Ymker Insulation, Inc.	911
EPS Building	214	<b>*NuAge Builders, LLC</b>	<b>806 807</b>	Zoetis	500
Ever Ag	315	Nu Era Enterprises, LLC	405 406	Zoltenko Farms, Inc.	706
<b>*Farmer Boy</b>	<b>309</b>	Nutrient Advisors	1209		
		Once by Signify	212		

# 2026 Pork Congress

## Exhibit Map

### Ramkota Exhibit Hall



## Pork Congress Seminar Speakers

**Trent Loos** | Wednesday, 1:00 PM Amphitheatre II

Trent Loos is a sixth generation family farmer and a fierce advocate for agriculture. He has committed his life to speaking on behalf of hard-working farmers and ranchers of America and educating the consumer about the importance of understanding our source of foods.

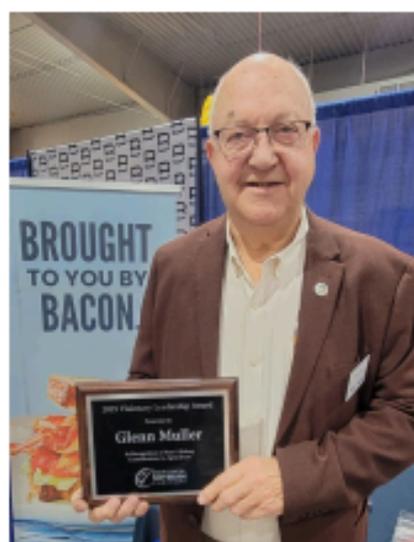
Trent has spoken in 48 states and on four continents, emphasizing the importance of food and fuel as a means of national security. His audience goes through a range of emotions - from laughter to tears - but always leave ready to be part of the solution.



**Holly Cook Anderson** | Thursday, 10:00 AM Amphitheatre II

NPPC Economist Holly Cook Anderson collects and analyzes data related to hog prices, production, profitability, inventories, pork price spreads, national employment, food prices and exports. She also conducts economic research related to impacts of proposed policies and regulations on the pork industry, and develops resources for staff and stakeholders.

Anderson grew up on a farrow to finish swine operation in Winthrop, Iowa. She holds a M.S. in agricultural economics and a B.S. with double majors in agricultural business and economics from Iowa State University.



Congratulations to SDPPC Executive Director Glenn Muller on being recognized as a Visionary Leader by the South Dakota Soybean Association!

We are so proud of Glenn and appreciate other organizations valuing him for his leadership and dedication to South Dakota agriculture!

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

**To be your  
voice, we need  
your voice.**

**Adam Krause**  
South Dakota  
contract grower  
and SIP investor

"I invest in the Strategic Investment Program (SIP) because it gives me a seat at the table. We all need to do our part in making sure our organizations have the resources needed to project our voice loud enough to be heard.

Winston Churchill once said, 'United we stand, divided we fall.' As the global voice for the U.S. pork industry, NPPC gives us an opportunity to unite and organize ourselves as pork producers. As a 29-year-old contract grower, I am proud to be part of that voice. NPPC is constantly on the front lines in Washington, D.C., as well as in state and local government, advocating and educating legislators on our behalf.

I urge you to support NPPC and the South Dakota Pork Producers Council through SIP investments not only for your farm but also for your personal growth as well. Not only are SIP investors a unified voice but also they are a strong network of pork producers across the country. The people I've met through NPPC have a shared passion and incredible knowledge on topics that range from pigs to politics, and I truly believe I'm a more well-rounded person because of my investment.

Many SIP investors have their own reasons for investing, but the main reason I invest is because it gives me a leg up in the world we live in today to continue my passion and my way of life."



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# SDSU Hosts Ninth Annual Swine Day

*Authors: Dr. Rafe Royall, Dr. Bob Thaler, Kaylyn Rudy, Madison Weishaar, Allie Arp*

South Dakota State University (SDSU) held its ninth annual Swine Day on November 4. Organized by university swine research and extension personnel, the event offered a full day of learning and connection.

“Swine Day is a tremendous opportunity to bring together producers, researchers, students and allied industry members on our campus and provide them with an educational opportunity to help elevate their business,” Dr. Rafe Royall said. “It was great to see individuals from various operations and our students come together to discuss opportunities for improvement in the industry. Our team hopes this event helped foster opportunities for collaboration for all attendees.”

The day began with a poster session, allowing undergraduate and graduate students to share their research. Afterward, Matt Erickson, senior research analyst with Terrain Ag, provided an industry perspective on current trends and economic considerations in the swine industry. The morning concluded with research updates from Drs. Crystal Levesque and Eric Weaver.

After lunch, winners of the poster competition were announced.

## **Doctoral Division:**

First – Katlyn McClellan

Second – Joseph Halbur

## **Master’s Division:**

First – Kynna Crawford

Second – Courtney Pohlen

## **Undergraduate Division:**

First – Elle Ploeger

Second – Abigail Morse

The afternoon featured keynote speaker Glenn Muller, executive director of the SDPPC, who reflected on his tenure with the organization, including garnering support for the SDSU Swine Research and Education Facility.

“The thing I’m most proud of is (that) every member of the board made a contribution out of their own pocket

to the Swine Research and Education Facility,” he said, highlighting the council’s support of South Dakota’s swine industry. Following his remarks, SDSU swine research and extension personnel presented Muller with a gift in recognition of his dedication and service.

Next up, Dr. Bob Thaler, Farm Credit Services of America Endowed Chair in Swine Production and SDSU Extension swine specialist, discussed the past, present and future of swine research and extension at SDSU.

“The SDSU swine group has had a long tradition of making a positive difference in producers’ and students’ lives, in spite of many challenges,” Thaler said. “It started with Rick Wahlstrom, George Libal and LaVerne ‘Korty’ Kortan and continues today with our current team.”

David Newman, newly appointed chief executive officer of the National Pork Board, highlighted his vision of the pork industry as he begins his new role.

A student-led panel followed, offering insights into internships and other professional development opportunities in the swine industry.



Leading the day’s efforts were:

Crystal Levesque, associate professor of swine nutrition

Aaron Prinz, swine unit manager

Rafe Royall, assistant professor/extension swine specialist

Kaylyn Rudy, extension swine field specialist

Bob Thaler, Farm Credit Services of America Endowed Chair in Swine Production/extension swine specialist

Eric Weaver, assistant professor

The event was made possible thanks to the support of the SDPPC, XFE Products, Farm Credit Services of America and Phibro Animal Health Corp.





## Houdek/Medgene Producer Tour

SDPPC board members, SDSU staff, and graduate students had an opportunity to tour the Houdek and Medgene facilities, learning about the wide range of work and research in Brookings and Volga that is being done to improve the health of pigs and sustain a healthy environment. Houdek manufactures sustainable and valuable ingredients for livestock, pet, and aquaculture diets; Medgene is an animal health company focused on providing Prescription Platform vaccines to veterinarians and producers.

Thanks to Houdek and Medgene for their gracious hospitality and truly engaging tour. There were many takeaways from the great conversations and vast array of information shared and presented to the tour attendees.



## SDPPC Ambassador Update

At the 98th National FFA Convention & Expo, I had the opportunity to represent the South Dakota swine industry through my Supervised Agricultural Experience. I earned the National Swine Production Placement Award for my project, which consisted of overseeing my family's farm operation and keeping records of my work in our three 2,400-head pig barns. The work I did in those pig barns prepared me to be a spokesman and proud supporter of the swine industry. That passion has allowed me to engage in conversations with producers and consumers, and to appreciate learning perspectives different from my own.

Being a part of the SDPPC as a Swine Ambassador has led to countless opportunities: the World Pork Expo, State Fair, board meetings, Expo for Her, trade shows, new acquaintances, and so much more. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to engage in all stages of the pork industry.

The most recent event I attended was Expo for Her in Sioux Falls, where we highlighted the products our producers work hard to provide, as well as the National Pork Producers Council new campaign "Taste What Pork Can Do." I loved watching smiles light up on people's face, as they tried the fan favorite sample, the bacon caramel brownies.

Most of all, it's been a privilege to work with the family that the Pork Council has become to me.

*Laney Andrews*

My year as the 2025 SD Pork Ambassador started off with a great learning and networking experience at World Pork Expo. I was able to learn so much about the current issues in the commercial industry and able to build relationships with industry leaders from several states.

Throughout the summer I spent my time going to fairs to interact with the youth and promote pork to get more pork on the plates of the everyday American.

I was also able to help with the Swine Summit held at SDSU and show kids who come from a strong show pig background like me the opportunities and importance of the commercial industry. Coming from a show pig background, this opportunity of being an ambassador gave rise to so many opportunities and relationships in the commercial world.

I am so grateful I was selected to serve as a 2025 SD Pork Ambassador and want to thank everyone that I interacted with in the past year as I learned so many things that will help me with my future endeavors.

*Preston Mattheis*



*Congratulations to Laney on winning the National FFA Swine Production Placement award. You can read more at [sdffaoundation.org/news](http://sdffaoundation.org/news)*

# SDPPC Hosts Swine + Dine in Watertown

**When:** November 18, 2025

**Where:** Goss Opera House, Watertown

**Who:** Catered by Mavericks Steak and Cocktails, Watertown There were 23 people in attendance, including educators and elected officials, and four area producers

**What:**

Starter: Korean BBQ Pork Belly & Seared Scallop with coconut grits

Main: Cornbread & Bacon Stuffed Double Pork Chop, Maple Bacon glazed Brussels Sprouts, Bacon fat fried potatoes and bacon demi

Dessert: Bacon Baklava



## Downtown Pork Showdown



Congratulations to Crawford's Bar and Grill in Sioux Falls for winning the Fifth Annual Downtown Pork Showdown. The winning dish is Bavarian Echoes: crisp-edged pork belly glazed in hot honey, paired with charred pork tenderloin over truffled potato purée, layered with tomato jam, mustard caviar, and pickled onion relish, and crowned with pretzel crumb, almond brittle, and a veil of Oktoberfest beer foam.

The Cascata Pork Chop featured pork porterhouse with a peach and grain mustard glaze, served with but-tery whipped potatoes.

Pork Yeah! lettuce wraps by Pave consisted of butter lettuce, Jasmine rice, Char siu marinated pork, shoestring carrots, shredded rashes, crispy chow mien noodles, and green onion.

Braciola di Maiale from Maribella Ristorante was a grilled tomahawk pork chop topped with a fig onion pancetta jam, served with roasted garlic mashed potatoes.

Chef Lance's on Phillips competed with the Pulled to Perfection Burrito - slowly-braised pork, bell peppers and Latin cheeses, baked in green chili sauce, topped with lettuce, tomatoes, guacamole, queso, and jalapenos.

**27**

**PARTICIPATING DISHES**

**495**

**MOST DISHES SOLD**  
Crawford's - Bavarian Echoes

**1,695**

**VOTES COUNTED**  
A Pork Showdown record for votes cast. 39% increase from 2024

**6,141**

**TOTAL PORK DISHES SOLD**  
Cumulative total pork dishes sold October 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>.

**\$143,166**

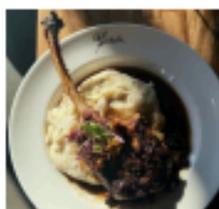
**DOLLARS SPENT ON PORK SHOWDOWN DISHES**  
Pork Showdown dish sales increased 20% over 2024.

**\$233,849**

**ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PORK SHOWDOWN**  
Estimated using the Arts and Economic Prosperity Study analyzing attendee related spending at events.

**WINNING DISHES:**

- 1. CRAWFORD'S:**  
Bavarian Echoes - 9.77
- 2. CASCATA:**  
Cascata Pork Chop - 9.66
- 3. PAVE:**  
Pork Yeah! - 9.53
- 4. MARIBELLA:**  
Braciola di Maiale - 9.50
- 5. CHEF LANCE'S ON PHILLIPS:**  
Pulled to Perfection Burrito - 9.31



# Dan Howell Reflects on Pork Leadership Institute

Volga, SD, pork producer Dan Howell was part of the 2025 PLI. Here is a closer look at the program.

The past year, I had the privilege to represent South Dakota as part of the Pork Leadership Institute (PLI). The PLI program is a year-long collaboration hosted by the National Pork Board (NPB) and National Pork Producers Council (NPPC). This program has six sessions beginning in January and concluding in December.

This class had 17 individuals from all over the United States. Our class included several sow farm managers, a college professor, Smithfield Employees, an accountant for Passel Farms, a Pipestone Employee, a show pig farmer, and the other half of the class raised hogs on their farm.

Our first session was in Des Moines, Iowa. We were given more of an insight on the NPB and NPPC. We toured both NPB and NPPC offices in the Des Moines, Iowa area. Former NPB President Bill Even spoke to our class on an overview on the NPB. He went on to explain the Checkoff and Non-checkoff and how that evolved over the years. Checkoff counts for \$0.35 per \$100, where the Non-Checkoff (SIP) is \$0.15 per \$100.

We also meet with a Deborah Rinner who is the Chief learning officer for Tero International. Deborah wrote the book "Your Invisible Toolbox." She taught us how to formally meet someone and make a lasting impression. We concluded our session by having a formal meal and learning dinner etiquette.

Session two, we headed to Washington D.C. in early April. On Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, we started off with a White House Garden Tour, where we went inside the fence. President Trump was in Florida at the time, but there was still plenty of security around. Monday, we headed to the Japanese Embassy. Japan imports the second largest amount of US Pork, behind Mexico. I found it interesting, they mentioned that the pork raised in Japan is mostly eaten at the restaurants, where imported Pork from the US is sold to grocery stores and eaten by Japanese people.



The Japanese Embassy mentioned they really liked US Pork!

One of the best activities we did in all of PLI was Scavenger hunt Bingo. We were divided into four teams and did blackout bingo of all of the National Monuments. You had to find all of the items on your Bingo sheet and take a selfie with the National Monument in the background. We could find the Monuments by Uber, walking, or on a scooter. I took a LIME Scooter and had a blast! The rest of my group took the "Safer" option, walking. My phone was using GPS Navigation and LIME app, and to no surprise, it died.

We finished the Washington D.C. session with Spring Legislation Action Conference (LAC), where we met with all three South Dakota congressional delegation on key issues that related to the swine industry. I have been to this conference the last three years, and I always leave feeling proud of our folks on the NPPC and how they have the best interest for us in the pork Industry.

For our third session we headed to Des Moines in early June for World Pork Expo. This session we focused on public relations. Spike was our guest speaker. As you would guess, with a name like Spike, he caught your attention and was a great motivational speaker. We recorded ourselves to help improve on our body language and delivery.

We capped off the World Pork Expo by walking around the fairgrounds and checking out everything the World Pork Expo had to offer. Most people reading this have experienced the World Pork Expo, if you have not, I would highly recommend attending.

Our fourth session was in the "Windy City" in Chicago in late July. I headed out a day early with one of my

PLI Classmates, Brian Gordon. Brian and I played 18 holes of golf and caught a Cubs Baseball game at Wrigley Field. We finished off Chicago PLI Trip by touring five grocery stores and seeing how food was displayed in a grocery store. One of the grocery stores we toured was an Amazon Fresh. You had to have an Amazon account to shop there. Your shopping cart had a scanner on it and as you scanned it in, it rang up your items. We also toured several Asian grocery stores that had huge display cases with pork cuts, which was great to see. They also sold things like pork blood or pork organs.

Session five was back to Washington D.C. This time, my wife, Ann, came out with me a few days before and we caught some of the popular sights Washington has to offer. Session Five was the Fall LAC convention. We met with several representatives from the NPPC on more key issues the NPPC is currently dealing with.

Our final session for the PLI Class of 2025 is in early December in Mexico City, Mexico. We will learn about trade and see a Mexican wet market. Just over 25% of US Pork is exported. Mexico is the top importer of US Pork.

South Dakota ranks eighth in pork production, and this is the fifth year in a row we have had someone from the SDPPC be a part of PLI. Also, our new National Pork Board CEO, David Newman, is a former PLI participant. I have enjoyed the PLI Experience, and have made some good friends in our group. A few of us currently in PLI are hoping to get together next August and catch a NASCAR Race in Daytona, Florida.

PLI is a huge time commitment - I was gone for three weeks this year. Huge thanks to my wife, Ann, for holding down the fort while I was gone.

SDPPC is always looking for more pork producers to join our council, and I would encourage anyone interested to apply for the PLI Program.

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According to an old Danish proverb, it is difficult to make predictions, especially about the future.

Nonetheless, here are some predictions about the 2026 SD Legislative Session. Since it's an election year, we anticipate lots of political posturing. This doesn't always lead to good policy. We can expect rousing discussions about tax policy, education, and economic development.

Governor Rhoden unveiled his proposed budget in early December. He warned against making any big plans for spending, because revenue projections are not looking rosy. The Appropriations Committee will spend the next couple of months developing its own proposal for the fiscal year which starts July 1.

The interim Property Tax committee spent the summer developing a laundry

list of ideas for alleviating property tax concerns among homeowners in a few parts of the state. None of the ideas presented will provide the property tax relief that the committee was hoping to find. Meanwhile, the governor has proposed giving county commissions the option to implement a half-cent sales tax, to be used to buy down homeowner taxes.

One idea that seems to re-surface any time taxes are mentioned is the need to look at sales tax exemptions. The Bureau of Finance and Management estimates that nearly \$1.6 billion (yes, with a "b") in additional revenue could be collected if sales tax exemptions were eliminated. For example, if livestock sales were taxed, it could generate an additional \$185 million in general fund revenue; taxing livestock feed would bring in \$68 million.

Against this backdrop, we will see a push to add a sales tax exemption for equipment and software at data centers, as an incentive for siting them in the state.

As DANR prepares to re-issue the General Permits for CAFOs, a recent issue memorandum by the LRC raised concerns about water quality in the state. Some legislators are suggesting that South Dakota needs stricter regulations for farming and ranching activities that might affect surface waters.

Thanks to the work of Ag Unity, the agricultural groups do a good job of monitoring legislation that could affect farmers and ranchers in the state. SDPPC has been involved with Ag Unity for decades, and continues to find value in our ability to work together on behalf of our members.



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# USMEF's Support of the Pork Industry

By Jeff Wolff, SDPPC District 1 Director

I had the opportunity to represent the SD Pork Producers Council at the US Meat Export Federation (USMEF) Strategic Planning Conference in Indianapolis, IN on November 12-14.

As a first time attendee we had an opportunity to hear from a number of USMEF staff as to what their roles are in the various locations throughout the world.

USMEF President and CEO Dan Halstrom addressed the attendees with an overview of USMEF activities around the globe. The conference was attended by stakeholders in the Pork, Beef, and Lamb industries, along with representatives from packers, processors, and exporters.

The Mission statement of USMEF is: Increase the value and profit opportunities for the US Beef, Pork, and Lamb industries by enhancing demand in export markets through a coordinated and collaborative partnership of all stakeholders.

We had the opportunity to hear from economists who gave their perspective on the global economics and markets.

There were four breakout sessions, of which you could attend two. I sat in on the Exporter Committee Session and the Pork and Allied Industries Committee. There was some very interesting discussion in both of these sessions relating to the PRRS resistant pig that has been developed by PIC. As promis-



ing as this gene editing breakthrough is for the production side of the industry, many hurdles are ahead before it becomes commercialized. The major concern is whether our export customers will accept meat from this gene edited animal. The PIC representative spoke to this concern, stating that they will not commercialize this technology until Canada, Mexico, and Japan are in full acceptance of it.

China and the lack of purchases of US Pork and Beef was another topic that was discussed. The strong demand for US Pork from other countries has eased the lack of China's demand.

Our growth in Mexico and Canada from 2014-2024 is an increase of 31%. Another bright spot for US Pork is Central America where our exports are up 324%.

One big win for pork that was shared is the Boston Butt Burger that was re-

searched and launched in Columbia. It has had tremendous acceptance. It is a burger made from the pork shoulder and is starting to see demand in other countries as well.

USMEF has ten offices around the world and 13 representatives in various countries. These people work tirelessly to promote US Pork, and bring together buyers and sellers. This is evident in the export value per head slaughtered for 2025: Pork \$65.25 and Beef \$403.89. Much of this comes from the export of variety meats, many of which we have very little or no market for in the US.

I also gained insight into how complex the export market is when it comes to the paperwork needed for a shipment, and many other details that most of us are not aware of.

The USMEF is a collaboration of nine diverse industry sectors: Beef/Veal Producing and Feeding, Farm Organizations, Feedgrains Producing, Lamb Producing and Feeding, Oilseeds Producing, Packing and Processing, Pork Producing and Feeding, Purveying and Trading, Supply and Service Organizations/Agribusiness.

I want to express my thanks to SDPPC for giving me the opportunity to attend this very informative conference and gain an understanding of USMEF and the role it plays and the value of SDPPC's membership in this organization.



Tenlee Klumb (daughter of Ben and Jen Klumb) did a presentation on pork production for elementary school students in Ethan, SD.

Ben represents District III on the SDPPC Board,  
Thanks, Tenlee! The future looks bright!

The value of a man should be seen in what he gives  
and not in what he is able to receive.

*Albert Einstein*



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# Amber Miller to Join NPB as General Counsel

The National Pork Board has named Amber Miller, MS, J.D., as general counsel effective January 5, 2026. Miller will provide legal and general compliance expertise on behalf of America's pig farmers.

During Mike Rounds' term as Governor of South Dakota, she served as Deputy Secretary and General Counsel for the South Dakota Department of Agriculture and Agricultural Policy Advisor for the Governor.

Established by Congress through the Pork Act and Order 40 years ago, NPB is mandated with the tasks of research, promotion and education for the benefit of the pork industry. As part of her role as general counsel, Miller will serve as the liaison between NPB and the USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS), which provides oversight to NPB to ensure Pork Checkoff funds are honorably used in accordance with the Pork Act and Order.

"Amber brings a wealth of legal expertise and leadership experience that will strengthen our organization and support the pork industry's ongoing success," said Alex Wibholm, chief operating officer for NPB. "Her strategic mindset and collaborative approach make her an excellent addition to our team. We're excited about the positive impact she will have on our mission and our stakeholders."

Most recently, Miller's 10-year tenure as a partner at Crenshaw, Dupree & Milam LLP included support

for NPB with antitrust and compliance. While there, she focused on agricultural and business law. Amber has been licensed to practice law in the state of Texas for over sixteen years, after receiving her J.D., with high honors, from Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa, in 2005.

Amber also holds a M.S. in Animal Science, Meat Science emphasis from Colorado State University, and a B.S., magna cum laude, in Animal Science from Texas Tech University.

Amber is Past President of the American Agricultural Law Association. She is also a frequent presenter and serves on the planning committee for the annual Texas State Bar John Huffaker Agricultural Law Course at Texas Tech University.

Outside of the office, Amber and her husband, Jarrod, are active members of the Lubbock community and First United Methodist Church, proud alumni and supporters of Texas Tech University, and enjoy raising their two children.

She resides in Lubbock, Texas, with her family.



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For more, please follow NPPC on Instagram, Facebook, or X.

"Humor is mankind's greatest blessing."

*Mark Twain*

## Expo For Her

The *etc. expo for her*, held October 17-28 at the Sioux Falls Convention Center, is two days of shopping, fun, entertainment, and pampering for women of all ages. It is not a home show. It is not a craft show. It is an expo where attendees can shop and enjoy fantastic seminars and a huge array of exhibits representing areas of health, food, fashion, home decor, cosmetics, fitness, entertainment, finance, career, art and more.

Abbey Riemenschneider, Lancy Andrews, and Lorraine Harms had the opportunity during pheasant season opener to get in front of the women to showcase the new Taste What Pork Can Do™ campaign and share recipes with everyone.



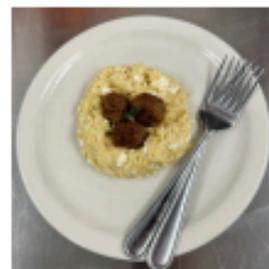
## Passport to Pork

Abbey Riemenschneider ventured to Faith, Huron, and Pierre to round out the year of teaching high school culinary students about Pork. The two-day Passport to Pork program forces students to think outside the box and utilize pork products and inspiration countries/regions that they might not be familiar with.

Day one covers basic pork production information, human nutrition, and kitchen basics. The students are given a culinary challenge of choosing a country, pork product, and dining setting.

On day two, the students complete the challenge by executing their recipe.

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council believes that by educating our culinary students about pork production practices, proper handling, and preparation of pork products, we are setting them up to be well rounded and knowledgeable chefs that can go into the industry and create innovative and unique dishes that utilize the products our producers are so proud of.



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Mark and Jenn Fuoss and Ronda Snyder joined Abbey Riemenschneider serving grilled brats at Grocery Mart in Sturgis for their Customer Appreciation barbecue.



## AgriCare Nutrition Donation for Pork to help Feeding South Dakota

Thanks to the generosity of AgriCare Nutrition, tens of thousands of pork meals will be provided throughout South Dakota by the Feeding South Dakota hunger relief organization.

The Sioux Falls-based animal nutrition company recently donated \$50,000 to Feeding South Dakota for the purchase of pork product.

AgriCare Nutrition owners Mitch Truebenbach and Doug Doell made the donation in recognition of the pork producers in our state.

## About the National Pork Board

The National Pork Board, established forty years ago by the Pork Act and Order, works for its producer investors through promotion, research, and education.

A 15-member Board of Directors oversees the NPB and Pork Checkoff funds. Each year, Pork Act Delegates, appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture have the responsibility to nominate members to the Board, set the Pork Checkoff assessment rate, and establish the return-to-state rate which provides funding to the designated State Pork Associations.

The Chief Executive Officer reports to the Board and is responsible for NPB's project and program implementation and staff in four working areas:

- Communications, Producer and State Engagement
- Demand Enhancement
- Swine Health, Production and Sustainability
- Administration



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South Dakota chefs who participated were Daniel Myers - General Manager & Chef of Crawford's Bar & Grill, and Kisha Jordan - TF Riggs FACS & ProStart Instructor.



## Thank you, Steve



After representing the state's pork industry for more than a decade on the SD Animal Industry Board, Alcester producer Steve Rommereim retired from the board in October when his term expired.

The Animal Industry Board is a seven-member board appointed by the Governor to work with the State Veterinarian to enforce laws relating to livestock disease control, regulate livestock auction markets, and administer the state meat inspection program. In addition to pork, the seven members represent the cattle, sheep, livestock feeder, dairy, poultry, and veterinary sectors.

Steve is past president of the SDPPC. He also served on the National Pork Board and U.S. Animal Health Association.

Shane Odegaard has been appointed to the pork industry spot on the Animal Industry Board.



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## SDPPC Board Spotlight: Mark Fuoss, SDPPC First Vice President

SDPPC's First Vice President Mark Fuoss not only serves on the SDPPC Board of Directors, he is a member of the Armour Rural Fire Protection District, township board, and the Douglas County Zoning board. He also has served on church boards many times. He says, "Being involved with SDPPC and its staff has been a great joy of mine!"

**Tell us about your farming operation.** I am a fourth generation diversified farmer in South Dakota. I started my career farming with my father and am currently transitioning to farming with my two sons, Daniel and Corbin, all alongside my wife, Jennifer. We raise corn, soybeans, wheat, alfalfa, and milo. We also have a cow/calf operation, operate our 4,800 finishing spaces, as well as managing an offsite 2,400 head nursery.

**How long have you been with SDPPC, and how did you get started with the organization?** Roughly 15 years ago, a guy many of you know, Mike Lens, got me my start with the organization. I started on committees and was later asked to serve on the executive board. My term ran out and I was later asked to serve again. I am currently serving as first vice-president.

**What is your favorite part of being involved with SDPPC?** I have had the opportunity to serve with many great leaders from our great state, as well as the opportunity to work with our national leaders in this industry. I also greatly enjoy grilling at promotional events throughout the state.

**Tell us about your family:** Along with my wife, Jennifer, we have four grown children: Krista, Daniel, Corbin, and Makayla. One of my greatest joys is that all my children are involved in the ag industry. Krista works for Heartland Pork, Daniel and Corbin farm with me, and Makayla is pursuing a degree in Ag Education at SDSU. I am also a proud grandpa to three grandchildren.

**What are your hobbies?** When I am not busy, I enjoy spending time building furniture in my shop, as well as riding motorcycle in the summer.

**Fun fact about me:** I'm a pretty run-of-the-mill guy but am trying to do some traveling with my wife.



### Thanks to SDPPC's Alliance Members!



### About the NPPC

As the global voice for the U.S. pork industry, the National Pork Producers Council advocates for the social, environmental, and economic sustainability of U.S. pork producers and their partners by fighting for reasonable public policy, advancing our freedom to operate, and expanding access to global markets.

NPPC works on behalf of an industry that reliably and responsibly brings high-quality pork to markets across the globe.

Comprised of 42 affiliated state pork producer associations, NPPC fights for public policies, programs, and trade pacts that ensure the U.S. pork industry can continue to provide consumers with the world's safest, most wholesome, and nutritious pork products.



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*Harry S Truman*

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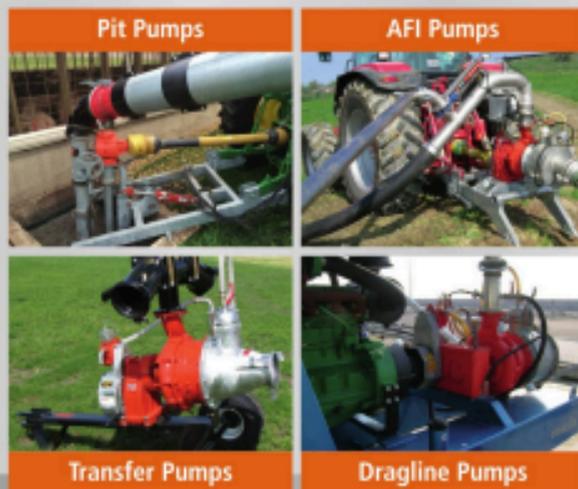
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## Warm Lentil and Pork Bowls

### Ingredients

- 4 boneless pork chops (large diced)
- 8 oz spicy sausage (chorizo, andouille or Italian sausage)
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 1 white onion (diced)
- Pinch of salt and black pepper (optional)
- 5 garlic cloves (minced)
- 4 celery stalks (chopped)
- 3 carrots (peeled and diced)
- 1 bag of dry lentils (16 oz)
- 2 bay leaves
- 2 sprigs rosemary (chopped)
- 2 tsp smoked paprika

### Directions:

In a large pot or Dutch oven, heat olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion; sauté for 2-3 minutes until softened. Add pork chop pieces, sausage, and a pinch of salt and black pepper, if desired. Cook, stirring occasionally, until pork and sausage begin to brown.

Add garlic, celery, and carrots; cook, stirring for another 5-7 minutes.

Add lentils, bay leaves, rosemary, and smoked paprika. Stir and cook for 2-3 more minutes.

Add 6 cups of water; stir until incorporated. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Bring mixture to a boil then reduce heat to a simmer.

Cover pot with a lid and simmer lentil mixture for 30-40 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cook until lentils are tender and pork chops reach an internal temperature of 145° F, followed by a 3-minute rest, and sausage reaches 160° F.

Divide lentil and pork mixture evenly among 4 bowls. Serve immediately with a crusty baguette, if desired.



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## Bacon & Sweet Potato Biscuits with Smoky Honey Butter

### Ingredients

- 2 slices cut crosswise into 1/4-inch strips bacon
- 1 medium orange-fleshed OR 2 small sweet potatoes (14-16 ounces total), peeled sweet potato
- 2 cups flour
- 4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon allspice
- 8 Tbsp. unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes, chilled
- 1 cup (low-fat is okay) buttermilk
- 8 tablespoons softened unsalted butter
- 2 tablespoons honey
- Salt

### Directions:

Wrap the sweet potato with a damp paper towel and microwave on high until very soft, 3 to 4 minutes. Transfer to a bowl, mash with a potato masher, and set aside to cool. Meanwhile, in a medium skillet over medium heat, cook the bacon until golden and crisp, about 8 minutes. Use a slotted spoon to transfer bacon to a paper towel-lined plate, then set aside to cool.

Carefully set aside 2 tablespoons of bacon drippings from the skillet. Preheat oven to 375 degrees F.

Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a food processor, combine the flour, baking powder, sugar, baking soda, salt, and allspice and pulse a few times.

Add the cubed butter and pulse to make a coarse meal with a few pea-sized pieces. Transfer mixture to a large bowl and gently mix in the bacon, buttermilk, and 1 cup of the mashed sweet potato (save any remaining potato for another use).

Transfer mixture to a floured work surface and knead a few times to form a dough. Pat the dough to about 1-inch thick, then gently fold in half. Gently repeat 4 more times.

Roll the dough out to 3/4-inch thick, then use a floured 2 1/2-inch biscuit cutter to cut dough into biscuits, arranging them on the prepared baking sheet. Gather the scraps and repeat to make a total of 12 biscuits.

Bake until the biscuits are browned and a tester comes out clean, 15 to 18 minutes. Meanwhile, combine the softened butter, honey, and reserved bacon drippings, mixing until smooth. Add salt to taste.

Serve the biscuits with the honey butter on the side.

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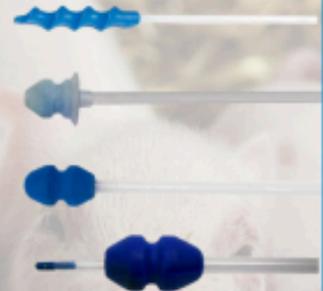
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