

porkline

The official publication of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council

April
May
June
2026

ANNUAL MEETING & TRADE SHOW WINNERS



**SDPPC Recognizes
Industry Leaders**
see more page 8

FROM START TO FINISH

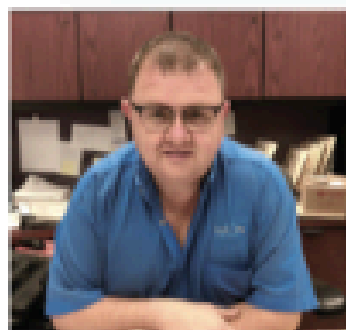
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Mission Statement

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.



Calendar of Events

April

April 3 – SDPPC Office Closed
 April 14-16 – Spring LAC, Washington, DC

May

May 14 – Swine + Dine in Pierre
 May 25 – SDPPC Office Closed

June

June 3-4 – World Pork Expo
 June 6 – Swine Summit at SDSU
 June 12 – Glenn Muller’s Retirement Open House
 June 25-26 – SD Governor’s Ag Summit
 June 30 – Glenn’s Last Day

July

July 3 – SDPPC Office Closed
 July 11 – Hog Wild
 July 12-15 – National Pork Industry Conference, Wisconsin Dells, WI
 July 16 – Aberdeen Big Feed at Ken’s SuperFair

Looking ahead

August 7 – Pork Chop Open, Hartford, SD
 September 14 – When Pigs Fly, Humboldt, SD
 September 19 – Jacks Classic

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President's Message

It's Good Day Fellow HogProducers and Happy New Year!

I hope winter has been treating you well. The way it started in November, I figured we'd all be wearing out loader tractors and coffee pots pushing snow every other day. Instead, Mother Nature must have found the wrong address, because January and February brought us mid-50s and hardly enough snow to justify plugging in the block heater.

Even with the New Year, SDPPC has been busy! We kicked off 2026 with our 57th Annual Pork Congress in January. We were blessed with great weather and an even bigger crowd. Wednesday featured Trent Loos along with our Checkoff Annual Meeting. On Thursday we heard from NPPC Economist Holly Cook and held our Non-Checkoff Annual Meeting. A big thank you to the staff and

trade show committee for putting together another outstanding event—those things don't come together by accident.

On February 2nd, a group of us made the trip to Pierre for AgFest. We kept up the tradition of lunch with the South Dakota Soybean Association and heard from several speakers. That evening, the pig wings once again proved that pork can solve just about anything, at least long enough to get a good conversation going. It's always encouraging to see the respect SDPPC continues to hold with legislators and industry groups at the Capitol.

We recently wrapped up Pork Forum in Kansas City. South Dakota was well represented as we joined producers and industry leaders from across the country. It's a great chance to catch up, talk through issues, and make sure our voice is heard. If we

don't tell our story, someone else will, and they probably won't get it quite right.

As we roll into spring, I wish you all a Happy Easter and a safe planting season. Here's hoping your pigs stay healthy, your planters run smooth, and your breakdowns are few and far enough between to almost forget where the toolbox is.

Until next time, keep your barns full, your rows straight, and your humor intact... because if farming were easy, everyone in town would be doing it.

Jason Foster
SDPPC President



Meet our New SDPPC Ambassadors



Makayla Fuoss is the daughter of Mark and Jennifer Fuoss of Armour. She is a Sophomore at SDSU, majoring in Ag Education and minoring in Animal Science. She plans to teach

Ag courses and serve as an FFA advisor. Eventually, she would love to have her own farming operation.

Makayla says that the Ambassador program offers a special opportunity to deepen her understanding of the pork industry and strengthen her ability to advocate for it. It will also allow her to grow as an individual, make various connections, and create a positive impact on an industry she grew up in.

Where are they now? Catch up with former SDPPC Ambassador Trent Thompson on page 10.



Lacie Weber is the daughter of Josh and Charlene Weber of Rutland. She is a senior at Howard High School and will attend SDSU in the fall, where she plans to major in

Pharmacy with a minor in Animal Health. Her career goal is to become a livestock pharmacist while also working in hospital pharmacy, bridging the gap between human and animal health.

Lacie said, "I applied to be an ambassador to give back to the industry that shaped who I am today and to expand my knowledge of the pork industry beyond the show ring." With her acceptance into the program, Lacie looks forward to mentoring youth, supporting producers, and advocating for the sustainability and importance of South Dakota's pork industry.

From the Executive Director's Desk

By: Glenn Muller

As we look forward to spring and anticipate the new growth and warmer weather, it also allows us to review what has happened since the last issue of the *Porkline*.

The biggest event for the pork industry was Smithfield Foods' announcement of the decision to move from their current location to a site near the intersection of Interstates 90 and 29. This will allow easier access for producers delivering hogs and for distributing the finished product leaving the plant.

At an estimated cost of more than \$1 billion, this demonstrates a tremendous commitment to our area. In addition to providing approximately 3,000 jobs, this new state-of-the-art facility will address odor concerns that some folks have with the existing facility which is over 100 years old.

Smithfield Foods has been an excellent partner with SDPPC, supporting our State Fair food booth and Annual Meeting and Trade Show. They also support the community by donating thousands of pounds of pork to Feeding South Dakota. We look forward to the transition and appreciate their commitment to our industry.

Since our last issue of *Porkline*, the 2026 legislative session has been completed. The highlight of this session for pork producers was authorization to expand the SDSU Swine Research and Education facility. The recap article on page 7 provides additional coverage of legislation we monitored this year.

As I draft my final article, I reflect on the privilege of serving as your Executive Director for the last 15 years. It has been an honor to work alongside the great leaders of SDPPC and the other agriculture organizations to promote the pork industry and agriculture in South Dakota.

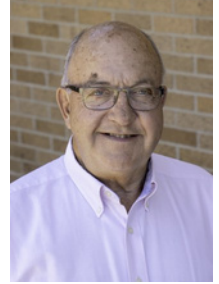
One highlight was securing support and funding to build the Swine Research and Education facility at SDSU. Another was renovation and expansion of the state's Animal Disease Research and Diagnostic Laboratory, especially since the largest number of samples submitted for analysis come from swine. The pork industry received another big win with defeat of the ballot initiative that would have prohibited livestock harvesting facilities in Sioux Falls.

Thank you to the search committee in 2010, past and present board members and officers, and the producers in South Dakota for giving me the opportunity to serve

as your Executive Director. Thanks also to all the other commodity and agricultural organizations that have collaborated with SDPPC on issues and events to support our industry and agriculture in South Dakota. I appreciate all the relationships we have built along the way and progress we have made.

Thanks also to the great staff members for their efforts and support. Most importantly, thank you to my family — especially Joan — for supporting me and the organization. All the things we have accomplished are because of the talented and dedicated individuals who have stepped up on behalf of SDPPC.

Thank you for allowing me to be part of the process. Now, keep up the excellent work and "Taste What Pork Can Do."



Governor Rhoden signs the bill to expand the SDSU Swine Unit. From left Dr. Bob Thaler, Senator Tim Reed, SDSU President Barry Dunn, Governor Rhoden, Senator Paul Miskimins, Representative Jack Kolbeck, and Representative Melissa Heermann.

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The *Porkline* is SDPPC's primary source for providing pork producers and allied industry members with information on current topics in the pork industry including legislative, research, promotion, education, and so much more!

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*Come Join us celebrate Glenn during
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*We will have some finger foods
available to enjoy as you visit with
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Lifetime Achievement Award — Glenn Muller

Glenn received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the SD Corn Banquet on January 17, 2026



At the 40th Annual SD Corn Conference held January 17, 2026, in Sioux Falls, Glenn Muller received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

A true champion of South Dakota agriculture, Glenn is a respected voice for South Dakota pork producers and the ag industry. His leadership has earned him honors such as Agribusiness Citizen of the Year from the Sioux Falls Chamber, the 2025 Governor’s Ag Ambassador, and others.

Glenn, we appreciate you!



Thank you to our 2026 Pork Congress and Trade Show Committeevolunteers!



Please check out the donor list for the “Sold! What’s next?” auction on page 10. We appreciate their generosity!

Thank you, Trade Show Sponsors!

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National Pork Board

A Review of the 2026 Legislative Session

By Mary Duvall

Legislators wrapped up the Main Run of the 2026 Session on March 12 after wrangling over data centers, property taxes, fake meat, school lunches, and a slate of potential constitutional amendments.

One of the noisiest topics this year was property taxes. More than 60 bills and resolutions dealt with some aspect of property taxes. Many were bad policy options and disappeared quickly.

Two bills did make it across the finish line to give homeowners property tax relief. One gives counties the option of implementing a half-cent sales tax to buy down county taxes for homeowners. This law has an exemption for sales of farm machinery. The other bill shifts most of the owner-occupied share of public education funding from property taxes to sales taxes. On a \$300,000 owner-occupied single-family home, the savings will be about \$560.

The Legislature approved a request from the Board of Regents to spend \$1.72 million in donated money to expand the swine wean-to-finish barn at SDSU. The project will add approximately 9,500 square feet to the Swine

Unit, to accommodate a new 600-head wean-to-finish barn.

Last year, DANR presented a three-phase proposal to increase the annual CAFO fees, which had not been changed since the program began nearly 30 years ago. The 2025 Legislature agreed to the first year's increase, instructing the agency to come back this year with the final two years of fee increases. Instead, DANR brought in a bill that averaged the final two years of proposed increases, with the understanding that they will not be asking for another fee increase next year. SDPPC supported this compromise, which has a lower final fee value than the original three-year plan.

State law requires cell-cultured protein to be labeled; it also prohibits spending any state money on research, production, promotion, sale, or distribution of cell-cultured protein. That isn't enough for some legislators. Four bills were introduced this year dealing with cell-cultured protein. One would have classified it as an adulterated food; the others would have banned manufacture, sale, and distribution of any cell-cultured protein. The governor

vetoed the "adulterated food" version, then worked to develop a compromise to place a five-year moratorium on cell-cultured protein sales and distribution in the state.

Producers will be able to sell meat directly to consumers if the animal is slaughtered at a custom exempt plant, once federal law makes it legal. Currently, custom exempt meat processing is only for the owner's personal use.

A proposal to provide for automatic refund of commodity checkoffs was short-lived. Even though there is no state-level pork checkoff at this time, there is a provision in state law to enact one if there is no national checkoff. SDPPC opposed this bill, as well as a short-lived bill that would have increased penalties for animal cruelty. Another bill we opposed would have required all employers to use E-verify for all employees. The bill died in conference committee.

The Primary Election will be held June 2. This is a good time to get to know who is running and to support those candidates who you think would do a good job.



SDPPC was well-represented during the Legislative Ag Fest, held February 2 in Pierre. This was a chance to serve pig wings to legislators and discuss the issues most important to our producers.



SDPPC Recognizes Industry Leaders



Family of the Year: Martin & Krista Prouty

Martin Prouty and his wife, Krista, are 5th generation farmers living on their 133-year-old farm near Bryant, SD. They have 7,700 pig spaces between their facilities; various custom work with a local dairy, and diversified row crops round out their operation.

Martin grew up on his family farm east of Bryant where his dad, Don, had a farrow-to-finish pig operation alongside row crop farming. Like a lot of hog operations in the late '90s, Don decided to get out, and the business went over 20 years without pigs. Martin continued the legacy of his family's farm and was presented with an opportunity to step into the hog industry managing a neighbor's barn. After six months, he knew he wanted to grow and add this diversification

into his own operation. Martin and Krista built a 4,400-head wean-to-finish facility in 2018 a half mile north of their home. They then purchased a 3,300 wean-to-finish barn in 2022, two miles south of their home, from those same neighbors.

Martin serves as Chairman of the Hamlin County FSA board, Vice President of the Lake Norden Farmers Elevator Board, an at-large member for Hamlin County Zoning, the Lake Norden Ambulance Board of Directors, and Bryant Parkview. He is also on the Executive Board for SDPPC. He was awarded the 2020 Master Pork Producer. He graduated from Hamlin High School and SDSU with a degree in Agronomy.

Krista works in sales with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She serves as Vice President of the Bryant Theater and Secretary of the Bryant Up and Coming Committee, both 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations. She is a graduate of Deuel High School and SDSU with a degree in Hospitality Management.

The Proutys serve as South Dakota's Representatives for Smithfield's Midwest Region Advisory Council. You can often see them working together at pork events or volunteering in their community throughout the year. They are members of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bryant.

They have three children: Savvy (4), Rip (2) and Calla (1). If you ask either of the two oldest what they want to be when they grow up, the answer would be "A PIG FARMER!" Savvy often brings books home from school and, if she can, it usually has a pig in it. The kids enjoy being up at the hog barn especially when the piglets arrive.

Martin and Krista feel truly blessed to enjoy working together - problem solving, loading pigs in/out, prepping for a new turn, repair work and everything in between. The words "legacy" and "team" are often spoken in their home. This is a true family farm, and they are looking forward to continuing to instill work ethic, compassion, faith, grit, and leadership in their kids. They hope this gives their children the opportunity to come back to the farm and continue to grow for generations to come.



Pork Promotor of the Year: Jason Foster

Jason Foster, along with his wife Ashley, son Renner, and parents Rodney and Sherry, farms north of Garden City, South Dakota. Their family farm was homesteaded in 1882, making Jason a proud fifth-generation farmer with deep roots in South Dakota agriculture.

Jason and his family operate a diverse farming operation, raising corn and soybeans on 1,700 acres, managing a 200-head sow farrow-to-finish hog operation, and caring for 120 cow/calf pairs. Their operation reflects a strong commitment to responsible stewardship and livestock care.

Jason's passion for the pork industry goes far beyond the farm gate. He serves on the SDPPC Executive Board and is actively involved in multiple committees, always willing to lend his time and talents to advance South Dakota Pork. Jason is a familiar face at promotion events, from the South Dakota State Fair pork booth to cooking for the Watertown Winter Farm Show and local 4-H activities, where he proudly shares agriculture's story with consumers.

In addition to his industry leadership, Jason gives back to his community through the Clark County 4-H Leaders Association and the Garden City Volunteer Fire Department, demonstrating his dedication to youth, service, and rural communities.



Dedicated & Distinguished Service: Jerry Schmitz, SD Soybean Executive Director

Jerry Schmitz has served as the Executive Director for the South Dakota Soybean Research and Promotion Council and the South Dakota Soybean Association since 2018. He owned and operated a row crop farm in extreme southeast South Dakota for approximately 40 years.

Jerry graduated from SDSU with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture Education. While at SDSU, he served as Student Body President. After graduation, he returned to the family farm. He served as the first President of the SD Soybean Association and was later elected to serve as Secretary for the American Soybean Association. He currently serves in advisory roles with the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, SD Trade, and the South Dakota Ag Foundation. Jerry and his wife, Sally, recently passed the farm down to the next generation. They currently live near Vermillion.

Jerry's partnership with Glenn Muller and SDPPC has been one of consistency, mutual respect and endless effort in striving to make both entities better. Jerry, as your retirement approaches, we wish you the best and thank you for your diligent leadership and service to improving and sustaining the agricultural industry of South Dakota.



Honorary Friends of SDPPC: Lynch Livestock (Lynch Family Companies)

Lynch Livestock is the pork marketing division of Lynch Family Companies, operating 18 convenient marketing locations throughout the Midwest. Their company and employees are committed to the highest animal welfare, transportation, biosecurity and ethical standards. Lynch Livestock's values reflect those of their parent organization, Lynch Family Companies.

Lynch Livestock CEO Carl Treiber, writes: *"At Lynch Livestock, we take great pride in getting to know all our valued customers and partners. We strive to be an industry leader when it comes to animal welfare and the production of high-quality, natural pork and beef."*

SDPPC thanks Lynch Livestock not only for their commitment to the Pork Industry but also for their service and generous donations to our industry!



South Dakota Pork All-American: Jeff Wolff

Jeff Wolff of Bath, SD, grew up on a diverse family farm at Eureka. His family had a commercial farrow to finish hog operation as well as a purebred seedstock operation selling purebred boars to commercial producers. Jeff attended Iowa State University majoring in Animal Science. Following college, he spent time in feed sales and later managed a feed and fertilizer department for a local cooperative. He then took over his family's operation continuing the purebred and commercial swine operation.

During this time Jeff served on the Mid-Dakota Pork Producers board of directors for six years. In 1995, he made the decision to discontinue his operation and return to the ag business field managing a fertilizer operation and transitioning to a crop production specialist role and later a district seed sales manager. In 2014, he and Tanya relocated to the Bath area where they own and operate Wolff Family Genetics. The operation consists of 40 sows, purebred Durocs, Hamps, Berks, Spots as well as crossbreds producing show pigs, breeding stock and direct to consumer marketed hogs for local processing. They have sold breeding stock and show pigs to breeders and youth from 21 states.

Each year in June, they host a showmanship camp for the youth who purchased pigs. Jeff spends considerable time advising young people on their projects throughout the year. He has served on the SD 4-H Swine Committee and for six years served as the show coordinator and manager for the swine show at the SD Summer Spotlight Show. He is a former 4-H leader. Jeff has judged several junior livestock shows of all species throughout the Dakotas and Minnesota. He has a true passion for youth and their involvement in the 4-H and FFA livestock projects.

As he states, "these are the next generation of not only livestock producers, but swine unit managers, animal health reps, feed reps, and veterinarians." Jeff has been on the SDPPC Executive Board for three years and serves as vice chair of the Annual Meeting and Trade Show Committee, as well as being a member of the Producer Education and Outreach, Demand Enhancement and the Public Policy Committees. He has attended the NPPC Legislative Action Conference in Washington, DC, for several years as well as representing SDPPC at the US Meat Export Federation Conference.

Jeff can be found volunteering at pork promotions throughout the state along with promoting pork through social media. Jeff also serves as the President of the Brown County Farm Bureau. He has two grown children, Jay and Amy.

SOLD!
What's Next

Thank you
TO OUR DONORS

Thank you so much for your donations for our auction and/or games. We really appreciate you supporting our organization! We had another great evening. Sorry in advanced if we missed anyone.

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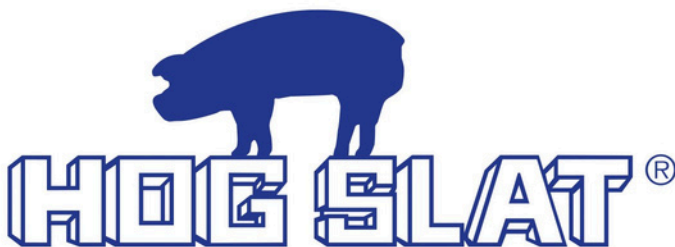
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Pork Forum Highlights



South Dakota was well represented at the 2026 National Pork Industry Forum held in early March in Kansas City. During the Forum, Glenn was honored by NPB and NPPC for his years of service to the pork industry.



Smithfield Supplier Meeting

Glenn Muller and Tina Erickson attended the Smithfield Supplier meeting in Sioux Falls on March 10. They provided an update on what SDPPC is doing to advocate for, support, and engage our pork producers.

Glenn also received a “year of service” award from Smithfield for his many years of advocating for our industry.

Thank you, Glenn



With more than 50 years of combined service to the South Dakota swine industry, SDPPC Executive Director Glenn Muller is retiring at the end of June, and his partner, Bob, is also retiring. Their impact on South Dakota's swine industry is profound, from advocating for the industry, Glenn and Bob have worked tirelessly to improve the future of the industry. "When I look at the new swine unit at South Dakota State University and the investment in the industry is an investment for the future of the pork industry, and it's an investment in our state's economic development," Glenn said. *Economic Development, Former CEO of the National Pork Board, Former*

"Thank you so much for everything that you've done, from the time you've been here to now. If you're a young producer, young couple, who wants to produce swine, talk to Bert Thaler, and I'll promise you, you'll be good at what you do." *Jim Woster*
"From the bottom of my heart, thank you for all that you have done and thank you for the future of the industry."

Glenn Muller

Glenn Muller began as Executive Director for the South Dakota Pork Producers Council in 2010, having served earlier as board president from 1991-1992. Glenn has played a key role in supporting agricultural growth, advocating for responsible and practical regulations, and developing industry-wide collaboration.

He has received numerous local, state, and national awards, most recently during the Pork Forum in Kansas City. Each time, his spirit of humble leadership was first and foremost.

"Glenn has got such a genuine leadership style. Someone that reaches out to others and that circle around him and trying to make the decisions that he and his board will make better." ~ *Bill Even*



"He's got a way of making you feel easy. I mean it's just comfortable to talk to Glenn. He knows what he's talking about, that's the big thing, but he puts it in language that even somebody like I can understand, no matter what the topic is. He is a teacher and he is a good teacher, and he truly understands the pork industry because that's been his life." ~ *Jim Woster*

"Glenn to me has always been a man of integrity, of dignity. A lot of time he's in the background quiet, but very wise." ~ *Steve Rommereim, Producer and Former South Dakota Pork Board President*

"He has a famous saying of take your hat off at the door and do what's best for the industry, and that's something that I hope to carry and hope many others carry it through out their tenure at South Dakota Pork and in life in general." ~ *Adam Krause, immediate past SDPPC Board President*

Thank you, Glenn, for all you have done for the swine industry, and for the individuals you have encouraged throughout your career. We wish you and Joan a wonderful retirement!

Glenn and Bob!

industry, two key leaders are on the verge of retirement.

and SDSU Distinguished Professor and Extension Swine Specialist Bob Thaler is retiring October 1.

giving every day for pork producers to helping the next generation of producers develop their passion for agriculture and swine production.

the work that both Glenn and Bob did in order to bring that thing to life, that is no small feat. This is the future of the kids that want to work in agriculture.” *Bill Even, South Dakota Commissioner of Agriculture*

South Dakota Secretary of Agriculture
we spent, for the dedication of the swine industry in particular, and thanks especially for being who we want to be in this business, try and spend just a little bit of time with Glenn Muller and Robert, *South Dakota Agriculture Legend.*

Thank you for helping make South Dakota a better place to live, work, and play.” ~ *Bill Even*

Dr. Bob Thaler

Bob Thaler has been on the staff at South Dakota State University, his alma mater, since 1988. Another example of a humble leader, Bob has inspired and encouraged agricultural students and pork producers for nearly forty years. Even outside the swine industry, Bob is respected for his knowledge of livestock production and his generosity toward others.



Bob is SDSU’s first ever Farm Credit Services of America Endowed Chair in Swine Production at SDSU. He has also received numerous awards for excellence in teaching, scholarship, and leadership, in addition to being named the 2015 South Dakota Governor’s Ag Ambassador.

“The great thing about Professor Thaler is, he knows everything that’s going on in the swine industry and he’s willing to help you.” ~ *Hunter Roberts*

“The guy just never gets tired of being excited about pork, being excited about students, being excited about the industry and trying to make things better. It’s so much fun to work with a positive person like Bob. If you’re having a down day, go talk to Bob. He’s gonna turn it around for you.” ~ *Bill Even*

“The first time I met Bob was not long after he’d given his kidney for one of his students, so that just goes to show how much he loves and supports the students and the industry. ~ *Hunter Roberts*

“The influence and impact of Dr. Thaler is almost indescribable.” ~ *Steve Rommereim*

“He’s always thinking about the next generation. I think at the end of the day that’s really what he prides himself in his purpose. That’s really what I’ll remember of Dr. Thaler.” ~ *Adam Krause*

Dr. Thaler, from a grateful industry, thank you. Your commitment to students and producers has elevated the entire livestock industry in our state and region. Best wishes to you and Karen!

National Swine Health Strategy: Translating Strategy Into Action

The National Pork Board has been working with key industry partners to develop a comprehensive National Swine Health Strategy to protect and strengthen the U.S. swine herd. The team has developed a work plan aligned with strategic priorities, which was approved by the Board of Directors and shared with delegates.

Key Priorities:

Reduce impact of domestic diseases

Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome Virus (PRRSV) Elimination

Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) Elimination

Reduce the spread of pathogens in the U.S. Pork industry

Keep foreign and emerging diseases out

FAD prevention and preparedness

Monitoring and early detection of emerging diseases

The infographic is divided into three main sections. On the left, a dark blue vertical bar contains a four-step process flow, each step featuring a white pig icon and an orange downward arrow. The steps are: 1. Contact OSA about State-specific enrollment process; 2. Complete enrollment forms; 3. Pursue certification by meeting the program standards; 4. Stay engaged in the process. The middle section has a white background and contains the 'Enrollment' heading in an orange box, followed by a paragraph explaining the program's purpose, a list of enrollment steps, and 'Next steps' for certification. The right section has a green header with the title 'U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan' and a subtitle 'A national certification program for safeguarding and bettering swine health.' Below this are images of a pig, a person holding a sign, a farm with silos, and another pig, with a circular logo in the center that reads 'U.S. SWINE HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN' around a pig silhouette. A green 'Enroll Today!' button is at the bottom.

Enrollment

U.S. SHIP encourages all pork producers, live animal marketers, and packers to enroll and be certified to help ensure the viability of their businesses and the U.S. pork industry in the event of disease outbreak. Many of the program standards incorporate things you are already doing on your farm or in your facility. Enrollment is simple.

Enrollment process:

1. Contact your Official State Agency (OSA) to get the correct State-specific forms
2. Complete your forms

Next steps:

3. Pursue certification
 - a. You don't have to be ready for certification to enroll in U.S. SHIP. You can bring your facility up to "compliance" in preparation for certification after enrollment
 - b. Access the list of program standards on the website: (aphis.usda.gov/livestock-poultry-disease/swine/us-ship)
4. Stay engaged in the process
 - a. Keep information updated with the OSA
 - b. Consider participating in the House of Delegates

Enroll Today!

U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan
A national certification program for safeguarding and bettering swine health.

What Producers Can Expect:

Opportunities for producer adoption and participation

Stronger collaboration across industry organizations

NPB Swine Health advisory committee will prioritize and provide direction on work related to:

Targeted research to address industry gaps

Resources with clear, actionable practices for producers

Pork Checkoff investments aligned with producers' top priorities



All producers and veterinarians are encouraged to stay engaged and learn more about the National Swine Health Strategy at porkcheckoff.org/strategy.

The U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) is a national, producer-driven program designed to protect your livelihood and the U.S. pork industry from the constant threat of foreign animal diseases (FAD).

U.S. SHIP establishes consistent biosecurity and health technical standards for disease control, focusing initially on African swine fever (ASF) and classical swine fever (CSF).

Producer participation is crucial in ensuring America's swine industry remains a sustainable and reliable supplier of pork to the global market.



About U.S. SHIP

U.S. SHIP establishes a "national playbook" of producer-derived technical standards and **ASF/CSF Monitored Certification** for participating farm sites, live animal marketing operations, and slaughter facilities. Requirements for **U.S. SHIP certification** center on biosecurity, surveillance, and traceability.

- Biosecurity standards mitigate the risks of disease introduction.
- Disease surveillance allows for rapid detection and a means for demonstrating freedom of disease in support of interstate commerce and resumption of international trade.
- Traceability will give State and Federal agencies the information they need to contain an outbreak.

Who is involved in U.S. SHIP?

U.S. SHIP is intended for all pork producers and pig owners no matter their size—from large production and packing facilities to small farms and show pig owners. No matter your role in the industry, U.S. SHIP is designed for you:

- Producers
- Packers
- Veterinarians
- Diagnostic labs
- State and Federal officials



Program Benefits

Helps protect your business and livelihood

- Prepare pork producers and the entire supply chain for high-consequence diseases, minimizing the production, transportation, and financial impact.
- Participants representing the diversity of the US swine industry vote on the standards allowing U.S. SHIP to help protect independent and integrated producers regardless of size and type.

Gives you an active role in protecting the long-term viability of the U.S. pork industry

- US SHIP establishes a robust, consistent set of health standards to provide a platform for controlling FADs like ASF/CSF.
- Broad engagement in US SHIP provides a pathway to help producers get prepared for a National Traceability System.
- Enrollment makes you eligible to participate in the House of Delegates and vote to define national technical standards.

Helps prepare your operation for FADs like ASF/CSF

- Implementing the standards on your farm is a vital step in FAD preparedness.
- U.S. SHIP establishes consistent standards for biosecurity, traceability, sampling, and testing proven to mitigate impacts from disease.

Where Are They Now?

Catching up with former SDPPC Ambassadors, interns, and scholarship winners

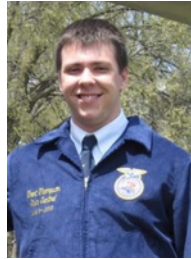
Trent Thompson, 2010 Pork Ambassador

Trent graduated from SDSU with an Agricultural Science degree. He works for Smithfield Foods as an area hog buyer based out of Sioux Falls. He also owns and operates Thompson Family Genetics, which is a purebred show pig operation. In addition, he serves on the SDPPC Board, SD FFA Board, SD 4-H Swine Committee, and assists in helping local 4-H/FFA groups understand the pork industry.

The swine industry runs in the Thompson blood. He is the 4th generation to be involved in the swine industry. According to Trent, "Receiving the scholarship support helped encourage my ambitions of being involved in the industry."

His favorite memory from his time as an ambassador was meeting and learning about the many different types of operations in our state. "From a small show pig operation to a large farrowing or finishing operation, there is a spot for us all. We might have different day to day focus. Yet, we all advocate and embrace the industry and look forward to the possibilities of the future."

Then



Now



Please Save the Dates



PorkChopOpen

Friday, August 7
Central Valley Golf Club
Hartford SD

SDPPC When Pigs Fly

Monday September 14

Hunter's Pointe in Humboldt SD
For information, please contact Tina Erickson at terickson@sdppc.org for sponsorship or team entry



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Scan to learn more about cash-back dividends.

Cash-back dividends are based on eligible loan volume and Association financial results. Prior distributions should not be interpreted as guarantees of future performance. Terms apply. See website for details.

World Pork Expo Registration is Now Open

Registration is now open for the 2026 World Pork Expo, taking place June 3-4 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines, Iowa. Presented by the National Pork Producers Council, the Expo draws producers and industry professionals from across the country and around the world for one of the year's most anticipated pork industry events.

For two days, Expo grounds become a hub for innovative ideas, valuable conversation and hands-on industry discovery. From cutting-edge technology and educational sessions to time-honored traditions and live entertainment, attendees experience both the business of pork production and the strong community behind it.

"World Pork Expo is where our industry comes together to reconnect, share ideas, and look ahead," said Iowa pork producer and NPPC President Rob Brenneman. "It's an opportunity to step away from the day-to-day, see new



BROUGHT TO YOU BY:
National Pork Producers Council

innovations, have meaningful conversations and be reminded of the strength of the pork industry. Events like this remind us what's possible when pork professionals come together."

Building on attendee feedback and the momentum of recent years, the 2026 Expo will continue to deliver a two-day experience packed with valuable opportunities for pork producers and industry professionals.

- *The World's Largest Pork-Specific Trade Show* – More than 700 booths featuring the latest equipment, technology, services, and solutions across 300,000 square feet of exhibit space.
- *Young Pork Advocates Issues Meet* – A one-of-a-kind event where emerging and future industry leaders

share their perspectives on key pork production topics.

- *Industry Education* - Learning experiences and discussions designed to bring a practical perspective on the issues and innovations impacting pork production today.

- *Networking & Hospitality* – From conversations on the trade show floor to hospitality events, live entertainment, and complimentary pork lunches at The Big Grill, World Pork Expo offers plenty of ways to connect and enjoy the experience.

Online registration is now open at WorldPork.org, with early-bird pricing available through May 28.

- Adults 12 and older: **\$10**
- Children 6-11: **\$1**
- Children under 5: **Free**
- On-site registration: **\$20 for ages 12 and up, \$3 for ages 6 – 11** (kids 5 & under free).



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Pork's Place On the Plate

As conversations around nutrition continue to evolve, pork producers have a strong and credible story to share.

Pork is Backed by Science - Decades of research, including ongoing investments by NPB, support pork's role in a nutritious diet and provide credible proof points when talking about nutrition and human health.

Pork Provides High-Quality Nutrition - A 3-ounce serving of fresh pork delivers more than 20 grams of complete protein, along with essential nutrients that support overall health.

Pork Is Versatile - With a wide range of cuts, preparation methods and flavor profiles, pork fits into a variety of meals, cuisines and eating occasions that appeal to today's consumers.

Pork Is Part of the National Conversation - From the Dietary Guidelines to major media coverage, pork continues to gain recognition as a nutritious protein option.

Pork Supports Balanced Diets - Pork is often paired with fruits, vegetables and other nutrient-dense foods, helping contribute to overall diet quality and reinforcing its role as part of a well-rounded plate.

Find out more at porkcheckoff.org

Congratulations, Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to SDSU's Kory Storm for being awarded one of four \$5,000 USPCE Swine Legacy Scholarships, and to Abigail Morse for being awarded a \$2,500 Lois Britt Memorial Pork Industry Scholarship.

Administered by National Pork Industry Foundation, the USPCE Swine Legacy Scholarship was established in 2026 following the decision to sunset the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence after 20 years of service as a public-private partnership supporting the pork industry. Through a competitive proposal process, the organization's remaining financial assets were granted to NPIF to create an endowed scholarship program.

The scholarship supports students pursuing careers in research, education, or veterinary science with a focus on the swine industry, awarding one graduate or professional track student and three undergraduate students each year. Designed to continue for the next 40 years, the program carries forward the Center's legacy by investing in the next generation of industry leaders.

The Lois Britt scholarship honors the life of NPPC Board of Director Lois Britt. Sponsored by CME Group and the National Pork Industry Foundation (NPIF) and administered by the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), this scholarship supports undergraduate students who intend to pursue a career in the pork industry and who exhibit characteristics representative of future pork industry leaders.



Kory Storm
South Dakota State University



Abigail Morse
South Dakota State University

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Tanya Torguson to Represent SDPPC at Pork Leadership Institute

Congratulations Tanya Torguson on being selected to represent South Dakota as part of the Pork Leadership Institute (PLI) Class of 2026!

The PLI is a joint training program of the National Pork Producers Council and the National Pork Board designed to develop future leaders. PLI is a comprehensive training program which equips graduates to confidently and accurately spread the pork industry's story—from Main Street to the nation's capital

Tanya grew up on a diversified grain and beef cow-calf operation near Pierpont, SD. She graduated from SDSU with a BS degree in Agronomy and a Minor in Animal Science. She returned to the family farm following college.

In 2013 she left the family farming operation to become a crop adjuster, where today she is a Senior Crop Claims Specialist with RCIS Crop Insurance. Tanya is a graduate of the South Dakota Ag and Rural Leadership Program, a member of Class XI.

In 2015 she and Jeff Wolff began Wolff Family Genetics, a 40-sow showpig and breeding stock operation near Bath, SD. They hold a showpig sale each spring at their farm, where they market purebred and crossbred showpigs to 4-H and FFA youth from numerous states. Direct to consumer marketing of hogs for processing at a local processor has become part of the operation as well.

Tanya and Jeff became active in the SDPPC shortly after starting their operation. She serves on the Annual Meeting and Trade Show Committee, Producer Education and Outreach Committee, along with the Demand Enhancement Committee. You can find Tanya at various promotional events throughout the year, as well as doing

pork cooking demonstrations at the Brown County Fair.

She helps at the State Fair Food Booth, and serves as the voice of SDPPC during the annual Pork Congress trade show by announcing the daily scheduled events during the trade show.

She attends various youth swine shows where she is an advocate for the Pork Industry. She understands the need to educate consumers about pork and pork production and plans to look to a leadership role in SDPPC to keep pork production a strong part of agriculture in South Dakota. Being selected to the Pork Leadership Institute is an honor and she hopes to bring new ideas back to SDPPC to help strengthen pork production in the state.



Ag Day at the Washington Pavillion on March 7 was a success! This free, hands-on event invites children and families to explore the importance of agriculture in South Dakota and beyond. Ag Day blends learning and fun through interactive exhibits and activities. Thanks to Pipestone for partnering with SDPPC to bring the pork industry to the community.

SOUTH DAKOTA SWINE SUMMIT

JUNE 6, 2026 — 8:30 am - 5:00 pm

BROOKINGS SD

Youth ages 12-21 who are interested in learning

more about the swine industry are invited to spend the day with industry professionals and producers to learn more about swine care and management. Participants will tour the SDSU Swine Education and Research Facility and attend educational sessions about biosecurity, nutrition, animal evaluation, showmanship and daily care, and carcass evaluation and anatomy

The event is free to attend, but registration is required by June 1.

Please go online to extension.sdstate.edu/event/south-Dakota-swine-summit

For more information, please contact Rafe Royall at 605-688-5165 or rafe.royall@sdstate.edu

SDSU Swine Team

Highlights from the 2026 ASAS Midwest Section Meeting

The South Dakota State University Swine Research and Extension Team recently traveled to Omaha, Nebraska, to present on research findings. Seven graduate students and four undergraduate students presented a total of 15 abstracts (11 oral presentations and 4 posters).

Our SDSU students also had success in competitions! Bree Koepke received 3rd place in the Undergraduate Poster Competition. There were a total of 16 undergraduate researchers from around the country in this competition.



Additionally, our Academic Quadrathlon team, consisting of Cody Williams, Makayla Fuoss, Haley Mouser, and Elle Ploeger, were extremely competitive taking home 3rd place in the quizbowl division, 3rd in the lab practicum, 1st in the written exam, and 3rd place overall!

For more information on any of the research topics presented by our team, please email Dr. Rafe Royall (rafe.royall@sdstate.edu).



| Presenting Student: | Presentation name |
|---------------------|---|
| Katlyn McClellan | Feeding the Prolific Sow for Success, Part I: Late-gestation Phase Feeding Improves Maternal and Progeny Micronutrient Status and Piglet Viability in Prolific Sows |
| Katlyn McClellan | Feeding the Prolific Sow for Success, Part II: Late-gestation Phase Feeding Across Multiple Cycles Enhances Prolificacy |
| Katlyn McClellan | Parenteral Iron Supplementation in Prolific Sows Post-weaning: A Dose-response Study |
| Jessica Lira-Silva | Strategic Use of Dietary Copper During the Growing-finishing Phase and its Effects on Pig Growth Performance |
| Foreman Ato | Characterizing Whole Body Protein Deposition and Blood Amino Acid Profiles of Gestating Sows in the First 3 Weeks After Breeding with or without Recovery from Previous Lactation |
| Joseph Halbur | Optimizing Soybean Meal Utilization: Pig Performance Unchanged at Lower Lysine:NE Ratios |
| Angel Martinez | Effects of High Soybean Meal Inclusion on the Gut Microbiome of Finishing Pigs |
| Courtney Pohlen | Growth Performance Effects of Dietary Intact Protein or Synthetic Amino Acids on Early Grower Pigs |
| Courtney Pohlen | Effects of Low and High Soybean Meal Inclusion on Growth Performance and Carcass Characteristics of Grow-Finish Pigs |
| Courtney Pohlen | Effects of Dietary Tribasic Copper Chloride Level and Duration in Growing-Finishing Pigs |
| Kynna Crawford | Using a Screening Tool is Effective in Choosing Costly Nursery Ingredients Effect of Corn Dried Distillers Grains with Solubles Contaminated with Varying Levels of |
| Bree Koepke | Deoxynivalenol on Growth Performance and Health of Broilers Effects of Water-based Yeast Bioactive Supplementation on Wean Pig Growth Performance and |
| Brooklyn Goelz | Health During the Nursery Effects of Water-based Yeast Bioactive Supplementation on Wean Pig Growth Performance and |
| Haylie Trowbridge | Fecal Consistency of Weaned Pigs |

Upcoming Extension Educational Events

For more information, please check out the SDSU Extension website
<https://extension.sdstate.edu/agriculture/livestock/swine>

May 6: SowBridge Webinar: When to process piglets in relation to survival

Join swine industry experts from around the nation on May 6 for a webinar about the effects of processing timing on piglet survival. The webinar begins at 11:15 a.m. CDT.

May 27: SowBridge Webinar: Gilt feeding strategies to enhance longevity and productivity

Join swine industry experts from around the nation on May 27 for a webinar about how various feeding strategies during the gilt development period effect lifetime productivity. The webinar begins at 11:15 a.m. CDT.

July 1: SowBridge Webinar: Water quality, biofilms, and water line management

Join swine industry experts from around the nation on July 1 for a webinar about strategies for water line management to improve water quality. The webinar begins at 11:15 a.m. CDT.



Follow us on Facebook at South Dakota
Pork Producers Council!

The advertisement for Stockyards Ag Experience. It features a photograph of people in a barn setting, with a sign that reads "FEEDER PIG MARKET". Overlaid on the right side of the image is the text "YOUR history OUR mission" in large, bold, red letters, with "history" and "mission" in a white script font. Below this, the text "TELLING THE AG STORY IN THE HEART OF SIOUX FALLS." is written in white. At the bottom, there is a logo for "STOCKYARDS AG EXPERIENCE" with a silhouette of a cow and a pig. Below the logo, the text "HOURS AND GROUP TOUR INFO AT STOCKYARDSAGEXPERIENCE.ORG" is written in white.

YOUR
history
OUR
mission

TELLING THE AG STORY IN THE
HEART OF SIOUX FALLS.

STOCKYARDS
AG EXPERIENCE

HOURS AND GROUP TOUR INFO AT
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How are Pork Checkoff funds used?

Learn more at porkcheckoff.org

The 15-member National Pork Board oversees how pork checkoff funds are used. The current assessment is \$0.35 per \$100 of value when pigs are sold and when pigs or pork products are brought into the US.

Funds may be used for promotion, research and education; no funds may be used for lobbying or to influence government policy.

Promotion: Pork Checkoff-funded promotions are used to increase domestic pork sales through consumer, retail and food service outreach.

Foreign promotions for U.S. pork funded by the Pork Checkoff have helped to move the U.S. from a net importer to a net exporter of pork.



Research: Pork Checkoff-funded research is used in all areas of pork production, processing, and human nutrition to develop a higher quality and more profitable product in the competitive meat protein market.

Research funds are invested in animal welfare, environmental, and production studies that help producers meet the challenges of responsible pork production. Pork Checkoff funds are also used to find new pork products for our growing consumer base.

Producer Education: Access to the latest technologies and information is often key to a producer's ability to be competitive. Pork Checkoff-funded seminars, workshops, videos, digital tools and other instructional materials are available to all producers. Topics range from employee management to producer issues to genetics.


Consumer Education: Food editors, chefs, journalists and other food trend influencers in the U.S. receive pork industry information on a regular basis. Pork Checkoff funds are also used to create information about how pork fits into a healthy diet available to health professionals, registered dietitians, teachers and others.

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SDPPC Board Spotlight: Dan Howell, SDPPC Second Vice President

My name is Dan Howell and I am a third-generation hog farmer in Volga, South Dakota. On our farm, we manage approximately 1,200 acres, raising corn and soybeans, and I custom feed 2,400 hogs. My wife, Ann, and I have four children: Connor (12), Carson (10), Kate (8), and Caleb (6). In my free time, I enjoy golfing, and I am actively involved with the Volga Fire Department. I currently serve as an EMT and have been a volunteer since 2011.



I am in my seventh year with the SDPPC. I owe my involvement with the Council to Ashley Gelderman, who was working with Standard Nutrition and serving on the SDPPC board as an allied industry member. Ashley reached out to me, asking if I would be interested in joining, and thanks to her encouragement, I became a member of the SDPPC.

One of my favorite aspects of being on the Council is cooking pork, as well as my experience with the Pork Leader Institute (PLI) in 2025. The SDPPC is very active in promoting pork throughout the state, and our biggest event each year is the State Fair, where we typically cook more than 4,000 pounds of pork loin. Also, last year, my family and I traveled to Rapid City to cook pork at a local grocery store. I enjoy educating people about proper pork cooking techniques, specifically encouraging them to cook pork to 145 degrees and move away from traditional methods based solely on cooking time.

In 2025, I was selected to represent South Dakota as part of the Pork Leader Institute (PLI) program. PLI is a six-trip program sponsored by the National Pork Council and National Pork Board. I traveled to Washington D.C. twice, Des Moines twice, Chicago, and Mexico City. The trip to Mexico City was the highlight of my PLI experience. In the United States, we produce more pork than we consume domestically, so approximately 25% of US pork is exported to other countries. Mexico is the largest importer of US pork. In December 2025, we traveled to Mexico City to learn more about our USMEF partners. There is a “wet market” in Mexico City where pork is sold to locals, and the bustling atmosphere is reminiscent of Black Friday, with all pork sold the same day it is displayed. One store we visited sells 80,000 pounds of pork every day, which amounts to two full box semi-trucks. Most stores open at 4 AM and close by lunchtime. The experience was eye-opening, as much of the pork there comes from the United States. Mexico also stands out for its restaurant pork preparations. We also visited a Costco store in Mexico City, which, due to an agreement with USMEF, exclusively sells US pork, easily identified by the US Pork sticker.

In 2023, I built a new, 2,400-head cross-ventilated hog barn. The decision to expand was made easier after losing the roof of a hog barn in the May 2022 derecho. The SDPPC hosted an open house at our hog barn in 2023, which drew nearly 400 attendees and resulted in us running out of pork. I am proud to be the third generation of the Howell family to build a hog barn on our farm, and the first to have an open house for a hog barn.

Thanks to SDPPC’s Alliance Members!



Taste What Pork Can Do

Ham and Pepperoni Roll-Ups

Ingredients

2 slices deluxe deli ham
4 slices pepperoni
¼ cup roasted red bell pepper, sliced
2 slices provolone cheese
½ cup spinach
Toothpicks

Directions:

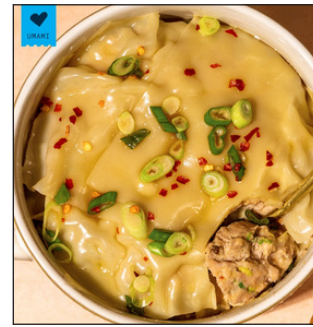
Lay two slices of ham on top of each other on a cutting board. In the center, lay out 4 slices of pepperoni. Top with ¼ cup sliced red pepper, then two slices of provolone, then ½ cup of spinach.

Start along the longer edge of the ham and roll up the ham with all the fillings to make along a sushi-like roll. Secure with a few toothpicks to hold roll together. Cut each roll into 4-6 pieces.



Sizzle. Sear. Shred. Slice. With pork, there are endless ways to add delicious on the daily. From baked chops to air fryer tenderloin, it's the easiest way to get flavor at breakfast, lunch, or dinner. For recipes, check out

pork.org/taste-what-pork-can-do/



Dumpling Pork Lasagna

Ingredients

Dumpling Pork Lasagna

1 lb 96% ground pork (or as lean as you can find)
3 leaves napa cabbage (finely shredded)
½ cup shiitake mushrooms (minced)
½ cup scallions (slivered)
2 tsp garlic (minced)
2 tsp ginger (minced)
1 tbsp soy sauce, low sodium
1 tsp sesame oil
1 ½ tsp salt
1 tsp crushed red pepper (optional)
32 dumpling wrappers
¼ cup vegetable oil
2 cups water

Dipping Sauce

¼ cup soy sauce, low sodium
¼ cup rice vinegar
1 tsp honey
1 tbsp scallions (slivered)

Directions:

In a bowl, combine pork, cabbage, shiitake mushrooms, scallions, garlic, ginger, soy sauce, sesame oil, salt and crushed red pepper. Mix well.

In a heat-safe bowl, spread some of the mixture ensuring an even covering. Moisten a dumpling wrapper with water and top. Repeat the process to create as many layers as desired.

Place the bowl into a large pot with steam rack, and steam for 10-15 minutes, until ground pork reaches 160F.

Why Pork?

Did you know that eating 20-30g of protein per meal may help you feel fuller and more satisfied? Pork is packed with the essential amino acids, vitamins, and minerals that your family needs. For example, every 3 oz. serving of pork tenderloin provides 22g of protein.



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