

UPDATE ON THE 2023 PORK ACT DELEGATE

RESOLUTIONS & ADVISEMENTS



2023 A1: MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT – PASSED

MOTION: The National Pork Board should encourage pork producers to enroll in U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan (US SHIP) to utilize the AgView and Secure Pork Supply to comply with U.S. SHIP biosecurity and traceability standards.

Rationale:

The need for on farm preparedness for African Swine Fever (ASF) and Classical Swine Fever (CSF) is critical to the Iowa and U.S. pork industry. US SHIP has been developed to assist pork producers in an on-farm disease prevention and provides monitored certification of ASF/CSF free status for U.S. pork production sites and slaughter facilities. US SHIP certified ASF/CSF free status will support continuing U.S. pig production and domestic/international marketing of pork during an ASF/CSF outbreak and recovery period. It is important the US SHIP be guided by pork producers, veterinarians and industry representatives.

UPDATE:

In 2023, the National Pork Board continued support for the US SHIP Pilot financially and in-kind through staff time promoting US SHIP, AgView and Secure Pork Supply. Since 2021, the Pork Checkoff has invested more than \$1.5 million to support, research, education, outreach, working groups, delegate meetings, pilot projects and staffing for the US SHIP pilot. In 2023, NPB swine health, sustainability and producer relations staff gave over 50 presentations to various audiences both in-person and virtually, supporting US SHIP, AgView and Secure Pork Supply. The return on investment for these activities included 128 new producer AgView accounts and 512,000 new movements logged into AgView in 2023. In conjunction, 23 US SHIP Official State Agencies (OSAs) created an AgView OSA account and were on-boarded by staff. At the end of 2023, there were 94 producer participants, 2,779 sites enrolled in US SHIP, and 529 sites certified (completed SPS plans and proof of 30 days of movements are required for certification) by the OSA's using AgView.

2023 A2: MANAGEMENT OVERSIGHT – PASSED

MOTION: The National Pork Board is encouraged to develop and test new food frequency questionnaires and dietary evaluation tools that clearly isolate pork from red meat categories, to better understand impacts of pork on nutrition and health outcomes. The updates should be reported back to the proper task force and delegates at the 2024 Pork Forum.

Rationale: Pork consumption and human longevity providing pork to consumers is an important part of human nutrition. The University of Adelaide researchers in Australia have conducted research that shows that eating meat extends human life expectancy. The expectation is that this research will exhibit that meat consumers live longer than the group that consumes no meat.

UPDATE:

The National Pork Board has been working to address the recommendations listed in the resolution and is happy to report on our progress, as well as prioritize continued efforts in this work well into 2024 and beyond. The National Pork Board has brought on Dr. Kristen Hicks-Roof PhD, RDN to serve as the director of nutrition research to be the lead and core of embodying the role of pork in the nutrition research space. Initiatives have been started both before and after her arrival which focus on three main objectives to show significant improvement on this motion.

1. National Pork Board Funded Research

The National Pork Board has funded three key research studies that can help to support the original rationale of understanding pork consumption and human longevity.

- First, we have invested in a study “Investigating the Role of Pork Consumption on Cognition and Brain Health through Innovation in Nutritional Cognitive Neuroscience “ with Dr. Aron Barbey that found lean pork consumption is associated with a favorable Brain Age ([Barbey, 2023](#)). This study provides the foundation for the role of pork as part of the aging process as it relates to cognition. In 2023, we funded Dr. Barbey in another, more rigorous randomized controlled trial “Establishing the Cognitive and Brain Health Benefits of Lean Pork Consumption” in older adults and we expect these findings to be available in August 2025.
- Secondly, we currently have a randomized controlled study that has been ongoing since 2022 that focuses on understanding the role of lean pork within a plant-based eating pattern (vs. plant-based alone) which has outcome measures on lifespan markers in older adults. We expect these findings to be available in February 2025.
- Lastly, a study funded in 2022 found that pork consumption in Korean older adults had improvements in diet quality and markers of aging health status, including handgrip strength (Wallace, 2023). These findings have been submitted to a journal; we are awaiting publication.

As the nutrition research investment is imperative to understanding and having evidence of the role of pork in health and longevity, we are working to integrate these findings into marketing, education and initiatives across market growth and the entirety of NPB and our various stakeholder audience.

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2. Diet Collection Methodology

The National Pork Board has been active to address the motion to develop improved data collection measures that accurately measure pork in nutrition research. Three core goals have been the focus to make progress to accurately measure pork in relation to health and wellness (and longevity):

- In 2023, the National Pork Board funded an Early Career Research Grant with the American Society of Nutrition. The awardee of this grant, Dr. Lauren Butler, is creating, validating and testing a Food Frequency Questionnaire (FFQ) for the Hispanic/Latino population that accurately isolates pork (fresh, processed, cuts, quantities). This is hoping serve as a novel FFQ that can be used in this population for research to come.
- Dr. Kristen Hicks-Roof has had 107 one-on-one meetings with researchers and key opinion leaders to discuss the importance of accurately capturing pork in nutrition research and how they can better focus on collecting pork as part of dietary collections measures. This work is incredibly important to bring pork as top of mind in study design and results presentation.
- In 2024, there is a priority focus area within the research open request for proposals that addresses this motion. First, specifically articulating a priority focus area on 'non-invasive data collection approaches (i.e. food frequency questionnaires) that can better improve dietary collection measures of pork intake (e.g. pork cuts, processing, cooking methods)'. Second, taking a deeper dive into other representative dietary measurement surveys, such as National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey, or past cohort studies that did accurately tease out pork in their dietary collection measures, how we can take advantage of these studies to show how pork consumption affects diet quality and health outcomes.

3. 2024 Researcher Consortium

The director of nutrition research at the National Pork Board is working tirelessly to put together a researcher consortium to address the importance of teasing out the 'red meat story' to better explain how/why red meat isn't properly recorded via dietary collection measures and thus negatively reported in health outcomes using epidemiological research. Specifically, this consortium will help to highlight the concern of inaccurate data collection measures and suggest ways for future nutrition research and science to accurately collect data, such as correctly measuring pork consumption and ability to distinguish types of pork (e.g. fresh, processed, lean, non-lean etc.).