

NATIONAL PORK PRODUCERS (PORK ACT) DELEGATE BODY MINUTES

March 13-14, 2025 • Orlando, Florida

CALL TO ORDER

President Al Wulfekuhle called the Annual meeting at 3:45 p.m. eastern on Thursday, March 13, 2025, in Orlando, Florida. Following the National Anthem, board members, delegates, importers, staff and friends from the industry were welcomed and introduced. President Wulfekuhle also reviewed the AntiTrust Statement.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Al Wulfekuhle expressed his pleasure and honor to serve on the board of directors for the past three years and as president. He commented National Pork Board has executed the priorities and judiciously invested Checkoff dollars. The priorities for the National Pork Board include African Swine Fever, Sustainability, International Marketing, Real Pork and Human Nutrition.

REPORT OF RECORDING SECRETARY

Gordon Spronk, vice president of the National Pork Board, presented the recording secretary report. The Bylaws say a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. For this annual meeting, out of the 154 registered Delegates, 146 have been certified for this year's meeting. This constitutes a majority of delegates and thus a quorum of members is present. The Bylaws also require the quorum of members to represent a majority of the shares. For this annual meeting, a total of 83,484 shares are possible. We have 80,974.80 shares registered, from 41 states, plus importers. This is more than 50 percent, and thus a majority of shares are present.

SWEARING-IN

President Wulfekuhle introduced USDA representative Dillan Hull, Ag Marketing Specialist, to perform the swearing-in procedure on behalf of the Secretary of Agriculture. Delegates promised to carry out their duties and responsibilities as members of the Pork Act Delegate Body and represent all pork producers in an unbiased manner and in accordance with the Act and Order.

STANDING RULES, PROCEDURES, AGENDA APPROVAL

President Wulfekuhle sought the consensus of the delegates to approve the following items:

Agenda: An agenda was included in the delegate manual prior to the meeting and contained information about the business items for discussion, delegate appointments, shares, and voting numbers.

- Credentials/Elections Committee
(Jan Archer, North Carolina; Heather Hill, Indiana; Gene Noem, Iowa and Gordon Spronk, Minnesota)
- Tellers (Headed by Dinah Peebles)
- Parliamentarian (Carole Albright)
- Recorders (Denise Hinxman)
- National Pork Board Recording Secretary (Gordon Spronk)
- Assistant Recording Secretary (Alex Wibholm)

Adoption of Rules: The standing rules and annual meeting procedures were explained in the manual. The standing rules are comprehensive in that they cover all aspects of business, the elections, and the authority of the Elections/Credentials Committee. Delegates were reminded that a two-minute time limit will be imposed during debate and the rules of debate were stated.

President Wulfekuhle asked for approval of the agenda, rules and appointments. Seeing no objections, the agenda, rules, and appointments were approved by consensus of the Delegate Body.

Delegate List: The Delegates were asked to review the list of delegate names, voting numbers and share allocations and reminded that their Pork Act voting number is valid only for this meeting.

Duties of the Delegate Body: President Wulfekuhle reminded delegates of the three duties imposed on them by the Pork Act, including: to nominate candidates for the National Pork Board; to recommend the Pork Checkoff assessment rate; and, to determine the return to state share of the Pork Checkoff.

Advisements: Gordon Spronk, Vice President, noted the Pork Act Delegate Body also serves as a forum for delegates and states to share recommendations and concerns regarding the conduct and implementation of checkoff related programs. While not an official duty of the Delegate Body, the Pork Board does consider these advisory “resolutions” to be important to the long-term success of the Checkoff program and any “resolution” that is not directly related to the official duties outlined above, is called an “advisement”. He reported having two advisements this year.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

Bob Ruth, Nominating committee chair, was called upon to review the nominating process. He discussed the qualifications necessary to serve and how the committee solicits, screens, interviews, evaluates, and recommends candidates for the National Pork Board, and the seats on the Pork Board Nominating committee. He introduced the following members of the Nominating committee: Joel DeRouchey, Kansas; Steve Brier, Missouri; and Dustin Boler, Illinois.

Ruth noted the Committee recognizes diversity as an important factor and strives to make sure that various sizes of operations, marketing strategies, gender, ethnicity and other distinguishing factors are represented in our slate of candidates.

Bob opened the floor for additional nominations for either Pork Board. There were no additional nominations offered from the floor and nominations closed.

NATIONAL PORK BOARD CANDIDATES

Bob Ruth introduced the candidates for Pork Board in alphabetical order: Paul Ayers, Illinois; Jeremy Burkett, Wyoming; Chad Groves, Kansas; Dwight Mogler, Iowa; Chris Mulder, Pennsylvania; John Rauser, Montana; Martin Sauer, Importer; Brandon Schafer, Minnesota; Jess Stevens, Ohio; Daniel Tubbs, Alabama. Bob Ruth thanked the state associations for supporting and encouraging these producer leaders during their run for the Board.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CANDIDATES

President Wulfekuhle introduced two candidates for the Nominating committee. The candidates include Nathan Schroeder, Ohio, and Paul Knittle, Washington. Wulfekuhle opened the floor for nominations and reminded the delegates the candidates will serve a one-year term. President Wulfekuhle thanked the Board and Nominating candidates for coming forward to serve our industry.

Al opened the floor for additional nominations for the Nominating committee. A delegate from Iowa nominated Dale Stevermer, Minnesota, as a candidate for the Nominating committee. With no further nominations, Al declared nominations closed. He reported the ballots for the Nominating committee will close at 7 p.m. tonight.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Alayne Johnson, treasurer, provided the Checkoff financial update. Johnson reported that the Board adopted a 2025 budget with a conservative estimate of \$83 million for Checkoff revenue and \$1 million in additional short-term investment revenue.

In the event Checkoff revenue is higher than budgeted, we will work to responsibly deploy those additional dollars against projects to add value to the industry.

The Board has set two reserve minimums: 1) an emergency reserve floor to support and respond to a crisis and 2) an opportunity reserve floor that can be used if there is a chance to support a project not previously budgeted for the benefit of the pork industry. The total of both reserves is five months of operating expenses, which equals \$24.3M. In December 2024, the working capital balance was \$8.6 million based on the organization's current, short-term assets and liabilities. President Wulfekuhle reported as a legal part of the Act & Order, the Delegates recommend the Checkoff Assessment rate and the return-to-state percentage.

No one came forward with any recommendations.

RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS REPORT

Gordon Spronk, Resolutions and AdviseMENTS Committee Chair, introduced members of the Committee who were present, including: Jan Archer, North Carolina; Heather Hill, Indiana and Gene Noem, Iowa.

Gordon thanked each member for their service to the committee. The purpose of the committee is to review, evaluate, and make recommendations to the Pork Act delegate body regarding resolutions and adviseMENTS submitted by state pork associations and others related to the Pork Checkoff. Since none of the issues that came forward addressed the three areas of responsibility for delegates, all are considered adviseMENTS.

The following resolutions were introduced:

- **A1 - 2025: - Swine Health**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with Iowa Pork Producers Association and colleges of veterinarian medicine will work to develop actionable plans and strategies for when a PRRS outbreak takes place and to develop an evidence-based protocol for producers to use on the farm.

- **A2: 2025: - Swine Health**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with National Pork Producers Council will continue to promote and engage pork producers in the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan.

FLOOR ADVISEMENT

President Wulfekuhle called for any floor resolutions or adviseMENTS. Delegates from Minnesota Pork Board, Illinois Pork Producers Ohio Pork Council and Missouri Pork Association came forward with an adviseMENT from the floor.

- **A3: 2025: - Swine Health**

Submitted by: Minnesota Pork Board, Illinois Pork Producers, Ohio Pork Council and Missouri Pork Association

MOTION: Moves for the completion of a producer-led National Swine Health Strategy by the National Pork Board.

Delegates explained the strategy should complement existing efforts to ensure alignment and collaboration across relevant stakeholder groups, including the National Pork Producers Council, the state pork associations, among others, to ensure we are leveraging existing knowledge and resources to foster innovative thinking and identification of priorities to support the well-being and longevity of the U.S. swine industry. This effort is not to establish a new entity, organization, et cetera, but rather to establish industry priorities that will lead to real, on-farm improvements in swine health. An update regarding the progress in developing the National Swine Health Strategy is to be provided by the National Pork Board to delegates at the 2026 Pork Forum.

President Wulfekuhle explained new adviseMENTS or resolutions from the floor require a 2/3 vote to be introduced and a 3/4 vote to pass. This adviseMENT will be added to tomorrow's agenda.

He reminded the delegates that an update on the 2024 adviseMENTS is available in the adviseMENT manual for review.

CEO REPORT

Bill Even, CEO, provided a CEO report sharing stories from his family history and strong agricultural roots. He reminded the delegates of the importance and strong ties in family, faith and farming. Bill discussed examples of things changing in our world we should pay attention to including global changes, pork production changes and what Checkoff is doing about it. He also discussed the need for unity in the pork industry to succeed going forward. He reported through good times and bad, it's important we stay the course and remain unified in our vision of building trust and adding value to our products.

ADJOURNMENT

President Wulfekuhle adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m. eastern on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

RECONVENE

President Wulfekuhle called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. eastern on Friday, March 14, 2025.

RESOLUTIONS/ ADVISEMENTS DEBATE

President Wulfekuhle asked any sponsors whether they wanted to withdraw and/or join a resolution or advisement at this time. No one responded.

Gordon Spronk introduced the following advisements/resolutions. The following resolutions were introduced:

- **A1 - 2025: - Swine Health- APPROVED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with Iowa Pork Producers Association and colleges of veterinarian medicine will work to develop actionable plans and strategies for when a PRRS outbreak takes place and to develop an evidence-based protocol for producers to use on the farm.

- **A2: 2025: - Swine Health - APPROVED**

Submitted by: Iowa Pork Producers Association

MOTION: The National Pork Board in collaboration with National Pork Producers Council will continue to promote and engage pork producers in the U.S. Swine Health Improvement Plan.

- **A3:2025 – Swine Health**

Submitted by Minnesota Pork Board, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Ohio Pork Council, Indiana Pork, and Missouri Pork Association

MOTION: A motion for the completion of a producer led National Swine Health Strategy by the National Pork Board. The strategy should complement existing efforts to ensure alignment and collaboration across relevant stakeholder groups, including the National Pork Producers Council and state pork associations, among others, to ensure we are leveraging existing knowledge and resources to foster innovative thinking and identification of priorities to support the well-being and longevity of the U.S. swine industry. This effort is not to establish a new entity, organization, etc., but rather to establish industry priorities that will lead to real, on-farm improvements in swine health. An update regarding the progress in developing the National Swine Health Strategy is to be provided by the National Pork Board to delegates at the 2026 Pork Forum.

AMENDMENT: A motion was made by a Delegate from Ohio Pork and seconded by a Delegate from Iowa to amend the language to the following: A motion for the development of a producer led National Swine Health Strategy by the National Pork Board. An update regarding the progress in developing the National Swine Health Strategy is to be provided by the National Pork Board to Delegates at the 2026 Pork Forum. **Motion Carried**

- **A3:2025 – Swine Health - APPROVED**

Submitted by Minnesota Pork Board, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Ohio Pork Council, Indiana Pork, and Missouri Pork Association

MOTION: The Minnesota Pork Board, Illinois Pork Producers Association, Ohio Pork Council, Indiana Pork, and Missouri Pork Association moves for the development of a producer led National Swine Health Strategy by the National Pork Board.

PORK BOARD BALLOT

Our Bylaws and the Pork Act require that nominations to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture be made by a majority vote of shares cast by members present and voting. Results of the ballot, with 79,783.8 shares voted and 39899.88 shares required for a majority.

	Shares
Chad Groves, Kansas	68627.81
Dr. Jeremy Burkett, Wyoming	57321.06
Jess Stevens, Ohio	56710.89
Dr. Paul Ayers	49340.39
Dwight Mogler, Iowa	48153.90
Chris Mulder, Pennsylvania	47085.26
Brandon Schaefer, Minnesota	42,919.41

PORK BOARD 2nd BALLOT

A second ballot was held to rank the remaining candidates. Total of delegate shares present and voted 72,054.1 with 36,027.05 shares necessary for a majority. Results of the second Pork Board ballot:

	Shares
John Rauser, Montana	51,200.93
Daniel Tubbs, Alabama	49,493.80
Martin Sauer, Importer	43,413.47

President Wulfekuhle called for a voice vote. **Motion Carried**

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

Elections were held for Pork Board Nominating committee. Candidates include: Dale Stevermer, Minnesota; Nathan Schroeder, Ohio and Paul Knittle, Washington. The Nominating committee results were National Schroeder, Ohio and Paul Knittle, Washington. They will serve a one-year term on the committee. President Wulfekuhle called for a voice vote. **Motion Carried**

BOARD MEMBERS RECOGNITION

Tribute was paid to Bob Ruth, Pennsylvania, who is retiring from the Board, along with outgoing Board Members. Those Board Members include Bill Luckey, Nebraska; Dr. Jeremy Burkett; Chad Groves, Kansas; Alayne Johnson, Indiana; Jess Stevens, Ohio. Al explained Bob is rolling off the Board as ex-officio as immediate past president, Alayne Johnson for her first term, Bill Luckey for his second term and Jess, Chad and Jeremy are running for their second term.

COURTESY RESOLUTIONS

Trish Cook, delegate from Iowa paid tribute with a courtesy resolution to Al Wulfekuhle, thanking him for his work in the industry as President and Board Member of the National Pork Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned Friday, March 14, 2025, at 11:20 a.m. central by a producer from Ohio. A motion was seconded by a producer from Michigan. **Motion Carried**