

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 01/14/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 Northwest, State Capitol

Committee Member

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Tom Hebl

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Present

Absent

Excused

Totals:

14

0

0

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk



David Ward

Wisconsin State Representative

January 15, 1998

*File
Area*

Speaker Scott Jensen
211 West, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53538

Dear Speaker Jensen:

I am writing to give my resignation from the Assembly
Committee on Agriculture.

Although my commitment to Wisconsin agriculture is
undiminished, my priority right now is focused on other
issues that prevent me from doing my position on the
committee justice.

I am confident that you will be able to find a suitable
replacement for me that will maintain the same
commitment to Wisconsin agriculture.

Sincerely,

David Ward
State Representative
37th Assembly District

cc: Representative Al Ott

Office: P.O. Box 8953, State Capitol
Madison, Wisconsin 53708-8953
(608) 266-3790

Fax: (608) 282-3637
email: Rep.Ward.@legis.state.wi.us

Home: N3401 Hwy. G
Fort Atkinson, Wisconsin 53538
(920) 563-2769



SCOTT R. JENSEN
ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

January 26, 1998

Representative Joan Spillner
21 North
Madison, WI 53072

Dear Joan:

As Assembly Speaker, it is my pleasure to appoint you as a member of the Agriculture Committee. You will be filling the position recently vacated by Representative Ward. This appointment is effective immediately.

Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Jensen
Speaker

SRJ/bjh

cc: Assembly Records
Rep. Al Ott

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 03/21/2000 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 NW

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 13 0 1

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 03/01/2000 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 14 0 0

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 02/07/2000 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>12</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 02/07/2000 Meeting Type: Jt. Committee with Senate
Location: 417 North, State Capitol Agriculture, Environmental Resources
and Campaign Finance Reform

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 13 0 1

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 11/18/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol, Madison, WI

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 12 0 2

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 11/18/99 Meeting Type: Jt. Committee with Senate

Location: 417 North State Capitol Agriculture, Environmental Resources and Campaign Finance Reform

Committee Member

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Present

Absent

Excused

Totals:

12

0

2

Linda Narveson

Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 10/21/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing

Location: 417 North, State Capitol, Madison, WI

Committee Member

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Present

Absent

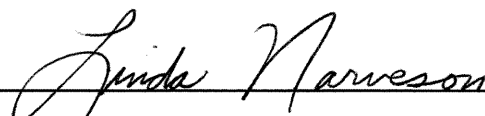
Excused

Totals:

14

0

0



Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 09/30/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing

Location: Wingra Room - Exhibition Hall - World Dairy Expo - Madison, WI

Committee Member

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Present

Absent

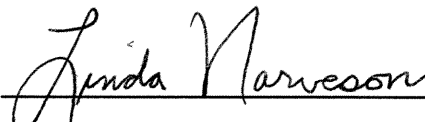
Excused

Totals:

13

0

1



Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 09/09/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing

Location: Wis. Milk Marketing Board - Madison, WI

Committee Member

Present

Absent

Excused

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Totals:

13

0

1

Linda Narveson

Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 08/26/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: Plymouth, Wisconsin

Committee Member

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Present

Absent

Excused

Totals:

9

0

5

Linda Narveson

Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 07/19/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing

Location: Green Bay, Wisconsin

Committee Member

Present

Absent

Excused

Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair

Rep. Jerry Petrowski

Rep. Eugene Hahn

Rep. Steve Kestell

Rep. Joan Spillner

Rep. Scott Suder

Rep. John Ainsworth

Rep. Tom Sykora

Rep. Barbara Gronemus

Rep. Julie Lassa

Rep. Joe Plouff

Rep. Marty Reynolds

Rep. John Steinbrink

Rep. Sarah Waukau

Totals:

10

0

4

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 05/06/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 13 0 1

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Monday, April 26, 1999

Received 05/04/99

Rep. Sarah Waukau
210 North, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53703

Rep. Waukau,

As Assembly Speaker, I am appointing you to the following Assembly Committees:

Assembly Health Committee

Assembly Tourism Committee (replacing Rep. Barbara Gronemus)

* Assembly Agriculture Committee (replacing Rep. Tom Hebl)

These appointments are effective immediately. If you have any questions, please contact Brett in my office. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott R. Jensen
Assembly Speaker

Cc: Assembly Records
Charlie Sanders
Rep. Krug

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 03/11/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing

Location: 417 North, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 13 0 1

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 01/20/98 Meeting Type: Agriculture Comm. Hearing
Public Hearing
Location: Green Bay, Wisconsin

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>9</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>

Linda Narveson

Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 01/14/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 Northwest, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Hebl	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>14</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 03/21/2000 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 328 NW

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Totals:	<u>13</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>


Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 11/18/99 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol, Madison, WI

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 12 0 2

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Committee Meeting Attendance Sheet

Assembly Committee on Agriculture

Date: 03/01/2000 Meeting Type: Public Hearing
Location: 417 North, State Capitol

<u>Committee Member</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Excused</u>
Rep. Alvin Ott, Chair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Jerry Petrowski	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Eugene Hahn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Steve Kestell	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joan Spillner	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Scott Suder	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Ainsworth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Tom Sykora	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Barbara Gronemus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Julie Lassa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Joe Plouff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marty Reynolds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John Steinbrink	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Sarah Waukau	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Totals: 14 0 0

Linda Narveson
Linda Narveson, Committee Clerk

Chairman:
Agriculture Committee

Member:
Consumer Affairs
Government Operations
Natural Resources



Al Ott

State Representative • 3rd Assembly District

February 5, 1999

Mr. Greg Beck, President & CEO
Equity Cooperative Livestock Sales Association
E10890 Penny Lane
Baraboo, WI 53913

Dear Greg,

Thank you for participating in the Hog Industry hearing on December 17, 1999. I must apologize for the delay in expressing my gratitude for your help in the event. As you know we have all been busy trying to help out in this time of crisis.

A lot has been done in less than two months. The Hog Industry hearing in December allowed us an opportunity to develop a plan of action to meet the crisis head on. Farmers, educators, legislators, agriculture industry professionals, and agency personnel all mobilized to help. In the Legislature, the Agriculture Committee held a hearing and toured meat processors in Green Bay in January. We adjusted the CROP program in WHEDA to provide loans to accommodate the struggling hog farmer. A joint resolution was drafted to send to Wisconsin's congressional delegates urging them to review issues affecting the hog market. We can all be proud of these accomplishments, but we are not done yet!

Once again, thank you for attending the Hog Industry hearing and for all the assistance you have provided in the last few months. We have made a difference through dedication and hard work. Please contact me if you have any additional concerns, questions, or comments.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

February 5, 1999

Mr. Roger Van Hemelryk
Maplewood Meats
4663 Milltown Road
Green Bay, WI 54313

Dear Roger and family,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to allow Agriculture Committee members and invited guests to view your facility. The tour was extremely valuable in educating the Agriculture Committee members on how a processing plant works. Numerous members commented afterwards about the efficiency and dedication of the employees of the company.

I hope you found the afternoon hearing and our visit as interesting, educational and eye opening as we did. Thank you once again for all your help. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 1-888-534-0003.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

February 5, 1999

Dr. Dennis Buege
Extension Meat Specialist
University of Wisconsin
1805 Linden Drive
Madison, WI 53706

Dear Dennis,

Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to drive up to Green Bay to attend the January 20th hearing. Your testimony was extremely valuable in educating the Agriculture Committee members. Numerous members commented afterward about the level of expertise and compassion displayed by those who testified. We could not have pulled off the hearing with out you.

I hope you found the hearing and tour interesting, educational and eye opening. Thank you once again for all your help. If you have any further questions or comments, please feel free to contact me at 1-888-534-0003.

Sincerely,

Al Ott
State Representative
3rd Assembly District

**Participants – Green Bay Tour and Agriculture Committee Hearing –
January 20, 1999**

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**Participants – Green Bay Tour and Agriculture Committee Hearing – January 20,
1999**

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John Haen

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PARTICIPANTS – HOG INDUSTRY HEARING - DECEMBER 17, 1998

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Participants – Hog Industry Hearing – December 17, 1998
Page 2

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E10890 Penny Lane
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State of Wisconsin
Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection



Office of the Secretary

2811 Agriculture Drive

PO Box 8911

Madison WI 53708-8911

Phone: (608)224-5012

FAX: (608)224-5045

FAX

Date: 01/07/99

To:

Rep. Al Ott

From:

Stan Shaw

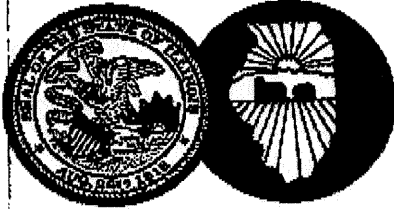
Phone: (608) 224-5016

FAX: (608) 224-5045

Number of Pages to Follow: 4

Message: Attached is a short faxed version from Illinois Farm Development Authority
 more detail information is been mailed to me today.
 I spoke with David Wirth Illinois Farm Authority (217) 782-5792.

The information contained in this facsimile message is privileged and confidential, and is intended for the use of the individual or entity named above. If you receive this communication in error, or if any of the pages need to be resent, please call the sender at the above number. Thank you



Illinois Farm Development Authority

427 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701

Phone 217.782.5792 Fax 217.782.3989

Email dwirth@pop.state.il.us

Fax

To: Stan Shaw

From: David L. Wirth

Fax: 608.224.5045

Pages: 4

Phone:

Date: 01/06/99

Re:

CC:

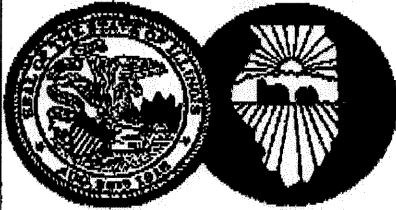
Urgent **For Review** **Please Comment** **Please Reply**

Enclosed :

- Press release
- Interest buy down facts
- Excerpts from brochure highlighting Debt Restructuring Guarantee

I hope this helps.

David



Illinois Farm Development Authority
427 E. Monroe, Springfield, IL 62701
Phone 217.782.5792 Fax 217.782.3989

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 6, 1999

FINANCIAL HELP AVAILABLE FOR PORK PRODUCERS AND LENDERS

The Illinois Farm Development Authority (IFDA) is working with local lenders to offer the state's pork producers guaranteed loans at lower interest rates under a \$50 million program announced this week by Governor Jim Edgar.

The modified debt restructuring guaranteed loan program increases eligibility for pork producers who are suffering unprecedented losses and includes an Interest Buy Down program which reduces the interest rate to about 5.1% based on today's treasury rates.

"We look to work with local lenders to assist pork producers during this time of extreme financial stress," said IFDA Executive Director David Wirth. "These loans can bridge the gap created by today's extraordinarily low market prices and make a positive difference for many farmers."

Through the program, local lenders agree to an interest rate slightly below market in exchange for an 85% guarantee of principal and interest. Current program rates are about 7.1%. The Interest Buy Down program further reduces the interest rate by 2% for five years on the first \$100,000 borrowed. The maximum loan size is \$500,000.

The IFDA will also use modified market valuations of hog inventories to determine loan eligibility. Current hog prices are about one third of their normal values. With the modifications, IFDA will use more typical hog values.

To be eligible, farmers must be Illinois residents, have a debt to asset ratio between 40% and 65% and have sufficient collateral and cash flow. Loan applications are submitted to IFDA by local lenders.

Illinois Farm Development Authority, January 5, 1999

Interest Buy Down (IBD) Fact Sheet

The IBD will be allowed only on the first \$100,000 of each loan..

With today's 5 year treasury rates of about 4.6%, a debt restructuring guaranteed loan would have an interest rate of about 7.1%. With an IBD of 2.0%, the rate to the farmer would be 5.1%.

The IBD will last for 5 years, although the guaranteed loans may have a maturity of more than 5 years.

Lenders participating in the IBD must agree to fix the rate on the guaranteed loan for at least 5 years.

The IBD will be available for 6 months, or until \$50 million of loans have been approved.

STATE GUARANTEE PROGRAM FOR RESTRUCTURING AGRICULTURAL DEBT

This program is designed to consolidate and spread out a farmer's existing debt over a longer term at a reduced interest rate. Loans are made by commercial lenders who receive an 85% guarantee of principal and interest.

ELIGIBILITY

- * Illinois resident at least 18 years old;
- * Principal operator of a farm who derives 50% or more of gross income from farming;
- * Debt to asset ratio between 40% and 65%;
- * Cash flow and collateral adequate for the loan.

LOANS MAY BE USED FOR

Refinancing any existing agricultural debt.

LOAN TERMS

- * Maximum loan is \$500,000;
- * Maximum length of thirty years;
- * Real estate may be amortized up to thirty years. The repayment period will be shorter for depreciable property;
- * Annually variable rate - 1 year Treasury + 2.5%;
- * 3 or 5 year rate - corresponding Treasury + 2.5%.

For further information, contact your local lender or:

ILLINOIS FARM DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

427 East Monroe Street, Suite 201

Springfield, Illinois 62701

Phone: 217/782-5792

800/406-IFDA

Fax: 217/782-3989

Revised September 1997

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News . . . from the Nation's Pork Industry

December 22, 1998

For Immediate Release

Contact: Walter Cherry, North Carolina Pork Council, Inc.
919/781-0361

N.C. Pork Council: Permit Disagreement Hurting Farmers


A disagreement between the N.C. Division of Water Quality and Smithfield Foods over the existing discharge permit at the Carolina Foods processing plant in Bladen County is costing pork producers across the nation thousands of dollars each day.

An increased number of hogs coming to market and a shortage of processing space has pushed hog prices to their lowest levels in over 40 years. At today's live weight price of 11.9 cents per pound, pork producers are losing approximately \$71 on every hog that they produce. This translates into losses of \$19.5 million dollars per week just in North Carolina alone. Compared to one year ago when gross income to North Carolina's producers exceeded \$30 million dollars per week, today's prices have pushed that gross income down to approximately \$8 million dollars per week.

Even though USDA is attempting to help pork producers nation wide by increasing pork purchases of hogs that are slaughtered on Saturday and Sunday and from plants that are operating at full capacity, the immediate need is for an increase in processing capacity to help work out some of the glut of hogs that are backed up in the pipeline. It is believed that Smithfield's Bladen County plant is the only hog processing plant in the nation that is not allowed to operate up to it's design capacity.

At question are various production limits being imposed on the plant by the Division of Water Quality. Smithfield and the N.C. Pork Council have pointed out that there is no production limit term of any kind contained in Smithfield's presently effective NPDES discharge permit. However, several DWQ officials recently announced that a single sentence contained in a January 1995 letter written by DWQ Director Preston Howard to Smithfield's consulting engineers constitutes a mandatory daily production limit. If DWQ's newly stated position is not changed or overruled by the courts, it could have a devastating effect on the already precarious economic situation for North Carolina's pork producers.

Pork producers have asked DWQ to allow Smithfield to increase their daily and weekly capacity up to whatever level that can be safely processed without having an adverse impact on the waters of the state. This increase in capacity will help alleviate some of the nation wide problems of excess hogs coming to market and should have a positive impact on prices.



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December 23, 1998 [Welcome back](#)

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Pro Farmer News and Views

by

Floor prices set by two hog packers. Voluntary floor prices for hogs have been set by two pork packing companies, a move welcomed by National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) President Donna Reifschneider. She said the action will provide a measure of short term relief to producers and is a positive sign for the future of the industry.

Hatfield Quality Meats and Farmland Industries this week became the first packers to set voluntary minimum prices. Hatfield established a price of \$25 per hundredweight through at least the end of December, after which the policy will be reviewed. Farmland set a minimum price at \$15 per hundredweight, which is available to producers who sold hogs to the farmer-owned cooperative between Sept. 1 and Dec. 19, 1998.

"We commend the leadership of these two companies and hope it spurs other packers to follow suit," Reifschneider said. NPPC has appealed to the Clinton Administration for assistance on behalf of pork producers, who are suffering through historically low prices due to a 10 percent reduction in slaughterhouse capacity and a 37 percent increase in Canadian hogs being slaughtered in the U.S. NPPC has requested:






COMPLETE LIST

Take the worry out of marketing your grain...

- A loan guarantee program, including interest assistance and debt restructuring;
- direct payments to pork producers; an increase in slaughter capacity and a reduction in Canadian live hog exports;
- implementation of a humanitarian "gilt lift" of approximately 300,000 hogs to countries devastated by Hurricane Mitch;
- a nation-wide program of eradication of pseudorabies-positive herds; and
- additional purchases of pork and pork products for domestic and international feeding or humanitarian assistance programs.

The National Pork Producers Council (NPPC) and the American Farm Bureau Federation also sent a joint letter to USDA Secretary Dan Glickman today urging immediate action to boost U.S. hog prices.

NPPC officials met this week with USDA Undersecretary Gus Schumacher, and told him "they would give out his telephone number to farmer-members if USDA didn't soon announce efforts to help the hog industry."

Among the options the NPPC discussed with Schumacher:

1. Improve hog producer liquidity via loan guarantees;
2. Shut down the Canadian border relative to that country's hogs coming here (U.S. Trade Representative's office reportedly favorably views this suggestion, while some USDA officials are said to be cool to the plan.);
3. A 200,000-hog gilt lift to Central American country (NPPC reportedly told Schumacher

that weekly hog kill needs to be trimmed down to 2 million head from the current 2.2 million head.);

4. Additional pork purchases;

5. The group explained that North Carolina has 50,000 additional capacity that due to moratoriums cannot be utilized and needs to be addressed now.

USDA announces new tender for 695,000 MT wheat for export donation. USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation today issued its next tender to purchase wheat for donation under the Food Aid Initiative. The tender is for a total of 695,000 tons of wheat for shipment January 20-March 31, 1999.

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ROCKWOOD • Question of the Week

BE A REGISTERED USER

USE LATEST BROWSER

DESKTOP COMPONENT

use these tools to maximize the experience

E-mail question and comments to fjsupport@creativeis.com.

How does your interest in site specific farming (yield monitors, GPS, etc.) compare to a year ago?

- More than before
- Less than before
- About the same

Save Response

National Farmers Organization

800-247-2110 or E-Mail: NFO@netins.net

News Release

Contact: Perry Garner, communications director, or Wendy Miller, writer
...2505 Elwood Dr. Ames, Iowa 50010-2000

For Immediate Release

NPPC describes National Farmers as leading marketer

Pork council CEO, beef association product developer headline workshops

ST. LOUIS, Mo. (January 20, 1999) — Tackling issues ranging from the hog price crisis to new product development in the beef industry, National Farmers Organization held commodity education and farm business workshops designed to cultivate a fresh ag marketing perspective.

The workshops, held Wednesday as part of Convention '99, offered producers an opportunity to participate in question-and-answer sessions with ag industry leaders.

Keynote speaker Alan Tank, chief executive officer of the National Pork Producers Council (NPPC), issued a strong statement about the need for America's hog producers to market their hogs differently in today's environment. "Producers need to look at networking opportunities and collective bargaining arrangements," Tank said. "Today, risk management is absolutely imperative... And National Farmers is one of the best marketers in the U.S."

Tank piqued the group's interest with information about the current hog crisis. He pointed to factors such as reduced slaughter capacity and massive consolidation as major contributors to low hog market prices. "Every time production exceeds 90 percent of slaughter capacity, producers lose all leverage in the marketplace," he underscored. Currently, production exceeds 100 percent of slaughter capacity.

Tank went on to discuss the effectiveness of mandatory producer commodity check-offs, especially in light of the present hog market situation. He explained that the concept was originally designed to benefit producers, but if they no longer believe it is effective, there is a national petition drive to require a referendum on the program. The petition would need approximately 22,000 producer signatures in order to be accepted. Earlier in the week, National Farmers members passed a resolution stating that check-offs should only be authorized by a referendum of producers affected.

Later that day, Mark Thomas, Vice President of New Marketing Initiatives at National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA), gave convention goers the inside track on new product development occurring in the beef industry. The new products could spur lagging consumer beef demand.

"The beef industry must coordinate segments and modernize product offerings; new product development will stabilize beef's demand," he emphasized.

The current trend in consumer demand is convenience products. Thomas pointed out that those products create new marketing avenues for the sector, and NCBA is working with several consultants in developing beef-based convenience foods.

CALUMET CO. NFO NEWSLETTER

Our February meeting will be held at the Calumet County Courthouse on Wednesday, Feb. 10th at 8:30 PM in Room 014.

Lunch Committee: Mrs. Joe Wagner and Mrs. Vernon Gebhart

The other day I was reading that Americans now spend more money gambling than they do to put food on the table. What have we become as a nation? People don't seem to mind losing a paycheck at the casinos, but they resent paying more for food.

Things must be in bad shape for agriculture this year. Agriculture and the devastation that it is in was mentioned in the State of the Union Address given by our President. Mr. Clinton thought that the government could help with safety nets for farm income and crop insurance reform. Don't wait for the government to throw you a few crumbs. Farmers need to wake up. The money is out there for us to receive a just and fair price for our products to run our businesses in a business-like manner and have a good standard of living for our families. As long as farmers continue to market their production as lone rangers, the huge corporations will buy it cheap and make record profits.

At this month's meeting we will have a report from the delegates to the national convention. This will include President Gene Paul's message about changing check-offs and enforcements of anti-trust laws. We will hear commodity reports and the financial status on the national level.

Marvin and Ruby Gerner have been sending out the newsletter the last 30 years and would like to step down from the job. We need someone to step forward and help us out. It does not mean that you have to do it for the next 30 years. Please give me a call (849-9669), or talk to me at the meeting.

See you at the meeting.

Dick

*File File
w/ Hog Farm*

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TaxCut '98

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Hog farms fold under price crunch

Inside Money

By Gary Strauss, USA TODAY

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They used to be known as mortgage lifters in farm country.

These days, they are more like mortgage busters. No longer the most profitable slice of American agriculture, hogs are more reviled than revered. Depression-era prices have forced small-scale farmers to shoot hogs or give them away. Environmentalists are applying pressure to force large-scale hog farms out of business. And the lowly hog has become the four-legged source of antitrust allegations, international politics and finger-pointing among producers and packers.

Financial Marketplace

Monday, the Department of Agriculture started taking requests from cash-strapped hog farmers for emergency funds. As part of a \$50 million relief plan, some could receive up to \$2,500. But critics charge the handouts are too little too late and will aid few of the \$12 billion industry's 114,300 hog producers. Only farmers who marketed 1,000 hogs or fewer during the last half of 1998 qualify. The payout is capped at \$5 a hog, but farmers are losing as much as \$50 a hog.

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"Five dollars means nothing when it takes \$50 of feed and \$20 in other expenses to get a hog to market," says Stan Ringger, a fourth-generation producer from Gridley, Ill., who raises 7,500 hogs a year.

Resources

John O'Hair, who raises hogs in Croswell, Mich., qualifies for the government relief plan. "For the guy hanging on by a thread, it isn't going to help," says O'Hair, 32. "It won't replace what I've lost, but I'm going to take it."

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Live hog prices averaged almost 50 cents a pound in 1998, but plunged as low as 8 cents in spot markets in December. That cost hog farmers \$2.6 billion in 1998, economists say. They'll lose at least \$1.5 billion this year, forcing up to a third out of business. Some states could be harder hit. Missouri Sen. John Ashcroft warns 40% of his state's farmers could fold.

"Hogs are pretty fundamental to our economy," says Rep. David

Minge, D-Minn. "Business at farm implement dealers has just about dried up. Low prices also affect contractors, interior decorators, car dealers and appliance dealers."

Some blame lenders. "If you walked into a bank and wanted to borrow \$200,000 to put up a barn when hog prices were high, lenders would say how about \$400,000," says Arlington, Minn., farmer Dennis Schultz.

Schultz, 43, lost about \$175,000 last year on his 2,000-hog operation. He plans to liquidate later this month.

lost \$175,000/ave/hog

"We're a long way from bankruptcy, but we're out of business. Farming is a way of life. It's also a business. It hit home around Christmas when I saw a 10-pound ham selling at the store for \$30. I was getting \$16.35 a pig," Schultz says.

Even those with limited feed costs are pinched. Greg Gunthorp, a free-range pig farmer in LaGrange, Mich., is hurting. His chemical-free, pasture-fed hogs are favored by some pricey Chicago restaurants, but they don't buy enough to support his family. "We're living at the poverty line right now - there's no money to spend," says Gunthorp, 28.

Lenders are facing a cash crunch of their own making. Producer loans are based in part on the price of hogs. Since the price plunge, lenders are seeing higher loan defaults. Iowa-based Brenton Banks, with half its assets tied to agriculture, has been modifying some farm loans and forgoing principal payments to help farmers weather the price crunch, says banker Tom Vincent.

The 3C-crisis

It's not slowing demand that is driving down prices. U.S. consumption of pork was up almost 8% last year, and exports jumped 18%.

Instead, the National Pork Producer's Council (NPPC), the trade association that represents 85,000 hog farmers, blames lean times on a 13% rise in U.S. hogs coming to market, coupled with an 8% loss in slaughter capacity among meat packers and a 37% jump in imports. Canadian imports are up to 4 million a year, largely because Canadian packers have been hit by labor strikes.

"We call it the C-crisis: capacity, Canada and cash," says pork council director Al Tank.

Why not just keep the hogs on the farm until slaughter capacity increases? A hog's ideal slaughter weight is about 250 lbs. Anything much larger tends to get a lower price. Moreover, many

hog farms - even small ones - run like factories. New animals are ready for market every week.

Increasingly, some critics are adding a fourth and fifth C - for contracts and collusion. Big producers typically sign contracts with processors that guarantee a market and price for their herds. Smaller producers say such contracts hurt their ability to negotiate better prices on daily spot markets.

NPPC President Donna Reifschneider last week asked Congress to require packers to disclose marketing contracts and the daily prices they pay.

There is a growing sentiment among small farmers that an increasing number of producer-packer arrangements violate antitrust laws. In Iowa, the top hog-producing state, small farmers want tougher legislation to block packers from owning or financing hog farms. In Kansas, similar legislation is proposed. "Packers have an unfair advantage," says Kansas state Rep. John Faber. "When they're allowed to raise their own cattle and hogs, farm families get priced out of their way of life."

U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman is seeking a Justice Department probe into possible hog price fixing. The USDA is also investigating price spreads between farm, packers and retailers. In January, retail pork prices were down just 3.4% from 1998 levels, despite last year's 80% drop in hog prices.

Blaming the butcher

Nebraska-based IBP, the world's largest meat processor, reported Monday that fourth-quarter profits were more than four times greater than a year earlier, in part because of low hog prices. The company declined comment, referring calls to the American Meat Institute, an industry trade association.

Executive Director Patrick Boyle says there's no price collusion among processors. "We've been through a number of federal reviews and industry task forces. Everyone has exonerated the industry and reaffirmed this is a highly competitive business," Boyle says. Most producer contracts are based on ensuring steady supplies, not prices, he says.

Purdue University economist Chris Hurt discounts charges that packers are conspiring to slash prices. "There were so many hogs coming to market last fall, even if producers provided them for free, they wouldn't have been able to handle them." Many packers have been running double shifts, six days a week to ease the bottleneck between farms and market, he says.

While meat packers clearly benefit from lower prices, most grocers are fairing far better. Pork price drops boosted packers' 1998 profit margins by \$1 billion, but retailers netted \$4 billion, Hurt says. "Why weren't some of the lower prices passed on to consumers?" asks Hurt. "This is something that troubles me as an economist. It's an issue that needs to be looked at."

Mark Caldwell wants some answers, too. The Arizona hog farmer lost \$1 million and placed his farm near Snowflake under bankruptcy protection. "Something isn't right, says Caldwell, 42. "I wish the government would take that \$50 million in emergency aid to find out why the market got so low."

Glenn Grimes, a University of Minnesota economist who has followed the industry for almost 50 years, has seen dozens of cyclical turns. "I've never seen a market like this," he says. "There's no question this will lead to more concentration in the industry. Where does that leave the small farmer?"

Probably out in the cold. Like most other industries trying to become competitive through economies of scale, hog farming has been undergoing rapid consolidation. A 1997 study by the universities of Iowa and Missouri found that 145 large-scale hog producers now control 40% of the market and planned to boost operations 64% by 2000.

But mega-producing hog farms are also expanding "squeal-to-meal" operations before state and federal pollution legislation threatens future expansion. Some also face the wrath of the Sierra Club, an environmental group suing Missouri's largest hog producer, Premium Standard Farms, for allegedly violating state pollution laws. Premium denies the charges.

Premium, the USA's third-largest hog farmer, is also a defendant in a class-action trial that opened Thursday in Kansas City. It produces 2 million hogs a year in Missouri. More than 100 residents who live near Premium operations are seeking damages, complaining of foul odors.

Smaller independents, such as Ringger, have also expanded, borrowing heavily to grow operations when hogs fetched up to 61 cents per pound in 1996. Farming since the early 1980s, he cleared \$150,000 from his hog operations that year, his best ever.

Now, after losing \$40,000 in the last five months of 1998 alone, he's stretched thin. His operating expenses are about \$500,000 a year. Lenders are providing enough cash to see him through August.

Ringger's family has scaled back on discretionary spending, such

as restaurant meals. He also laid off his lone full-time helper. For now, things remain tough. Spot market prices have climbed to about 30 cents per pound. But most farmers' break-even price is 38 to 44 cents.

Anger and resignation

Hog farmers are treating their malaise with alternating doses of humor, anger and resignation. A joke on a farmer's Internet site: "Heard about the pig farmer who put a 'free pigs!' sign on his trailer? He came back a day later and the trailer had twice as many."

Porcine humor aside, a hog hotline (1-800-468-1834) has been set up by the University of Illinois to provide counseling, from financial help to stress management. During the past week, more than 100 calls have come in, some far from the Farm Belt.

With the pork glut expected to pinch prices below profitable levels until midyear, hog farmers are hunkering down.

"I'm tired of hearing everyone whine and complain," says Minnesotan Scott Gronewald, who markets 6,500 hogs near Fairmont and says his operation was profitable last year. "We don't have a right to be in business. It's a privilege, not a choice. You have to change with the times, become more efficient and competitive. If things are that bad, you have to look at other options."

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