

EXPOCATALOG

ILLINOIS PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

2021



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*This catalog replaces the January and February issues of
Chop Talk. Normal schedule will resume in March.*



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A NOTE FROM IPPA PRESIDENT

Dale Weitekamp

On behalf of my fellow IPPA directors, we would like to thank you for your continued interest and dedication to the pork industry in Illinois.



The quote, "When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot and hang on," is attributed to Abe Lincoln, and is just as good advice today as in Lincoln's day. We entered last year expecting profitable markets, holding out hope that new trade deals would bring increased export demand. Then COVID-19 disrupted the whole supply chain like a tsunami.

In the face of those disruptions, producers were reaching the end of the rope. Yet as an industry we worked together and tied a knot in it. We made adjustments to diets, changed production flows and adjusted temperature settings in our barns to keep market ready pigs on-farm longer.

Through our state and national pork producer organizations we also tied some knots. We worked with policy makers and packers to solve disruptions at the processing and distribution levels early on in the pandemic. Then IPPA worked to get emergency rule changes and funding for depopulation events, to educate law makers at the state and federal level about the stresses we faced, pushed Governor Pritzker to designate packing plant employees as essential workers, and met with officials to mitigate the risk of foreign animal disease events.

These measures, for example, were accomplished on top of the work done in a typical year to support pork production in our state. The lessons from 2020 show that we are a resilient industry.

Though the current pandemic has hindered us from being in-person for our annual meeting and tradeshow, we still want to provide you with exposure to companies offering services in our industry through this expo catalog.

Noted on page 5, we are also offering a video series in February, focused on producer needs. Please tune in to those each week, at your convenience, to further your knowledge on the topics shared.

We've made it to 2021 - that's something to be thankful for! Here's to you, and an optimistic new year.

*Respectfully,
Dale Weitekamp*

2021 IL PORK AMBASSADOR

Rachel Probst

Rachel is currently a junior studying agriculture education at Illinois State University. She previously earned her associates degree from Lake Land College. Rachel was raised on a feeder to finish hog and grain farm near Wheeler, IL.



Along with being involved on the family farm, Rachel was very active in 4-H and FFA, holding various leadership positions. Through those experiences she became a dedicated and passionate individual while strengthening her leadership and communication skills.

On campus, Rachel is involved in Sigma Alpha, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Agriculture Education Club and recently attended the Agriculture Future of America conference. Being a part of these organizations allows Rachel to advocate for the agriculture industry and make connections with others who share similar interests.

2020 IL PORK AMBASSADOR

Zach Perkins



IPPA would like to thank Zach for his service to the Illinois pork industry this past year. We have enjoyed his enthusiasm and eagerness to learn.

Despite the lack of normalcy, Zach was able to implement new projects and approaches to the internship, which we will continue in future years.

His most rewarding experience was visiting local grocery stores and butcher shops once a week to take inventory of pork products and record price changes due to the pandemic.

Zach says, "I want to thank IPPA staff and members for an amazing summer. I met a lot of great pork producers and will take the knowledge I gained from them and apply it to future endeavors."

He will be graduating from Illinois State University in December of this year and pursuing a career related to the pork industry.

2021 IPPA FAMILY OF THE YEAR

Brazinski



Receiving the 2021 IPPA Family of the Year award is the Brazinski Pork Farm, located in Coulterville. This family farm produces 34,000 market hogs per year, in addition to a row crop farming operation that includes 2,200 acres of corn, soybeans, and wheat. Their family is led by Jim Brazinski, who is president of pig production companies Grand View Farm and Grand Tower Farm, a service agency Corn Silk LLC, and owns Brazinski Pork Farm.

The family history of both Jim's parents is rich in the farming tradition. While the maternal side in the U.S. dates back to the 1850's, Jim's paternal grandfather, who fled from Lithuania in 1904 due to political tensions, set up his farm in the current Coulterville location in the 1920's. Fast-forward two generations, and life for grandfather's family in Lithuania became difficult when the Russians invaded Lithuania in the 1940's, seized their farm, and exiled the family to Siberia.

Here in America, life was good. Since both of Jim's parents had grown up on farms and caring for various animals, it was only natural to consider raising animals as the children grew older. The Brazinski family's love of pigs started with Jim's brother, Frank, who started raising hogs for a 4-H project in 1966.

In 1984, Jim graduated from SIU Carbondale and started constructing more hog buildings on their family farm. At that time, to keep costs down, they built their own hog buildings – everything from pouring concrete

slats to building feeders to designing and making curtain openers. Anything they thought they could build, they tried, including manure pumps. They still build a lot of equipment in their shop today.

On a herd visit in 2006, Dr. Bill Hollis, a veterinarian with Carthage Veterinary Service, suggested that the Brazinski Family join a sow farm to improve the consistency of their pig flows and to be able to raise larger groups of pigs all the same age. That eliminated the sows from their farm and improved the health and efficiency of the growing hogs. The Brazinski family farm is still following that structure today.

Family is a huge part of the Brazinski's core values. This is evident in the care Jim and his family put into making sure his mother is been taken care of. Jim's mother was diagnosed with Alzheimer's about 13 years ago. Jim and his siblings (3 brothers, 2 sisters) were determined to care for their mother in the house in which she raised them.

After several failed attempts to use caregiving agencies, they decided to form a small LLC and hire their own caregivers, with the notion that care needed to be compassionate, reliable, and the best possible for their Mom. It was named Corn Silk, since they had an agricultural upbringing. Their mother is in an advanced stage of Alzheimer's now, but she continues to teach them each about themselves. They feel very fortunate to have 2 caregivers that provide

exceptional care for both their Mom and Dad.

Jim hopes that Brazinski Pork Farm will continue to grow in coming years. Currently they have six full-time and two part-time employees. They are the most essential element to the farm's success.

Additionally, there are four farms that contract finish hogs for the Brazinskis. These contract farms previously raised hogs of their own and continue to raise these hogs as if they were their own. The Brazinski family continues to strive to produce the best pork possible with care starting at the sow farm.

Jim is an avid volunteer, a 13-year member of the Marissa School Board and is proud to be a member of St. Anthony's Lively Grove Catholic Church.

In Jim's words, "Whenever we face uncertain or extremely difficult times, I remind myself of the struggles of my relatives. They were forced from their homes and lost their farms to work in labor camps in extreme conditions. When given the opportunity, they started again, survived and eventually thrived once Lithuania regained its independence."



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TRAINING OPTIONS

Training for 2021 will be different from past (and hopefully future) due to COVID-19 impacts. IDOA has approved two options this year: new online training and webinars.

ONLINE TRAINING

Updated for 2021 and should be **considered the first option for everyone**. Available at any time and your own pace. Completion requirements: For less than 1,000 AU, work through the lessons only. More than 1,000 AU requires completing the lessons and passing a 40 question online test (in lieu of the IDoA's paper based test). \$40 registration fee. Please go to go.illinois.edu/CLMT and select online training to get started.

WEBINARS

Four webinars (virtual workshops) will be offered. These will have the same format as previous workshops starting at 9:00 am. Pre-registration is required. You must attend the whole webinar (about 4 hours) to be eligible for your certificate. Those with over 1,000 AU will be required to login and take the 40-question online test (in lieu of the IDoA's paper-based test). A password for accessing the test site will be sent after attending the webinar. \$40 registration fee.

1. January 20, 2021– Wednesday
2. January 29, 2021– Friday
3. February 9, 2021– Tuesday
4. March 4, 2021– Thursday



Illinois Extension

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Illinois Pork Expo

VIDEO SERIES



FEBRUARY 3



NATIONAL PORK BOARD UPDATES REGARDING AGVIEW & ANIMAL HEALTH

Bill Even: CEO
Dave Pyburn, DVM: Chief Veterinarian

Video sponsored by the National Pork Board

FEBRUARY 10



INS AND OUTS OF BARN MAINTENANCE: BEST PRACTICES TO MAKE YOUR JOB EASIER

Steve Matthis:
Training Director, Prestage Farms Inc.

Video sponsored by IL Corn & IL Soybean Association Checkoff Program

FEBRUARY 17



COMMODITY & INGREDIENT HEDGING (CIH) MARKET UPDATE

Dustin Baker:
Manager, Education and Research

Video sponsored by IL Corn & IL Soybean Association Checkoff Program

FEBRUARY 24



IPPA/SIP MEMBER ONLY POLITICAL DISCUSSION HOW WILL THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION IMPACT THE PORK INDUSTRY AND CURRENT POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT?

Congresswoman Cheri Bustos
Andrew Fisher: Congressional Relations, NPPC
Karla Thieman: Russell Group

Video sponsored by National Pork Producers Council

EACH WEEK THESE VIDEOS WILL BE LAUNCHED VIA E-BLAST AND AVAILABLE AT ILPORK.COM AS A RECORDING

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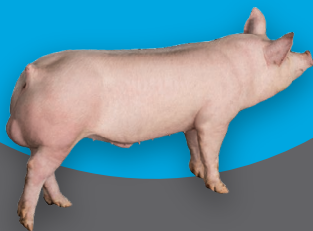
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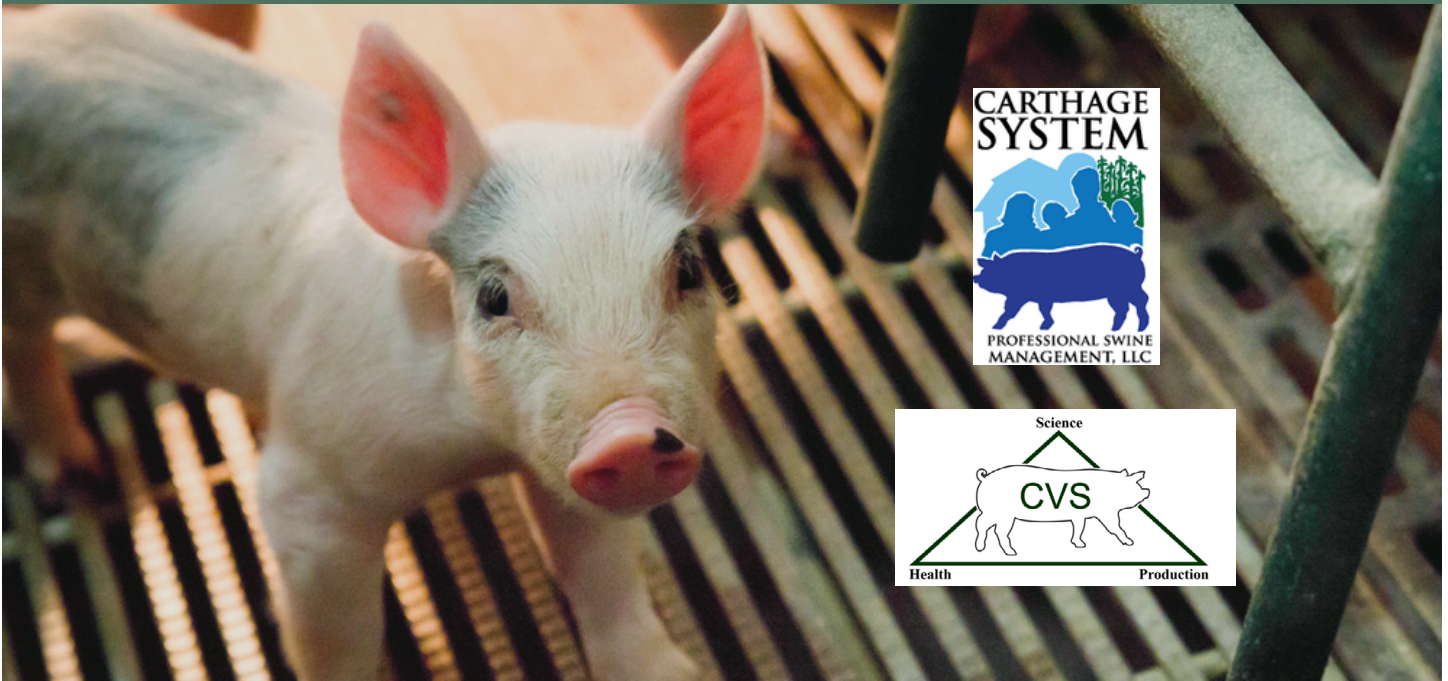
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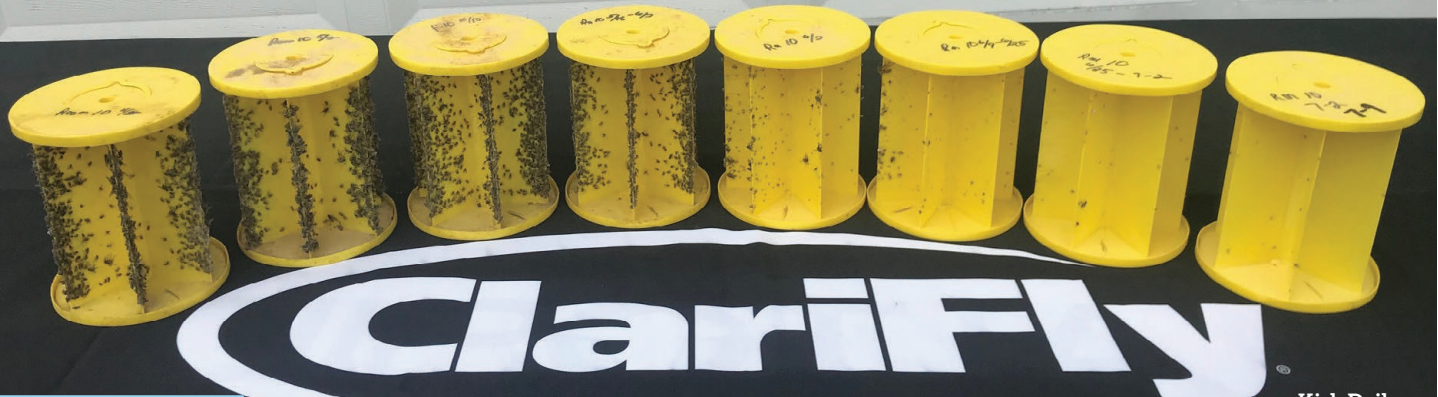


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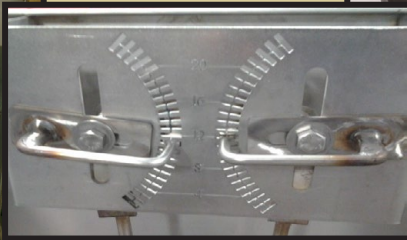
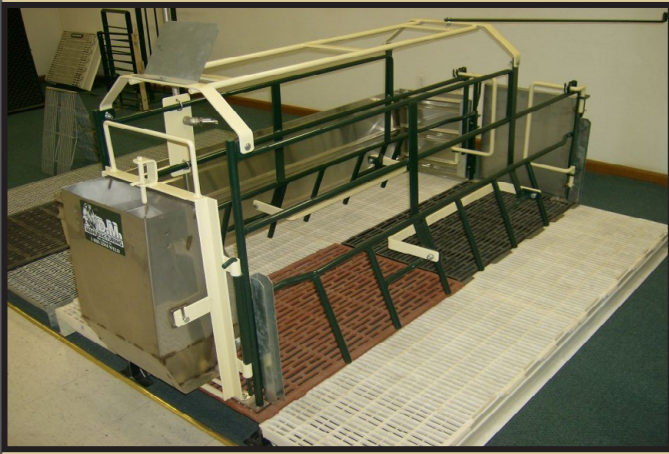
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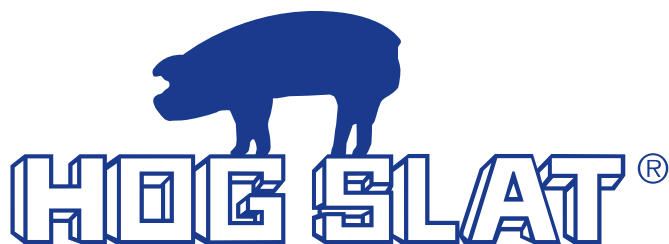
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-Curt Zehr

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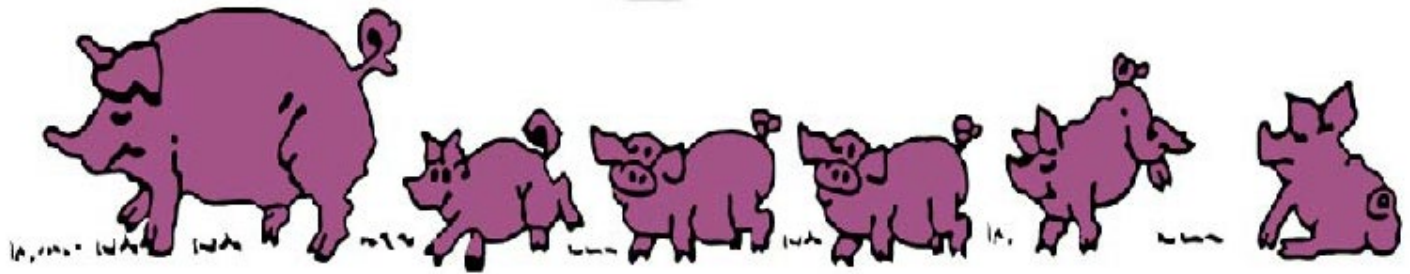


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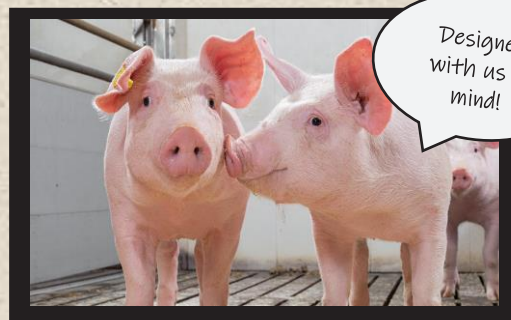


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Illinois Farm Bureau continues to support our livestock farmers by:

- Ensuring agriculture is considered an essential business.
- Establishing mission critical steps to respond to impacts on farming and the agriculture sector.
- Lobbying for state and federal financial assistance for farmers from the CARES program, resulting in the Payment Protection Program (PPP), Coronavirus Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and Livestock Management Facilities Act Business Interruption Grant Program.
- Working with local public health officials to keep packing plants open and the protein supply chain moving.
- Successfully obtaining regulatory relief for livestock producers, transportation, and pesticide training.

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Virtual Annual Meeting Information

If you are a delegate for the upcoming IPPA Annual Meeting on February 9th, here are a few points to remember:

- **The Annual Meeting is Tuesday, February 9, 2021, 10:00 am – 12:00 pm.**
We encourage you to participate via Zoom. At the end of January, watch for an email with the Zoom link and call-in information. A hard copy of Annual Meeting information will also be sent to you via the US Postal Service.
- **The At-Large Candidate Election** will be conducted prior to the annual meeting and voting information will be emailed January 25th with a January 29th deadline.
- Please contact Deb Turner, deb@ilpork.com, with any questions.

Retiring Board Members



Bob Miller

2015 – 2020

At his farm he raises four breeds of purebred swine and showpigs, with a small boar stud, a retail meat business, and a 2200 acre grain farm. The farm has been in the family for over 140 years making it a centennial farm where

his son is the sixth generation and co-owner of the farm. Bob and his wife, Carla, have two children, seven grand children, and two great-grand children. In 2018 he was inducted into the National Spotted Swine Hall of Fame as he retired from the National Spotted Board. He has also been heavily involved with the Illinois Purebred Swine Association.



Gary Asay

2015 – 2021

Gary is a third-generation farmer from Henry County. He has 300 crop acres in addition to his 9,500 head wean-to-finish hog farm. Gary and his wife, Barbara, have two daughters.

He has been very involved at the state and national levels over the years. He served as an at-large director on the IPPA board from 2002-2007 and president in 2006. From 2008-2013 he served on the NPPC board. Since 2013 he has been serving on the NPB board and will retire in June of this year. Thank you, Gary, for your leadership!



Dale Weitekamp

2014 – 2020

Dale has served in all officer positions and served on the State Fair, Production Tech/Research, Industry Services and Marketing committees. He was a member of the Mid-Illinois Pork Assoc. He and his brother, Allan, are part of a

fifth-generation centennial farming family. Along with row crop the farm currently contract finishes 22,000 head in wean to finish buildings. They also are partners in a 6,400 head breed to wean sow herd. Dale and his wife, Kim, have three children. The Weitekamps were awarded The Family of the Year award in 2007. Dale is also an EMT with the Raymond- Harvel Ambulance Service. He will serve as current past-president this year on the IPPA board.



Paul Ayers

2015 – 2020

Paul and his wife, Erin, along with their two kids, live in Clinton County. Paul was most recently chair of the Industry Services committee and also served on the Marketing and Production Tech/ Research committees.

He also serves on the National Pork Board's Animal Welfare committee, Industry Audit Task Force, PQA Task Force and Depopulation Task Force. Paul works for The Maschhoffs, LLC as the Animal Care Manager.



Dan Sprague

2019 – 2020

Dan joined the IPPA board in 2019 and brought over 35 years of experience in the swine industry. While employed with The Maschhoffs, Dan focused his time with the Great South Region pork production system and worked at the

local, state, and federal level to inform and influence elected officials to support the pork industry.

After over 15 years with The Maschhoffs, Dan recently accepted a new position with Country View Farms in Indiana, where he and his wife, Colleen, now reside.



Tom Dale

2018 – 2020

Tom is from Henry County and resides in Geneseo with his wife, Nancy. Tom has worked in the pork industry for over 24 years, experiencing all phases of production and management. Currently he works for River Valley

Cooperative as Swine Feed Account Manager.

We asked Tom what he enjoyed about being in the swine industry and this is what he said: "I am a swine production person at heart, so staying close to producers is always a good thing for me."

Chop Talk

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