

South Dakota Pork Producers Council Strategic Investment Newsletter

SESSION 2009

APRIL 2009

Executive Directors Report

Welcome to our first edition of a Legislative Recap for the Strategic Investment Members of the South Dakota Pork Producers Council.

When the Public Policy Committee met in January this year we felt it would be great idea to send out a newsletter after the legislative session. The money that you voluntarily Checkoff at the market place (\$.10/\$100 value) is used to fight for reasonable legislation and regulation in South Dakota. A portion of that money also stays on the national front fighting the battles we face in Washington DC. If you are a member of the SIP (Strategic Investment Program) you should receive a Capitol Update from the National Pork Producers Council, however if you do not receive one please contact me and I will see to it that you do.

You as the producer or allied member are very important to

our success not only as an organization but as an industry. We rely heavily on the grassroots involvement on both the state and national level. The decision makers that you elect as citizens depend on you to provide them with information. If there is ever an issue that you would like to see addressed contact me at the office and I will help you with either talking points on the facts or drafting a letter.

There are many ways to get involved with the South Dakota Pork Producers Council. However, the one event that I would like to get more people to assist us with is Ag Fest held in Pierre during session. At this event we cook up and serve pig wings to the legislators and cabinet members of the SD Government. This event allows you to visit with your Representative or Senator while enjoying some great pork. In the future we will see

some issues that could cause great distress on this industry and we need to be developing those important relationships now.

In closing, I want to thank all of those producers that took time out of their schedules to travel to Pierre, send an email, or even picked up the phone to contact your legislators. You truly do make a difference. Also I would like to thank Lorin Pankratz and Mary Duvall the SDPPC contract lobbyists for the SD Legislature, they put in some long hours and do an excellent job representing our industry's best interest's.

If there is anything I can do for you, please let me know. As a producer if you have any ideas on how we can better relay this message, please pass them along to me.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Lehrman, Executive Director

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Quotes from some producers that helped in the lobbying process during the 2009 Session.

Andrew Arhart, Alpena-

"I was intimidated at first, but after visiting with the legislators most of them told me they were glad I was there to provide them with the facts."

"Lorin and Mary did an excellent job in preparing me before I approached a legislator."

Brad Greenway, Mitchell-

"I know everyone is busy and the legislators real-

ize that too and it means even more to them when we show up to voice our concern."

"I took along one of my neighbors this spring on a trip to Pierre and all we could talk about is the difference it makes when we contact these decision makers in person and starting to develop relationships"

Paul Brandt, Clear Lake-

"It was so easy for me to contact my legislators by getting on the internet and sending an email. They would email me back and tell me how much they appreciated my comments and I was able to answer some questions that they had."

Dave Uttecht, Alpena-

The time I have spent in Pierre during session was well worth it. Most of the lawmakers were really interested in what I and other producer's had to say on the issues. I think they get pretty shell shocked from all the lobbying and give more weight to a producer's opinion. Our lobbying team of Lorin and Mary are well respected and did a fantastic job of getting me onto the right talking points and to the right people. I have joked at times that the legislative process is like making sausage, but we can either complain about it or show up and help.



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**WE ARE ON THE
WEB**

WWW.SDPORK.ORG

2009 Session Report—Lorin Pankratz and Mary Duvall

SDPPC monitored and tracked 24 separate pieces of legislation during the 2009 Legislative Session - 10 House bills and 14 Senate bills.

There were three key issues for SDPPC :

The first was defeating HB 1146, an attempt by the Humane Society of the United States (H.S.U.S.) to classify animal "torture" as a felony. As you might suspect, anything the HSUS promotes is not going to be for the benefit of livestock agriculture. This badly flawed bill used a very broad definition of "torture" and amended the section of law dealing with "generally accepted training, use and husbandry." If passed, this bill could have been used to charge pork producers with committing a felony for managing their swine herd. Brad Greenway offered the lead-off opposition testimony on this bill before the House Judiciary committee. It was killed on a 12-0 vote. The issue is not dead - we can expect additional legislative attempts by HSUS and PETA in the future.

The second issue, HB 1224, was brought by a group of cow-calf producers hoping to restrict the state from participating in the National Animal Identification System. South Dakota currently has a sound, workable law dealing

with animal identification for disease control purposes. The overwhelming majority of agriculture was opposed to this measure, as it would have weakened our disease control efforts in South Dakota. SDPPC President Steve Rommereim did an excellent job testifying against this bill in committee, and many producers took the time to call their legislators and ask them to oppose the measure. It was finally defeated on a 32-37 vote.

The third was SB115, brought by a group of disgruntled anti-livestock folks, primarily in Grant County. They wanted to change the number of signatures needed for a petition to change a county comprehensive plan. Current law requires signatures from landowners; they wanted to change the law so that petition signers had to be registered voters in the district. This would have reduced the number of signatures required on a petition, as well as disenfranchised landowners who are registered to vote in a different district. Eventually a deal was struck in conference committee on the second to last day of the session. The percentage of landowner signatures was dropped from 30% to 20%. Most likely a reasonable compromise as the number of people who hold ownership to land has certainly changed in the last 40

years.

We were successful on these measures because of producers who took the time to engage in the legislative process - whether by testifying in committee, coming to Pierre to visit with legislators individually, or sending an e-mail or phone message. If you have questions about our position on these issues please contact Jeremy at the South Dakota Pork Producers Council office.

Do you want to meet more producers in South Dakota and get involved with the SD Pork Producers Council? Here is your chance.

Tailgate Parties

-Sioux Falls Canaries

Saturday, June 6th (7:00 pm)

Thursday, July 9th (7:00 pm)

We have FREE tickets available for your family. If you are interested please contact Stacey. These will be given out on a first-come, first-serve basis. **ssorlien@sdppc.org**

We also have other grilling events throughout the upcoming summer, so please contact Stacey for more information.

H1N1

When this story broke into the news the phones were ringing off the hook at the SDPPC office. We took control of the situation, got the facts and started relaying the message to the media that "Pork is Safe." The SDPPC staff worked diligently to try to influence consumers that this is not a food safety concern. We worked with the SD Department of Ag, The Governors Office, SDSU Extension, and our US Congress members asking them to all pass along the message that "Pork is Safe". We have also been in contact with our US Congress members encouraging them to support the reopening of several borders that our trading partners closed. Exports are vital to the success of pork producers in the United States.

WE CARE

The SDPPC board of directors passed a motion strongly recommending all pork producers participate in the National Pork Board and National Pork Producers Council "We Care" program by December 31, 2010. "Through their participation producers would abide by the Statement of Ethical Principles, become Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA Plus) certified, achieve site status, and have their employees involved in handling and transporting of animals become Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) certified." Steve Rommereim, SDPPC President

To help with this process SDPPC will be holding several joint PQA Plus and TQA meetings throughout the year in different parts of the state. To keep up to date please refer to our website, The Porkline, or call the office to let us know you are interested.



For up to date policy information go to www.nppc.org

The South Dakota Pork Producers Council (SDPPC) was created in 1954 to responsibly serve, support and enhance the success of the South Dakota pork production industry. Along with managing industry issues and improving the image of the pork industry, the South Dakota Pork Producers Council works to insure a safe, wholesome product for the consumer's confident consumption.

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2nd Vice-President ~ Darin Larson
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Past President ~ Dave Uttecht

National Pork Board ~ Dennis Michael

National Pork Board ~ Brad Greenway

Office Staff ~

Jeremy Lehrman ~ Executive Director

Stacey Sorlien ~ Program &
Communications Director

605.332.1600 ~ Office



Producers Council

Find GREAT Pork recipes at www.theotherwhitemeat.com