



AFAN IN ACTION

October 2023 Monthly Update

Happy Pork Month!

October is pork month and as the weather starts to cool off, it is a great time to fire off the grill and make some pork chops, ribs, or pork burgers! As we mention pork, it should be noted that the pork industry continues to grow in Nebraska. According to USDA NASS, our overall pig herd grew 4% from last year. There are a total of 3.7 million pigs in Nebraska. While we may forever be the “Beef” State, we are also a significant player in the swine industry.

As evidence of the strength of the swine industry, AFAN staff attended a hearing in Cherry County for a swine finishing barn. There are always misconceptions about these barns and how they operate, which can lead to some opposition. Luckily, we can attend hearings and help talk about the facts of modern pork production. In this case, the concern was about the nutrients in swine manure leaching into the groundwater. Yes, that is a concern, however, manure is regulated by the state and producers can only put on as much as the crop can use in that year.

The process of manure application is actually very scientific with samples taken of the soil, to know what’s already present, the manure, to know the amount of nutrients in it, and then how much nutrients the next crop will need. That formula dictates how much manure can be applied. With the help of UNL, we know there are many benefits to the soil from applying manure. It adds organic matter, sequesters carbon, and supports diverse microbes and insects, and through those actions, it helps the soil be less susceptible to erosion, improves water infiltration, improves water holding capacity, and holds the nutrients in the root zone until the growing crop needs them. A huge win in our efforts to improve soil health!

Swine production is a way to lower fertilizer costs by using manure, adds cash to the farming operation, is a depreciable asset that helps reduce tax liability, and quickly builds equity. Those four things add up to more dollars in the farmer’s pocket and create an opportunity to bring the next generation back to the farm. Livestock is a key component to adding value to a farming operation and keeping it viable for generations to come. We are proud to stand beside Nebraska farmers and ranchers and their vision to keep the family operations growing.



Highlights

- Assisted with a Cherry County swine operation hearing
 - Attended Husker Harvest Days
 - Helped Nebraska Department of Ag with a Swine Emergency Disease Response Exercise
 - Attended a Confined Cattle Barn Tour
 - Attended the NPPA Board meeting
 - We are Planning and preparing for upcoming tradeshow
 - Planning for our AFAN Annual Meeting
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Looking Ahead



Save the Date

November

20: AFAN Annual Meeting

17: Ag-Ceptional Womens Conference

23: Thanksgiving

WELCOME

1 STAR PARTNER



Welcome to our NEW One Star Partner, Scratch & Peck Feeds!

Scratch & Peck Feeds is committed to making the most wholesome and nutritious animal feed with the highest environmental and animal welfare standards. As a Certified B-Corp, we believe in "using business as a force for good." We aim to link arms with Midwest ag networks to support local organic grain economies. These partnerships will positively impact the health of backyard chicken keepers and their flocks across the U.S.

Special THANK YOU to our Premier Sponsor,
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