

NEBRASKA PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

NEWS RELEASE

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Pork Leaders Travel to Washington D.C.

State pork leaders participated in the National Pork Producers Council's (NPPC) Spring Legislative Action Conference April 20th and April 21, 2016 in Washington, DC.

While in Washington Russ Vering (NPPA President), Karen Grant (NPPA Director), John Csukker (NPPA Director) and Al Juhnke (NPPA Executive Director), met with members of the Nebraska Congressional delegation to raise support for the industry.

Three main issues were talked about during those meetings. The first being the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and its overall importance to the growth of the pork industry and the necessity for Japan's continued commitment to phase out tariffs on pork imports.

Secondly, the Processing Revival and Intrastate Meat Exemption (PRIME) Act. Producers, packers and processors are unwavering in delivering safe meat products that consumers can enjoy with confidence. Because PRIME would allow for the commercial sale of non-inspected meat products it is not supported by the industry. Federal and state inspection programs are a key component in protecting animal health by ensuring that every animal offered for commercial slaughter is inspected for signs of disease, in particular foreign animal diseases that pose a significant threat to the viability of American agriculture.

Adequate funding for government programs, including Combating Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria (CARB), on antibiotic data collection is important. The lack of funding will not allowed for any initial baseline data to be collected. Without baseline data from 2016, or previous years, it will be difficult to gauge the changes made in how antibiotics are used with the implementation of the FDA guidance. For that reason, the industry supports the \$10 million budget request in the USDA APHIS budget.

"Not everyone can get away to visit with their representatives so a number of us visit and talk about current issues. It was my privilege, to be speaking for all pork producers in Nebraska, large or small it doesn't matter the size, all producers are important to the Nebraska pork industry," said Karen Grant, producer from Meadow Grove and NPPA Board Member.

The Nebraska Pork Producers Association is a grassroots, incorporated, non-profit organization established in 1961. NPPA was developed to promote the pork industry through the enhancement of consumer demand, producer education and research. For more information, visit NPPA's website at www.nepork.org.