



## **Nebraska Pork Producers Association** **2020 LEGISLATIVE POLICIES AND ISSUES**

### **STATE POLICY:**

- **Workforce Development** – Support programs and facilities which provide specialized workforce training and development of workers needed in the swine industry and Nebraska agriculture in general, including community college programs and the Lincoln Agriculture High School proposal.
- **Livestock and Rural Economic Development** – Encourage livestock facility development and value-added processing growth. Any new state business incentives should include targeted opportunities for additional livestock development.
- **Siting Matrix Promotion** – Support the Nebraska Animal Feeding Operation Siting Matrix and encourage its adoption by counties as well as use by producers.
- **Property Tax** – Support proposals and policies that provide relief and reform of Nebraska’s property tax system as it pertains to all livestock production improvements and agriculture properties.
- **Beginning Farmer Program** – Support a review of the current Nebraska Beginning Farmer Program and evaluate its effectiveness as it relates to swine production.
- **Broadband** – Support initiatives that bring affordable high-speed internet access to all parts of Nebraska, including areas where swine production facilities are located.
- **Sales Tax Exemptions** – Continue to support sales tax exemptions on farm equipment that is used for the health and welfare of animals (including fans, curtains and climate control equipment within livestock buildings).

## FEDERAL POLICY:

- **Alternative Protein Products** – Support state and federal policy that codifies the definitions of “pork” and “pork products” and ensure imitation meat products are clearly stated as such on food labels.
- **Immigration** – Support access to a legal immigrant workforce through a streamlined year-round visa application process and a “common sense” path to citizenship for those workers already here in our country. Support VISA reform pertaining to full-time ag workers.
- **Trade** – Support free trade agreements that eliminate tariff and non-tariff barriers on U.S. pork shipments that result in additional exports and an increase in domestic jobs. Encourage immediate action on bi-lateral trade agreements which open markets for our pork products.
- **Transportation and Infrastructure Funding** – Support additional resources to expand 10-ton roads and bridges in our farm-to-market transportation system and encourage universal broadband development policies for our farms and rural communities.
- **State Laws and Ballot Initiatives** - Support ‘No regulation without representation’ statutes and rules as it pertains to interstate commerce and ag products.
- **Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD)** - Support full authorization of funding for the FMD vaccine bank development.
- **Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) Regionalization** – Support policies that regionalize livestock farms in the event of a FAD outbreak and promote continued commerce.
- **Swine Feed Holding Times** - Encourage USDA-ARS to evaluate swine foreign animal disease virus viability in pig feed or feedstuffs and pet food products. Seek development of feed holding time information as it relates to transport and storage of these feed and pet food products to assist in disease prevention.
- **Mandatory Price Reporting** – Support reauthorization of Mandatory Price Reporting. Additionally, encourage USDA to implement reporting for 3-piece carcasses/half carcasses being sold.

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