

# Pork Expo Producers Program Centers On Market Outlook, Managing Risk

**ANDY ANDREWS**  
Lancaster Farming Staff  
NORTH CORNWALL (Lebanon Co.) — Pork may be the meat of choice worldwide — about 42 percent of all meat consumed is pork, with China and Japan the number-one consumers.

At a swine educators meeting conducted in Des Moines, Iowa, last September, Ken Kephart, Penn State swine specialist, pointed out some joys and downfalls of packers and processors.

For more news about the industry, regional pork producers are invited to the 22nd annual Keystone Pork Expo Wednesday, Feb. 9, at the Lebanon Valley Expo Center on the Lebanon Fairgrounds in North Cornwall.

This year's meeting will feature a trade show with more

than 35 exhibits and educational seminars for producers. As in the past, the Expo will sponsor a "Pork Bowl" for competing 4-H and FFA members throughout the state.

Steve Meyer, director of economics programs for the National Pork Producers Council, will be providing advice on controlling risk in swine enterprises.

Laura Cheney, assistant professor of agricultural economics at Michigan State University, will discuss marketing and production contracts.

Both speakers are known nationally for their expertise and programs.

Robert Mikesell, senior extension associate, and Leon Ressler, Lancaster County extension

agent, will update the audience on results from an odor-reduction field research project conducted on several swine operations throughout Pennsylvania.

Lou Moore, ag economics specialist at Penn State, will provide his hog market outlook.

A Legislative Activity Fund Auction is scheduled in the Central Hall, with a live auction conducted by Col. Harry Bachman at 10:30 a.m. Silent bidding closes at 1 p.m.

Programs are available in most county extension offices.

At the meeting in Des Moines, it was pointed out that shortage of packing plant capacity will continue to be a problem. In 1998, the U.S. slaughtered about

100 million head of swine.

The swine industry reflects the changing face of agriculture, with more vertical integration, similar to poultry producers. Total hogs on finishing contracts in 1997 amounted to 44 percent. Total hogs farrowed under contracts in 1997 was about 17 percent.

Types and percentage use of finishing contracts were payment made for pig space (equivalent to a building lease), 32 percent; payment per head, 53 percent; and payment per pound, 10 percent.

In 1997, 10 percent of the hogs were owned by packing plants. In 1999, 25 percent of the hogs were owned by packers.

Percent of operations using

AI: 47 percent.

The largest hog producer in the U.S.: Smithfield.

Although profits are down, and expected to be tight for years to come, according to experts, the industry is producing twice as much pork today as it did in the 1960s.

The elasticity of demand should also be noted. Today a small change in supply creates a large shift in prices. In 1978-1979, a 15.6 percent increase in supply resulted in a 23.7 percent decrease in prices. In 1997-1998, a 10.1 percent increase in supply resulted in a 39.7 percent decrease in prices.

See schedule  
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Speaker: Leonard Vandenburg,  
National Farmers

**Monday, February 14**

10 a.m.  
Harvest Drive Restaurant  
Intercourse, Pennsylvania

**Tuesday, February 15**

10 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Yoder's Restaurant and Country Village Restaurant  
Mifflinburg, PA and Allensville, PA

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### FREE Great Information Meeting

White Horse Fire Hall - Fri., Feb. 11th - 7 p.m.

Leola Family Restaurant - Tues., Feb. 22nd - 7 p.m.

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**When:** Thursday, February 17  
Saturday, February 19

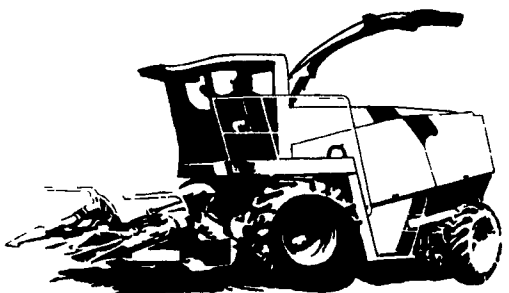
**Time:** 9:30 am until 12:00 pm

**Directions:** Upon exiting the  
Clarion Hotel and Convention  
Center, turn left on Rt. 11 south.  
Travel one mile and turn left on  
South Middlesex Rd. Proceed  
across railroad tracks and turn  
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