

# 2018 Swine Veterinarian Public Policy Advocacy Program



## Background

The U.S. pork industry is under mounting criticism from opponents of modern farm animal production methods. Much of this criticism is not based on science. To help balance the scales, the National Pork Producers Council is developing an elite team of swine veterinarians to advocate on behalf of the pork industry and their own profession nationwide. Participants will learn how policy is made on the federal level, the impact of technical issues on growing international trade, and how to communicate effectively with lawmakers and regulatory officials. All costs, including travel, will be borne by NPPC.

## Curriculum

Training will consist of three sessions held over the course of a year. Written assignments will be completed between sessions. The curriculum will reflect how the federal government directly impacts the businesses and livelihoods of swine veterinarians.

### Session 1 – April 10-12, Washington, DC

The Washington political landscape changes every two years. This session will be an introduction to public policy advocacy and the legislative process, as well as the major policy issues facing the pork industry today.

### Session 2 – Summer Date, TBD

The economic viability of the U.S. pork industry is dependent on building trade. Some trading partners use sanitary and technical barriers to limit imports. Participants will travel to meet with an international trading partner with whom the U.S. industry and government have addressed those issues.

### Session 3 – September 11-13, Washington, DC

The federal regulatory process is a specialty all its own. This session will focus on how regulations are written and approved, and what influences that process. Hands-on training will include meetings with key Agriculture Department policymakers.

## To Apply

To apply, contact Liz Wagstrom, DVM, MS, DACVPM, Chief Veterinarian, National Pork Producers Council, at 515-278-8012, [WagstromL@nppc.org](mailto:WagstromL@nppc.org) or Craig Boelling, Vice President, Resource Development, at 515-278-8012, [BoellingC@nppc.org](mailto:BoellingC@nppc.org)

*“Pork producers and swine veterinarians have always worked hand-in-hand on the farm. It’s important now that they work together in the policy arena. Veterinarians are the most believable source on topics like animal care and handling. It’s crucial that their voices be heard.”*

-Neil Dierks

Chief Executive Officer National Pork Producers Council



*Top/Bottom: Dr. Mary Battrell and Dr. Mark Hammer, members of the 2017 Swine Veterinarian Public Policy Advocacy Program, talk key issues pertaining to the U.S. pork industry on Capitol Hill July 11-12, 2017.*

