



Waunakee Rotary Club

**Nov. 3, 2006
Vol. 39 No. 17**

Mike Heller from the Wisconsin Pork Producers Association explained changes in the pork industry at the Oct. 26 meeting of the Waunakee Rotary Club.

Weller raises pigs on a Diversified Farm in between Plain and Sauk City.

The pork industry is growing as the ethanol industry has, Weller said. It is dramatically different than it was 25 or 50 years ago.

In the late 1970s, Americans became more aware of diet and health. Because hogs were once used for lard, a preservative and cooking agent, the changes in American's diet dealt a blow to the industry, Mike said.

The industry had to rely on new science and technology, some of which was developed at UW-Madison, to produce the lean and nutritious pork we enjoy today, Mike said.

Just as genetic research has been used to increase the breast size in chickens, producing a greater amount of that leaner meat, it has been used to reduce the saturated fat in pork by 27 percent.

Farms have also changed over the years. Fifty years ago, farmers raised a little bit of everything, Mike said. But today, farming has become much more specialized. Depending on their age, pigs are housed in different barns. This allows farmers to better manage the health and thus the productivity of the animals, allowing sows to birth larger litters.

Most producers opt to keep pigs in barns now, each with unique functions; some are used for breeding, others for nurseries and still others for finishing. One farm may be used only as a nursery, with the pigs transported to another farm at the next stage.

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The barns are kept clean with regular washing. Nurseries are kept warm.

Some critics claim it is better to keep the animals outdoors, but Mike said it's evident they are happier indoors during Wisconsin's harsh winters.

Animal disease is a major threat, so farmers are sure to shower when entering barns to prevent infection from being introduced.

The National Pork Producers Association has put \$11 million into research to solve the odor issue where it starts, "in the gut of the pig," Mike said.

Other items:

- Lynne Spielman will go to Nigeria soon. She'll come back looking for money for more international projects, including one to help young women return to school. She and others also will be looking for projects that will involve more Rotary clubs in Nigeria and the U.S.

- Tom Reis says this year's Rotary lights project will include five Christmas trees that can be purchased and decorated according to themes.

- Rotary needs a chairperson for the Thanksgiving breakfast.

Guests: Kirk Kobriger, guest of Phil Willems; Mike Lawrence, guest of Jim Tubbs.

Visiting Rotarians: Susan Springman, Downtown; Dan Muxfeld, Downtown; Victor Rodriguez, Downtown.

Birthdays: Nov. 2, Carlyn Hensen
Nov. 4, Jeremiah Gollon

Anniversaries: Oct. 29, Tom and Joan Laufenberg; Oct. 30, Amy Gile-Enge and John Enge; Nov. 1, Neil

Calendar of Events:

Nov. 27 - Rotary Lights ceremony

Jan. 26, Christmas party

March 29-April 12, Russian visitors

May 4-6, District Conference

and Lily King.

Prayers: Nov. 1, Neil and Lily King

Nov. 6, Jason and Susan Brown

Nov. 6, Jim and Margaret Meyer

Nov. 6, Dick and Sally Pilsner

Nov. 8, Sarah DeKraay and Charles Higley

Nov. 8, Larry and Ellen Felsheim

Programs: Nov. 2, Club Assembly; Nov. 9, Tony Shriver, animal assisted therapy; Nov. 16, Special Olympics; Nov. 23, THANKSGIVING; Nov. 30, Hospice Care; Dec. 7, Club Assembly.

Greeters: Nov. 2, Roberta Baumann and Connie Blau; Nov. 9, Jason Brown and Jim Brussell; Nov. 16, Frank Bucaida and Kathy Cefalu; Nov. 23, THANKSGIVING; Nov. 30, Scott Cochems and John Cullen.

Make up meetings online

It's easy to make up a meeting on the Internet. The site is www.rotaryclubone.org. Print out the form and give it to Phil Willems, the club secretary.