

# Murphy-Brown LLC

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Fourth Quarter 2009



## “Tis the season” ...all year long



### Supporting the communities where we work and live

--Don Butler, Director of Government Relations & Public Affairs

Employees at Murphy-Brown's Kenansville, NC Division help Santa load up his...ah...sleigh to deliver Christmas wishes to needy children in the area. Employees donated toys, clothes, and other essentials to Duplin County Child Protective Services and gifts to the residents at Wallace Gardens assisted living.

have been good community citizens and positive ambassadors for the company. Thank you for helping to make your community a better place.

Looking to the future and our return to profitability, we will continue to support our communities, and we will be counting on our faithful employees to remain engaged in their community support activities. Again, thank you for your support.

**M**urphy-Brown and its employees are vital to the communities where our operations are located. Through the company's efforts and those of our associates, we participate in and help support a broad range of activities and projects throughout the year. We understand that being a responsible business citizen and encouraging our employees to become engaged in community projects is rewarding, not just to our communities. It gives employees a sense of pride and fulfillment to know that their efforts make a positive difference in the lives of others and promotes a positive public image for the company.

In a company as large as Murphy-Brown, with employees and operations in eleven states and production and support facilities widely disbursed within these states, our involvement in support projects and worthy causes may not be readily apparent to those who live and work in other areas.

As you know, during the past two years, the U.S. pork industry has endured the most severe economic crises in its history. Our company, like other producers, has suffered large losses during this time. Understandably, Murphy-Brown has taken many measures to minimize non-essential spending during these difficult times. Accordingly, we have reduced expenditures in the charitable giving area as well. The company has honored existing commitments to certain projects which were made before the economic downturn began, and we continue to evaluate requests on a case by case basis.

As economic conditions improve, we anticipate being in a better position to participate in more community projects. Even during this difficult time, our employees have remained engaged in their communities to assist those who are less fortunate. We commend all who have volunteered to assist with these worthy projects, made personal contributions, and

## China lifts H1N1 related ban on U.S. Pork

China officially lifted its ban on U.S. pork imports on December 1, an action that should help struggling U.S. pork producers. The Asian nation implemented the ban on U.S. pork in late April in the wake of an outbreak in humans of novel H1N1 influenza, which the media misnamed "swine" flu. The U.S. pork industry shipped nearly 400,000 metric tons of pork worth nearly \$690 million to China in 2008. This year, U.S. pork exports to China through August were down by 50 percent over the same time period.

## Murphy-Brown LLC

# Community Support, Sponsorship & Charitable Giving Policy

### Policy Statement

Murphy-Brown is committed to being a responsible corporate citizen. The company's strategy for sponsorship and community investment will enhance the reputation of the company as a leader in the livestock production industry and be a platform upon which to promote our values and principles to outside interested parties and key stakeholders.

### Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that a framework is in place within which the company will actively select, manage, and support its sponsorship and charitable giving activities.

### Scope

This policy applies to Murphy-Brown corporate management and all operating divisions and subsidiaries.

### Underlying Philosophy

Murphy-Brown believes in supporting worthy projects in communities where it has a business presence. In addition, Murphy-Brown encourages its employees to become involved in worthy community projects, activities, and initiatives which are supported by Murphy-Brown.

### Corporate Objectives

- Create and maintain a positive profile of the company among our key local, regional, state, and national stakeholders.
- Help motivate and encourage staff to understand more fully the company's commitment to community support.

- Provide an opportunity for the company and its employees to engage actively in the communities in which it operates and with the people who live in the surrounding area.

### Corporate Principles and Practices

Murphy-Brown's sponsorship and community investment activities are administered by the company's Government Relations & Public Affairs department. Company supported activities and sponsorships will be confined to specific projects, activities or corporate charitable giving opportunities which will benefit the recipient communities and enhance the reputation of the company as a whole.

Murphy-Brown's charitable giving program is not designed to provide financial support for publicly financed organizations such as schools, libraries, health departments, regulatory agencies or medical facilities. Additionally, this program is not intended to provide financial support for religious organizations or facilities.

Final decisions regarding Murphy-Brown's participation in sponsorship or support of a particular project will be made by the office of Government Relations & Public Affairs. Special consideration for Murphy-Brown's support of a particular project will be given to requests submitted by Murphy-Brown employees or individuals with whom the company has an existing contract grower relationship.

For more information about Murphy-Brown's Charitable Gifting Policy, contact the Government Relations & Public Affairs department at 910-293-5324.

## Among the charitable activities sponsored and supported by Murphy-Brown and/or associates...

American Cancer Society  
Boy/Girl Scouts  
Toys for Tots  
Food Banks  
Homeless Shelters  
Boys & Girls Clubs  
Hospice  
American Red Cross  
United Way  
4H  
American Heart Association  
Ronald McDonald House  
Salvation Army  
Samaritans Purse  
Habitat for Humanity  
Future Farmers of America  
Sarah's Refuge  
Education Foundations  
St. Jude's  
Meals on Wheels  
Crisis Centers  
Coats for Kids  
Christmas Projects  
Ducks Unlimited  
Soup Kitchens  
Hospital Foundations  
Volunteer Fire Departments  
Animal Rescues  
Chamber of Commerce  
Sheriff's Departments  
Parks & Recreation  
Sports/Athletic Programs  
Lions Clubs  
Optimist Clubs  
Alzheimers Walk  
Shriners  
Rotary Clubs  
Women's Missions  
Salute to the Troops  
Wounded Warriors

# President Obama spares Butterball turkey from the Thanksgiving dinner table

“Today I’m pleased to announce--thanks to the intervention of Malia and Sasha, because I was ready to eat this sucker--Courage will be spared this terrible and delicious fate.”

**Butterball, LLC** - America’s largest turkey producer, Butterball LLC, a joint venture between Maxwell Farms LLC/ Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc., and Smithfield Foods, Inc., played an important role in raising the 2009 National Thanksgiving Turkey and its alternate presented by the National Turkey Federation for this year’s White House “Pardoning.”

On Monday, November 23, Walter Pelletier, vice president of Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc. and corporate secretary/treasurer for Butterball, led a press conference at the Worley Family Farm in Princeton, N.C. to officially bid good luck to the birds that were pardoned during this year’s White House Rose Garden ceremony.

Supervised by Pelletier, the Worley family, growers for Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc., cared for the special birds prior to their visit to the White House this year. Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc. supplies turkeys to Butterball, LLC.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to carry on a tradition that represents such an important part of American life as we know it,” said Pelletier, who is serving as the 2009 NTF chairman. “Working with the Worley family has been a privilege. We selected them because of their representation of today’s American farmer that has worked together for generations to grow and contribute to the nation’s food supply.”

The turkey, known as Courage, was presented during the White House

ceremony on Wednesday, November 25, while the alternate, Carolina, stood ready to assist. Additionally, the pardoned turkey served as Honorary Grand Marshal for Disney’s “Thanksgiving for Giving Day” Parade.

After the parade, the National Thanksgiving Turkey and his alternate settled into their new home in Frontierland at Disneyland in Southern California.

“When you think turkeys, you think about Butterball,” said Keith Shoemaker, CEO of Butterball, LLC. “One of the things that makes us proud about our company is the care and attention that goes into raising healthy birds. The National Thanksgiving Turkey and alternate were raised in similar conditions to all of the birds that Butterball raises each year, with the added element that they had close one-on-one human contact throughout their development. This contact helps prepare them for their



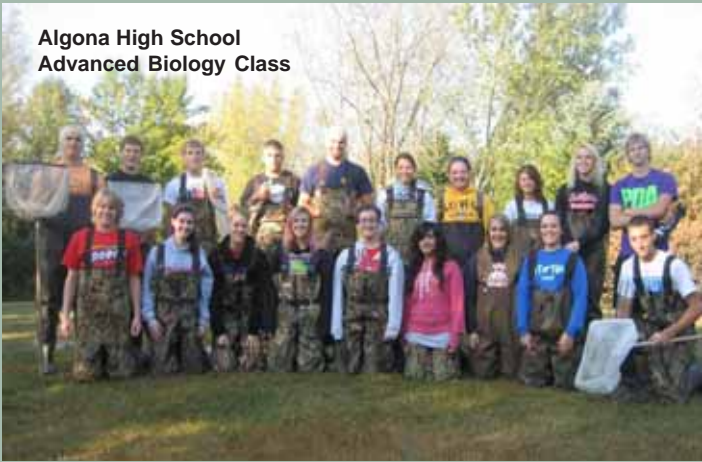
Courage the Turkey stands proud during the Rose Garden Ceremony at the White House, as he is “pardoned” from the Thanksgiving table.

big day in the White House Rose Garden.”

This year marked the 62nd anniversary of the time-honored tradition that dates back to President Harry S. Truman, who first pardoned turkeys in 1947. The president uses this event as the kickoff to the holiday season. To many within the turkey industry, the annual turkey pardoning calls attention to the presence and importance of family farming within America’s heritage and framework.



Now a celebrity, Courage, along with Carolina, will spend the rest of his days in the lap of luxury in Frontierland at Disneyland in Southern California.



Algona High School  
Advanced Biology Class



Washington Park  
Elementary

# Testing the waters...

Earlier this fall, students from Algona High School's advanced biology class in Algona, Iowa, set out to perform water quality tests on the East Fork of the Des Moines River, a tributary of the Mississippi River and the largest river flowing across the state of Iowa. These tests, part of the group's World Water Monitoring Day project, were to determine the river's pH, dissolved oxygen, nitrate and phosphate levels, and river velocity. While there, the students also performed a stream habitat assessment, vertebrae species assessment inventory and benthic macro invertebrate inventory. Benthic macro invertebrates are animals without backbones including crayfish, clams, snails and aquatic worms.

Concurrently, in Virginia, the junior and senior chemistry students from Tidewater Academy in Wakefield, Virginia, took

**World Water Monitoring Day project teaches students the importance of protecting water resources**



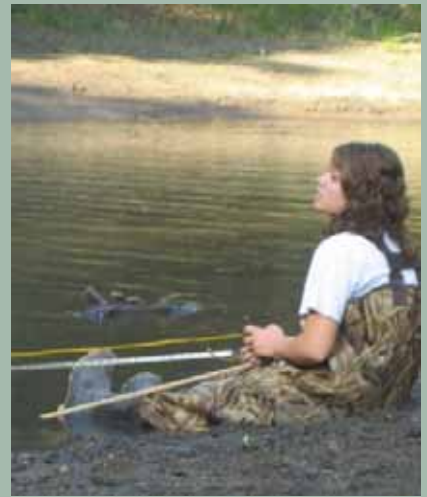
samples from three different sites in the surrounding areas. Over thirty students went to four different locations to conduct the necessary water tests. R.O. Britt, a senior environmental systems manager from Murphy-Brown, provided the Virginia groups with additional information about the importance of water quality assessment and explained the procedure and results from each site.

After each test, the students posted the

data on a national website and will regularly monitor these sites for water quality changes.

Elementary students from Washington Park Elementary School in Laurinburg, North Carolina also participated in the WWMD project, with assistance from Mike Cudd, an environmental resource specialist at Murphy-Brown.

All this testing was part of a collaborative effort with Murphy-Brown associates



**Smithfield Foods sponsors World Water Monitoring Day. Company and its subsidiaries host WWMD events**



R.O. Britt, a senior environmental systems manager from Murphy-Brown, provided the Virginia groups with additional information about the importance of water quality assessment and explained the procedure and results from each site.



who hosted the students during their World Water Monitoring Day projects.

World Water Monitoring Day is an international education and outreach program that builds awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world by engaging citizens to conduct basic monitoring of their local water bodies.

While engaged in this annual event, students can learn more about the watersheds in which they live, how watersheds work and how protecting their

waters can have beneficial impacts downstream. Teachers and students often use their data to discuss impacts in the local watershed and compare their findings with others.

Smithfield Foods, Inc. is a major sponsor of World Water Monitoring Day. The Water Environment Federation and the International Water Association serve as the primary coordinators for the program. A complete list of sponsors and partners can be found on the Website, [www.worldwatermonitoringday.com](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.com).

The next World Water Monitoring Day will be in September 2010. Murphy-Brown encourages each division to host an event in their area. Events can be planned from September through December. For more details, contact Rhonda Campbell at 910-293-5324.

# Doing it right!

Iowa Pork Producer, November 2009



Roger and Renee Nath, contract producers with Murphy-Brown from Hartley, Iowa, named 2009 National Environmental Stewards

**To Roger Nath, the environment encompasses everything around us -- the air we breathe, the water and essential nutrients to sustain life. "Our very existence comes from the environment," he says.**

Roger Nath and his wife, Renee, own JAC Pork, Inc., near Hartley in northwest Iowa, and they were recently named one of four recipients of the pork industry's highest environmental honor, the 2009 Pork Industry Environmental Steward Award, by the National Pork Board. The award, now in its 15th year, honors producers who demonstrate a firm commitment to safeguarding the environment and their local communities.

Roger has farmed and worked in the pork industry for 38 years. JAC Pork consists of two fully slatted buildings, each housing approximately 1,760 hogs. The Nath's wean to finish facility produces approximately 8,500 hogs annually, and they have 700 acres of corn and soybeans on their fifth generation family farm. The operation's name is an acronym

using the first letter of each of Roger's children's names: Jeremy, Andrew and Christine.

The swine buildings have forced air and natural ventilation and use a scraper system in the shallow pit, which aids in the transfer of manure to the earthen basin outside storage facility. Nath and his site manager continually look for ways to better the operation to improve herd health and have the least possible impact on the environment.

"My environmental stewardship focus is on the farm land, my livestock operation and our personal lives," Nath says. "Having a good work ethic, being accountable and taking pride in my work results in achieving my environmental stewardship goals."

## Manure Management

JAC Pork follows a comprehensive nutrient management plan, a top priority that focuses on gaining an economic advantage by utilizing the nutrients in the manure for crop production. Liquid manure is pumped from the basin to a

drag-hose system, and the manure is injected below the soil surface in the appropriate field using a chisel plow to maximize nutrient savings and mitigate odor. JAC Pork also uses a straw-based biocover on their earthen basin to prevent odor issues. Nath has always been in good standing with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources and currently has a Tier 1 status, the highest rating assigned to a swine production facility.

## Compost Unit

One of the innovative ideas the Naths are quite proud of is the state-of-the-art six-bay compost unit. The storage facility has a roof and poured concrete pads and sidewalls with an adhesive bentonite strip between each floor and wall joint. The floor slopes to the back to keep moisture in place. A 20-foot by 70-foot concrete pad in front of the composter facilitates access and keeps the front neat and easy to clean when using machinery to recycle the mortalities. The unit faces south and is open on the south side to utilize passive solar gain from the sun to keep help speed the decomposition of mortalities. A sprinkler system helps maintain moisture around 65 percent. Recycled wood chips and shavings act as a carbon source to provide heat for the compost unit and help maintain a temperature of 120 degrees Fahrenheit. The combination of heat, moisture and carbon source breaks down the mortalities in 60 days.

## Soil and water conservation

The Naths take careful steps to reduce potential soil erosion and maintain water quality. A corn-soybean rotation uses a 100 percent no-till operation for soybeans following corn. Soybeans are no-tilled into standing corn stalks in the spring. The practice conserves soil moisture by not repeatedly working the ground, reduces trips and the carbon footprint. A minimum tillage program is used for corn following soybeans. The farm adjoins the Ocheyedan River, so Nath has an NRCS-approved filter strip along the river and

several water ways to slow down water and keep soil in place. Conservation Reserve Program land provides additional protection from erosion and wildlife habitat.

By planting trees at every family milestone and maintaining beautiful grounds for friends and neighbors to enjoy, the Nath's' credibility on environmental stewardship is enhanced even more.

"It is important to me to be able to play a role in helping preserve and better our environment," Roger says. "Stewardship is about giving back and the love of the land and the outdoors. I hope each following generation has an opportunity to experience all that I enjoy."

The Environmental Steward Award winners were selected by judges represented by pork producers and environmental organizations. The judges review applications from pork producers who are committed to upholding the ideal relationship between pork production and the



Roger and Renee Nath's farm, JAC Pork, in Hartley, Iowa

environment. Their operations were evaluated on their manure management systems; water and soil conservation practices; odor-control strategies; farm aesthetics and neighbor relations; wildlife habitat promotion; innovative ideas used

to protect the environment and an essay on environmental stewardship.

Roger and Renee, who are contract producers with Murphy-Brown LLC, will receive the recognition of their peers at the National Pork Industry Forum in March.

## Murphy-Brown receives Smithfield Foods President's Award for Environmental Excellence



Left...Kraig Westerbeek, Assistant Vice President Environmental Health and Safety Compliance For Murphy-Brown and Dennis Treacy, Vice President Environmental and Corporate Affairs for Smithfield Foods.

Murphy-Brown LLC was among the winners of the 2009 Environmental Excellence Awards. This year, Murphy-Brown received the President's Award for its demonstration of exemplary environmental performance in wastewater handling

and treatment. The initiative that brought the attention was the implementation of hand-held computers for all farms to assist in the nutrient management programs. These hand-held computers allow for real time uploading to central Murphy-Brown computers and automated annualized reporting of all facility's metrics.

Winners received plaques and certificates at an awards dinner and ceremony held in Kansas City recently.

Response this year was excellent, with over 120 projects submitted. These projects included over \$8.7 million in

savings with an average investment payback of less than one year.

The Smithfield Environmental Excellence Awards recognize those subsidiaries and their employees who look beyond compliance to focus on preventing pollution and enhancing environmental stewardship. Factors in determining the award winners include environmental impact, social significance, originality, innovation, technical value, transferability, efficiency, and cost effectiveness.

Each winning project selected also receives a check for \$3,000 to be donated to a local charity(s). Murphy-Brown will use its money to provide support for victims of domestic violence, educational supplies, and to provide meals to kids on Friday for the weekend when they are not in school.

# Apoyando a las comunidades donde vivimos y trabajamos

**M**urphy-Brown y sus empleados son una parte vital de las comunidades donde nos encontramos. A través de esfuerzos de la empresa y de muchos de nuestros asociados, participamos y colaboramos en apoyo a una amplia variedad de actividades y proyectos durante el año. Entendemos lo reconfortante que es no sólo para la sociedad el que seamos un negocio ciudadano responsable y alentamos a nuestros empleados a involucrarse en proyectos de la comunidad. Esto da a los empleados un sentido de orgullo y satisfacción al saber que sus esfuerzos hacen una diferencia positiva en las vidas de otros y promueve una imagen pública positiva para la compañía.

En una compañía tan grande como Murphy-Brown, con empleados y operaciones en once estados e instalaciones de producción y de apoyo ampliamente distribuidas en dichos

estados, nuestro papel en apoyo a proyectos y causas valiosas puede no ser muy aparente para aquellos que viven y trabajan en otras áreas.

Como ustedes saben, durante los pasados dos años, la industria porcelana de EU ha enfrentado la crisis económica más severa de su historia. Nuestra empresa, al igual que otros productores, ha sufrido grandes pérdidas durante este tiempo. Es entendible pues que Murphy-Brown haya tomado muchas medidas para minimizar gastos no esenciales durante este difícil período. En concordancia, hemos reducido del mismo modo gastos en el área de obras caritativas. La compañía ha honrado compromisos existentes con ciertos proyectos realizados antes de que comenzara el problema con la economía y continuamos evaluando solicitudes en forma individualizada.

Conforme las condiciones económicas mejoren, anticipamos estar en mejor

posición de participación en más proyectos comunitarios. Aún durante estos tiempos difíciles, nuestros empleados han permanecido involucrados con sus comunidades para asistir a aquellos menos afortunados. Felicitamos a todos quienes se han hecho voluntarios para asistir en dichos proyectos, hecho contribuciones personales y han sido buenos ciudadanos y embajadores positivos de la compañía. Gracias por ayudar a hacer de su comunidad un mejor lugar para vivir.

Mirando al futuro y nuestro regreso a los números positivos, continuaremos apoyando a nuestras comunidades y contando con que nuestros fieles empleados se mantengan comprometidos con las actividades de apoyo a sus comunidades.

Una vez más, gracias por su apoyo.

## Spreading Christmas Cheer

Associates at Murphy-Brown's Laurinburg Division recently donated a truck load of food items for the community Christmas Cheer program to Church and Community Services. Christmas Cheer is a program designed to aid needy families during the holiday season with food, clothing and toys for children. Murphy-Brown is proud of the support our associates provide to worthy projects during the holidays and throughout the year.



# Reglamento de Donación para Apoyo Comunitario, Patrocinio y Obras Caritativas

## Declaración del Reglamento

Murphy-Brown está comprometido a ser un ciudadano corporativo responsable. La estrategia de la compañía para el patrocinio e inversión comunitaria mejorará la reputación de la empresa como líder en la industria de producción ganadera y será una plataforma para promover nuestros valores y principios hacia otras partes interesadas e inversionistas clave.

## Propósito

El propósito de esta política es asegurar que existe un marco de trabajo desde el cual la compañía seleccionará, administrará y apoyará activamente su patrocinio y actividades de donación caritativa.

## Alcance

Este reglamento afecta a la administración corporativa de Murphy-Brown y todas las operaciones divisionales y subsidiarias.

## Filosofía

Murphy-Brown cree en apoyar proyectos de valor para las comunidades donde realiza negocios. Además, Murphy-Brown alienta a sus empleados a involucrarse en dichos proyectos, actividades e iniciativas a las que Murphy-Brown brinda su apoyo.

## Objetivos Corporativos

- Crear y mantener un perfil positivo de la compañía entre nuestros inversionistas locales, regionales, estatales y nacionales.
- Ayudar a la motivación y alentar al personal para que entiendan mejor el compromiso de apoyar a la comunidad que tiene la compañía.

- Brindar una oportunidad para la compañía y sus empleados a participar activamente en las comunidades en que opera y con la gente que vive en el área circunvecina.

## Principios y Prácticas Corporativas

El patrocinio e inversión den actividades comunitarias de Murphy-Brown es administrado por el departamento de Relaciones Gubernamentales y Relaciones Públicas. Las actividades apoyadas y patrocinadas por la compañía se limitarán a proyectos específicos, actividades u oportunidades caritativas que beneficiarán a las comunidades que los reciban y mejorarán la reputación de la compañía en su totalidad.

El programa de donación caritativa de Murphy-Brown no está diseñado para proveer ayuda financiera a organizaciones públicamente financiadas tales como escuelas, bibliotecas, departamentos de salud, agencias reguladoras o

instalaciones médicas.

Adicionalmente, este programa no intenta proveer apoyo financiero a organizaciones o instalaciones religiosas.

Decisiones finales respecto a la participación de Murphy-Brown en patrocinio o apoyo a un proyecto en particular serán tomadas por la oficina de Relaciones Gubernamentales y Relaciones Públicas. Consideración especial para el apoyo de Murphy-Brown a un proyecto en particular será otorgada a solicitudes presentadas por empleados de Murphy-Brown o individuos con quienes la compañía tiene relaciones contractuales existentes.

Para mayor información, contactar al departamento de Relaciones Gubernamentales y Relaciones Públicas al 910-293-5324.

These cute little "piggies" hitched a ride in the Rose Hill Christmas Parade on December 11. They were hoping for a chance to sit on Santa's knee and to tell him to please put pork under everyone's Christmas tree this year. How could he resist those faces!



# El Presidente Obama perdona la vida a un pavo de Butterball para la cena de Acción de Gracias

Butterball, LLC - El productor de pavos más grande de Latinoamérica y que es una empresa compartida entre Maxwell Farms LLC, Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc., y Smithfield Foods, Inc., jugó un papel importante en la crianza del Pavo Nacional de Acción de Gracias 2009 y su suplente entregados por la Federación



Nacional de Productores de Pavo este año para la ceremonia de "perdón" de la Casa Blanca.

El lunes 23 de noviembre, Walter Pelletier, vicepresidente de

Goldsboro Milling Company, Inc., y secretario y tesorero corporativo de Butterball, ofreció una conferencia de prensa en la Granja de la Familia Worley en Princeton, Carolina del Norte para desear buena suerte a las aves que fueron perdonadas durante la ceremonia en el Jardín de las Rosas de la Casa Blanca este año.

Supervisados por Pelletier, la Granja de la Familia Worley, productores afiliados a la Compañía Goldsboro Milling, cuidaron los privilegiados plumíferos antes de su visita a la Casa Blanca. La Compañía Goldsboro Milling provee pavos a Butterball, LLC.

"Es un honor tener la oportunidad de continuar una tradición que ha representado una parte muy importante de la vida en America como la conocemos", dijo Pelletier, quien está a cargo de la NTF en el 2009. "Trabajar con la Familia Worley ha sido un privilegio. Los seleccionamos por su representación del granjero Americano actual que ha trabajado durante generaciones para crecer y contribuir a la provisión de alimentos a la Nación" dijo.

El pavo conocido como "Valor" fue presentado durante la ceremonia en la Casa Blanca el miércoles 25 de noviembre, mientras que el alternativo, "Carolina", estuvo listo para asistir. Además, el pavo perdonado fue el Gran Mariscal del Desfile de Disney para el Día de Acción de Gracias. Después del desfile, ambos

pavos arribaron a su nuevo hogar en Frontier Land en Disneylandia del Sur de California.

"Cuando uno piensa en pavos, piensa en Butterball", dijo Keith Shoemaker, CEO de Butterball, LLC. "Una de las cosas que nos enorgullece acerca de nuestra compañía es el cuidado y atención que se pone en la crianza de aves saludables. El Pavo Nacional de Acción de Gracias y su alternativo fueron criados en condiciones similares a todos las aves que Butterball cría cada año, con el elemento adicional de dedicarles atención humana individual

a lo largo de su desarrollo. Este contacto ayuda a prepararlos para su gran día en el Jardín de las Rosas de la Casa Blanca."

Este año marcó el 62 aniversario de esta tradición que data de la administración del Presidente Harry S. Truman, quien perdonó pavos por primera vez en 1947. El presidente usa este evento para iniciar la época de fiestas. Para muchos dentro de la industria del pavo, el perdón anual de pavos atrae la atención hacia la presencia e importancia de la agricultura familiar dentro de la Tradición Americana.

## Checando las aguas...

A principios del otoño, los estudiantes de la clase de biología avanzada de la Preparatoria Algona en Iowa, realizaron pruebas de calidad de agua en la bifurcación Este del Río Des Moines, un tributario del Río Mississippi y el río más grande que fluye a través del estado de Iowa. Estas pruebas, parte del proyecto del grupo para el Día Mundial de Monitoreo del Agua, fueron para determinar el PH del río, oxígeno disuelto, niveles de nitrato y fosfato y velocidad del río. Mientras estuvieron ahí, los estudiantes también realizaron una evaluación del hábitat del flujo, evaluación de especies vertebradas e inventario y evaluación de invertebrados bénticos. Invertebrados bénticos son animales sin columna vertebral incluyendo cangrejo de río, almejas, caracoles y gusanos acuáticos.

Los estudiantes de química de los grados once y doce de la Academia Tidewater en Wakefield, Virginia, llevaron muestras de tres diferentes sitios de las áreas circunvecinas. Más de treinta estudiantes fueron a cuatro diferentes locaciones a conducir las pruebas de agua necesarias. R.O. Brit, un gerente de sistemas ambientales de



Murphy-Brown, proveyó a los grupos de Virginia información adicional sobre la importancia de la evaluación de calidad de agua y les explicó el procedimiento y resultados de cada sitio.

Después de cada prueba, los estudiantes publicaron la información en un sitio nacional de Internet y realizarán monitoreos regulares de estos sitios para detectar cambios en la calidad del agua.

Estudiantes de primaria de la Escuela Elemental Parque Washington en Laurinburg, Carolina del Norte también participaron en el proyecto del Día Mundial de Monitoreo del Agua, con asistencia de Mike Cudd, un especialista en recursos ambientales de Murphy-Brown.

Todas estas pruebas fueron parte de un esfuerzo de colaboración con asociados de Murphy-Brown que fueron anfitriones de los estudiantes durante sus proyectos del Día Mundial de Monitoreo de Agua.

# Haciéndolo Correctamente

Roger Nath y su esposa Renee, propietarios de JAC Pork, Inc., cerca de Hartley en el noroeste de Iowa fueron nombrados recientemente uno de los cuatro receptores del más alto honor ambiental de la industria porcícola, el Premio 2009 de la Industria Porcícola a la Responsabilidad Ambiental, por parte del Buró Nacional de Productores de Cerdo. El premio, en su quinceavo año, honra a productores que demuestran un firme compromiso en salvaguardar el ambiente y sus comunidades locales.

Roger posee granjas y ha trabajado en la industria porcícola por 38 años. JAC Pork consiste en dos edificios con pisos de concreto, cada uno aloja 1,760 cerdos. Los Naths engordan alrededor de 3,520 cerdos al año y tienen 700 acres de maíz y frijol soya en su granja familiar de quinta generación. El nombre de la operación es un acrónimo que usa la primera letra del nombre de cada uno de los hijos de Roger: Jeremy, Andrew y Christine.

Los edificios de credos tienen una ventilación natural de aire forzado y usa un sistema de raspado en una fosa baja, lo cual ayuda a la transferencia del estiércol hacia la instalación de la cuenca exterior de almacenamiento. Nath y su gerente de la granja buscan continuamente formas para mejorar la

operación y la salud del hato mientras impactan lo menos posible el ambiente.

“Mi enfoque en el cuidado ambiental está en el cuidado de la tierra de cultivo, mi operación ganadera y la vida de nuestro personal,” dijo Nath. “Tener una buena ética laboral, ser responsable y enorgullecerse de los resultados y logros de mi interés por el medio ambiente.

## Manejo del Estiércol

JAC Pork, sigue un plan comprensivo de administración de nutrientes, una prioridad que se enfoca en obtener ventajas económicas utilizando los nutrientes en el estiércol para la producción de cosechas. Estiércol líquido es bombeado de la cuenca hasta un sistema de manguera de arrastre con el cual el desecho es inyectado bajo la superficie del suelo en el terreno apropiado usando un aparato de inyección que maximiza el ahorro de nutrientes y mitiga el olor. JAC Pork también usa cubierta a base de paja en su cuenca para prevenir problemas de olor. Nath siempre ha quedado bien con el Departamento de Recursos Naturales de Iowa y actualmente tiene un estatus de Nivel 1, el grado más alto asignado a una instalación de producción porcina.



## Unidad de Composta

Una de las ideas innovadoras de la que los Naths están muy orgullosos es la Unidad de Composta de seis bahías. La instalación de almacenaje está techada y cuenta con pisos y paredes de concreto con una banda de “bentinite” entre cada flujo y pared conectiva. La inclinación de los pisos hacia la parte trasera mantiene la humedad en su lugar. Un piso de concreto de 20 por 70 pies al frente de la instalación de composta da acceso y mantiene el frente en orden y fácil de limpiar cuando se usa la maquinaria para reciclar la mortalidad. La unidad está orientada al sur y está abierta al lado sur para utilizar la energía solar en la aceleración del proceso de descomposición de la mortalidad. Un sistema de rociadores ayuda a mantener la humedad alrededor de un 65 por ciento. Pedazos de madera reciclados y aserrín actúan como fuente de carbón para proveer calor que mantenga a la unidad de composta con una temperatura de 120 grados Fahrenheit. La combinación de calor, humedad y fuente de carbón desintegra la mortalidad en 60 días.

## Conservación de Suelo y Agua

Los Naths toman pasos cuidadosos para reducir el potencial de erosión del suelo y mantener la calidad del agua. Una rotación de cosechas de maíz y soya usa una operación de 100 % no-residuos para el frijol soya después del maíz. La siembra de soya es realizada en tierra sin residuos de rastrojo de maíz para la primavera. Esta práctica conserva la humedad en el suelo al evitar trabajar la tierra repetidamente, reduce los viajes y la huella de carbono. Un programa de residuo mínimo se usa para el maíz después de la cosecha de la soya. La granja colinda con el Río Ocheyeden, así que Nath cuenta con una franja de filtro aprobada por la NRCS a lo largo del río y varias fuentes de agua para reducir la velocidad del agua y mantener el suelo en su lugar. El Programa de Conservación de Reservas de Suelo provee protección adicional

## — Checando las aguas... —

El Día Mundial de Monitoreo de Agua es un programa internacional de educación y encuentro que crea conciencia e involucramiento en la protección de los recursos acuíferos alrededor del mundo haciendo que los ciudadanos se envuelvan en la conducción de monitoreo básico de las aguas locales.

Mientras involucrados en este evento anual, los estudiantes pueden aprender más acerca de cuerpos de agua de donde viven, cómo trabajan y como proteger el agua puede tener impacto benéfico corriente abajo. Maestros y estudiantes a menudo usan su información para discutir el impacto en las cuencas locales y comparar sus resultados con otros.

Smithfield Foods, Inc. es un patrocinador mayor del Día Mundial de Monitoreo del Agua. La Federación de Agua Ambiental y la Asociación Internacional del Agua y sirve como el coordinador primario del programa. Una lista completa de patrocinadores y socios se encuentra en el sitio de Internet, [www.worldwatermonitoringday.com](http://www.worldwatermonitoringday.com).

El próximo Día Mundial de Monitoreo de Agua se celebrará en septiembre del 2010. Murphy-Brown anima a cada división a ser los anfitriones de un evento en su área. Para más detalles, comuníquese con Rhonda Campbell al 910-293-5324.

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*May your new year be filled with  
many blessings and abundant joy!*

## Haciéndolo Correctamente...

contra la erosión y a favor del hábitat de vida silvestre.

Plantando árboles en cada fecha importante para la familia y manteniendo hermosos campos para disfrute de sus amigos y vecinos, la credibilidad de los Nath's respecto a su compromiso de conservar el medio ambiente se incrementa aún más.

“Es importante para mí el ser capaz de jugar un papel en la preservación y mejora de nuestro ambiente,” dice Rogers.

“Compromiso se refiere a dar de regreso y el amor por la tierra y la vida al aire libre. Espero que cada una de las futuras generaciones tenga la oportunidad de experimentar todo lo que yo disfruto.”

Los ganadores del Premio a la Responsabilidad Ambiental fueron seleccionados por jueces representados por productores y organizaciones ambientalistas. Los jueces revisaron aplicaciones de productores de cerdo que están comprometidos a salvaguardar la relación ideal entre la producción de cerdo y el medio ambiente. Sus operaciones fueron evaluadas en sus sistemas de manejo de estiércol; prácticas de conservación de agua y suelo; estrategias para controlar el olor; estética de las instalaciones de sus granjas y relaciones con sus vecinos; promoción del hábitat para la vida silvestre, ideas innovadoras para proteger el ambiente y un ensayo sobre el significado de la responsabilidad ambiental.

Roger y Renee, quienes son contratistas con Murphy-Brown LLC recibirán el reconocimiento de sus colegas en el Foro 2010 de La industria Nacional Porcícola en Kansas City en marzo.

## USDA Pork Buy Should Help Pork Producers

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to purchase up to \$50 million of pork products for various federal food programs - announced Nov. 11 - should help struggling pork producers who have been mired in a 2-year-long economic crisis, according to the National Pork Producers Council, which had urged the agency to make additional pork buys.

Since September 2007, the U.S. pork industry has lost \$5.4 billion, with producers losing an average of more than \$23 on each hog marketed. The pork buy is the third supplemental purchase this year. In March, USDA agreed to buy \$25 million of pork, and in early September it bought an additional \$30 million. Annually, the agency buys pork for federal food programs, including the School Lunch and School Breakfast programs. Last year, for example, USDA purchased \$62.6 million worth of pork.

In an August 17 letter to Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, NPPC urged USDA to take immediate action to address the pork industry's economic crisis. Among other actions, it asked the agency to:

- Purchase an additional \$50 million of pork for various food programs.
- Urge Congress to reconsider a spending cap on Section 32 funds to purchase pork.
- Buy on October 1 a minimum of \$50 million of pork using fiscal 2010 funds.
- Use \$100 million of the \$1 billion appropriated for addressing the novel H1N1 virus for the swine industry; \$70 million for surveillance; \$10 million for diagnostics and H1N1 vaccine development and \$20 million for industry support
- Work with the U.S. Trade Representatives to open export markets to U.S. Pork.