

## **Board of Commissioners**

315 Tenth Street  
P.O. Box 757  
Worthington, MN 56187-0757



---

Phone: 507-295-5201  
Fax: 507-372-8363  
administration@co.nobles.mn.us

*“In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities by fostering a healthy economy and environment.”*

*“Looking Forward with Purpose”*

COUNTY BOARD – PROPOSED ADDENDUM (2)  
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020, 9:00 A.M.

Zoom Information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86352140561>

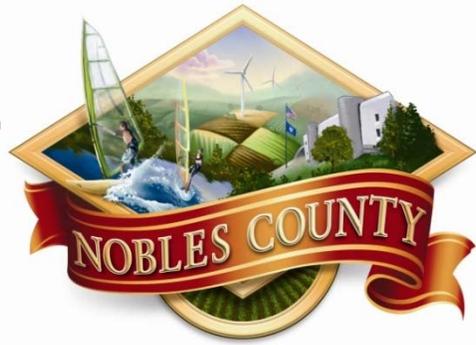
Call in Number: 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 863 5214 0561

(No password needed, just hit #)

## **8.0 Administration Presentation – Tom Johnson**

**8.6 Letter of Support for Hog Farmers** (Action)



*“In cooperation with our citizens, we improve the quality of life for individuals, families and communities by fostering a healthy economy and environment.”*

*“Looking Forward with Purpose”*

## **COMMISSIONER BRIEFING**

*July 21, 2020  
Letter of Support  
Federal Support for Hog Farmers  
Tom Johnson, Administration*

**Issue:**

We received a template letter to federal legislators related to the significant challenges of pork producers.

**Discussion:**

A template letter was drafted for the board to consider sending to our federal legislators. The template is attached.

**Options:**

Approve sending a support letter to our federal legislators.  
Do not approve the support letter.

**Recommendation:**

NA

ADDRESS BLOCK

Re: Supporting Pig Farmers Impacted by COVID-19 Disruptions

Rep./Sen.XXXX,

As the U.S. Senate and House work through the next COVID-19 relief package, I ask that you support provisions that have been introduced to support pig farmers. The pork industry experienced severe supply chain disruptions at pork processing plants because of COVID-19 which has put farmers in a very difficult financial situation and has forced some farms to depopulate healthy market weight animals that could not be moved to market or into finishing barns.

While not all pig farmers had to make the unfortunate decision to depopulate animals, many multi-generational family farms will struggle to survive. The hog markets has been volatile and farmers have seen prices plummet with collective losses of more than \$5 billion anticipated this year for U.S. pig farmers. Minnesota's farmers were hit particularly hard because the plants that closed early and for extended periods of time were plants where many Minnesota pigs are processed.

While the situation in our packing plants has improved, hogs are still backed up on farms and it has caused negative downward pressure on prices. Without prompt federal government assistance, many generational family pig farms could go bankrupt. This would negatively impact our communities and would lead to consolidation in the farm sector.

Livestock provisions in the House HEROES Act would go a long way in helping our farmers. Senate legislation introduced earlier this month would also provide a critical lifeline to pork producers. With the Senate expected to swiftly proceed to the next coronavirus aid package later this month, we urge Congress to act quickly.

Pig farmers are committed to doing what is right for their animals and their communities. The emotional and financial stress they have endured is immense. We need to support the farmers who are so important to the fabric of our rural communities and state economy.

Regards,

First Last  
XXXX County Commissioner