

Animal Well-Being Advisory Panel



Erin Brenneman

Brenneman and her family operate Brenneman Pork, a fully integrated, family-run pork and grain operation in Washington County Iowa. She has a truly unique perspective on farming as she grew up in the suburbs of Chicago. She had always assumed food came from the grocery store and never put much thought into the people and families that worked so hard to raise it. That all changed in 2004 when she received her bachelor's degree in Animal Science from Iowa State University and married her husband. She moved back with him to his family's farm in southeast Iowa and has been passionate about sharing that journey and experience ever since. Erin has been a representative for the U.S. Farmers & Ranchers Alliance's (USFRA) Faces of Farming and Ranching program. Erin is also

a contributor to the PorkNetwork website and shares her agriculture experiences and perspectives on her blog there.

Blog: porknetwork.com/users/erinbrenneman

On the farm daily, Erin's passion is with the baby piglets. She describes her job as a "day one farrowing specialist" as running a maternity ward for pigs. She enjoys the rewards and challenges that come with providing their pigs with the finest individual care. Erin and her husband Tim also have two boys, ages 5 and 10, that have a passion for the family farm as well. Instilling into the next generation that desire to continuously improve is something that Brenneman Pork is extremely passionate about. Erin enjoys watching her boys grow up as farm kids and appreciating all the wonderful things that being a family farmer means to us.



Anne Burkholder

Burkholder is the owner of a beef cattle feedlot in Nebraska. She received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Dartmouth College and, using this background, has made decisions that ensure low-stress situations for her cattle. She sits on the Beef Quality Assurance Advisory Committee and is the region 9 director of the Nebraska State Beef Council. In 2009,

Burkholder won the Beef Quality Assurance Producer of the Year Award for volunteer work promoting food safety and animal welfare. She lives in Nebraska with her husband and three daughters. **Blog:** Feedyardfoodie.com



Dr. Gail Golab

Golab is director of American Veterinary Medical Association's Animal Welfare Division. She has been working toward humane treatment of animals since her participation on an oversight committee while engaged in biomedical research as an undergraduate. Since then, she has served on advisory committees on the care and use of animals in agriculture, biomedical research, the pet industry, entertainment and human healthcare

applications. She graduated with a Ph.D. from Texas A&M, a D.V.M. from University of Illinois, is certified as a member of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists (Animal Welfare), is a charter diplomate of the American College of Animal Welfare (an AVMA-recognized veterinary specialty board) and a Distinguished Practitioner in the National Academies of Practice. She lives in Illinois.



Dr. Temple Grandin

Grandin is a professor of animal science at Colorado State University, focusing on livestock behavior, handling and animal welfare. She has designed guidelines and humane facilities for livestock animals in the meat-packing industry. Her nonfiction book, "Animals in Translation: Using the Mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior," is a New York Times bestseller, and HBO-produced an award-

winning biopic on her life from childhood struggles with autism to today. Grandin is among *Time* magazine's 2010 Top 100 Most Influential People in the World. She received her bachelor's degree from Franklin Pierce College, her master's degree from Arizona State University, and her Ph.D. from the University of Illinois. She lives in Fort Collins, Colorado.



Dr. Elisabeth Hagen

Hagen is the former USDA Under Secretary for Food Safety and Chief Medical Officer. After leaving USDA, Elisabeth became a Senior Advisor to Deloitte and directly to the food and beverage industry. Currently she works with clients to understand the changing food safety landscape and opportunities for growth. Elisabeth earned her M.D. from Harvard

Medical School, and is specialty trained in infectious disease and internal medicine.

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Dr. Gail Hansen

Hansen is a senior policy consultant for Hansen Consulting, LLC specializing in infectious diseases and public health. She is a former senior officer working on the animal portion of the Pew Charitable Trusts antibiotic resistance project, to end the overuse of antibiotics in food animals.

Before joining Pew, Hansen served as the state epidemiologist and public health veterinarian for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, where most of her work centered on infectious diseases and public health policy. While there, she led a team of epidemiologists that investigated outbreaks and sporadic

cases of infectious disease, evaluated public health prevention measures, and developed disease-tracking systems for the state.

For 12 years, Hansen had a successful private veterinary practice, before shifting to public health at local and state public health departments.

Prior to joining Pew, she was a Congressional Science Policy Fellow and a legislative assistant for U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT). Hansen received her D.V.M. from the University of Minnesota and her master's in epidemiology from the University of Washington.



Joy Mench

Mench is Professor Emeritus of Animal Science at the University of California at Davis. She conducts behavioral research on poultry and other animals, focusing on assessing animal welfare and improving housing, handling, and management. Joy graduated from San Francisco State University with a B.S. in biology and from the University of Sussex with a Ph.D. in Ethology & Neurobiology. She serves as Vice Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee

for United Egg Producers and a member of the Academic Advisory Committee for the National Chicken Council, was a member of the Broiler Guidelines Committee for the World Animal Health Organisation (OIE), and acts as a scientific advisor for a variety of other food system stakeholder groups, including the Humane Heartland program of the American Humane Association and Certified Humane.



Alex Moore

Moore is the chief development officer at DC Central Kitchen, a nationally acclaimed nonprofit social enterprise that fights food waste, provides culinary training to at-risk adults, and serves nutritious meals to low-income children, adults, and families. His nonfiction book, "The Food Fighters," chronicles DC Central Kitchen's first 25 years on the

front lines of hunger and poverty. Moore received a bachelor's from Ithaca College and a master's from the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He resides in Washington, D.C.



Dr. Janice Swanson

Swanson is a professor and chair of the Department of Animal Science at Michigan State University, specializing in animal welfare and social responsibility in the food industry. She earned a Ph.D. in applied animal ethology from the University of Maryland, her master's degree and baccalaureate from University

of Connecticut. Swanson also serves on advisory councils and committees for multiple food chains. She is a Michigan resident.



Dr. Yvonne Vizzier Thaxton

Thaxton is a professor and director of the Center for Food Animal Wellbeing at the University of Arkansas.

Thaxton received her master's in Biological Sciences from Mississippi University for Women and her Ph.D. in Poultry Pathology from Auburn University. From 1992 to 2012, she held a variety of positions with Mississippi State University, including interim head of the Department of Poultry Science.

Before entering academia, Thaxton spent 23 years at Marshall Durbin Companies, where she was responsible for the science and quality assurance department. In that role, she oversaw all aspects of operations and regulatory affairs.

Her influence and expertise has been felt industry-wide, having been appointed three times to the USDA Advisory Committee on Meat & Poultry Inspection, as well as serving on several international committees fielding a range of food science and food safety issues. Thaxton has served as a consultant to the American Humane Association. She is a past president of the Southern Poultry Science Society and the American Poultry Historical Society and is a former member of the American Society of Microbiology and several other professional organizations.

Formerly the executive editor of *POULTRY* magazine, Thaxton continues to contribute technical articles and expert commentary on *Meatingplace*, via her widely read "Poultry Perspectives" blog.