INDIANA PORK

General Talking Points for Indiana Hog Farmers – MRSA / NY Times Column 3-12-09

- As a hog farmer, it's my job to take good care of my animals and to provide safe, quality pork products.
- That means that, when appropriate, we use antibiotics in our feed to protect the health of our herds and to ensure our food is safe for consumers.
- Because my family lives and works where our farm is located, protecting public health also is of vital importance to us.
- And because my family eats a lot of pork, we also want to be sure every meal is safe and nutritious.
- There is no evidence that meat consumption or handling is related to the transmission of MRSA, and the strain of MRSA most commonly found in pigs is not associated with community-based MRSA infections, according to the CDC.
- In fact, the average person is more likely to be struck by lightning or attacked by a shark than he or she is to experience antibiotic resistance from eating pork.
- *If applicable*: I participate in the National Pork Board's "Take Care – Use Antibiotics Responsibly" program that sets standards for the use of antibiotics on hog farms.