



U of MN Swine Extension Update



January 26, 2005

Volume 1

Contents:

1. New U of MN Swine Extension website launched
 2. Manure Management workshops
February 7 - March 23, Mankato and St. Cloud
 3. Farrowing Management course
February 10-11, Waseca
 4. Risk Management workshops
March 1 (Marshall), March 2 (Mankato), and March 3 (Austin)
 5. Animal ID Telnet program
February 24 at various locations throughout the state
-

1. New U of MN Swine Extension website launched

Swine specialists and educators from the University of Minnesota Extension service have developed and launched a new website to provide pork producers and allied industry in the state access to research-based information and educational resources. The newly created site is located at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

Material for the website was compiled and collected from the University of Minnesota, in addition to other university, government and industry groups, and will be continually updated to ensure current and relevant content is available to assist the pork industry in evaluating new technologies and techniques as they become available.

A calendar of upcoming swine educational events, along with information on current topics, extension programs, research projects, market reports, and useful links are provided. A key component of the website is the swine information resource center, a database of technical bulletins, fact sheets, and various other publications covering all aspects of pork production.

2. Manure Management workshops

The University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Extension Service has partnered with other Minnesota state agencies on a series of workshops that will provide participants with both practical and scientific information regarding the utilization of manure in crop production and water quality issues related to manure application.

Workshops are designed specifically for those involved in writing or reviewing manure management plans or integrating manure nutrients into crop production systems. Individuals from both the private and public sectors are encouraged to attend.

The four workshop days build on each other with the first focusing on manure nitrogen, the second on manure phosphorus, the third on manure management planning, and the fourth on manure management planning software. Course instructors include faculty from the University of Minnesota involved in manure application research and education and expert staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

The 2005 workshops will be held in St Cloud and Mankato, Minnesota in February and March. Workshop descriptions, schedules, a printable brochure, and on-line registration can be found at <http://manure.coafes.umn.edu/workshops>. Information on other manure and air quality workshops can also be found at this website.

3. Farrowing Management course

Pork producers, unit managers and employees have an opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills in farrowing management during a 2-day intensive workshop being offered by the University of Minnesota Extension Service and the Minnesota Pork Board. The course is designed for individuals working in the farrowing area of any pork production operation, and is appropriate for people with a limited knowledge of pork production as well as veterans wishing to review the basics and get updates on recent developments.

The course will be conducted at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca February 10th (noon - 9 pm) and 11th (8 am - noon). Topics that will be covered include prefarrowing management, the farrowing process, managing the sow during lactation, piglet management, disease prevention and control, and swine welfare. Numerous hands-on activities will be incorporated to maximize student learning and understanding. Instructors for the course include Dr. Sam Baidoo, Dr. John Deen, and Dr. Mark

Whitney with the University of Minnesota, and Dr. Tom Wetzell from South Central Veterinary Associates.

Cost of the program is \$100 per person, and includes learning materials, lunches, breaks, instructor fees, and biosecurity clothing for hands-on training sessions. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Whitney, swine extension educator, at (507) 389-5541. People wishing to register for the program should contact the Minnesota Pork Board at (507) 345-8814.

4. Risk Management workshops

To assist producers in evaluating marketing alternatives, the Minnesota Pork Board and University of Minnesota are offering a one-day workshop at several locations throughout the state entitled "Managing Prices for Optimal Pork Returns." Seminar dates and locations include March 1st (Marshall - AmericInn Hotel), March 2nd (North Mankato - South Central Technical College), and March 3rd (Austin - Riverland Community College). Participants will learn how managing price risk can help control hog prices and feed costs, evaluate contracting choices, develop a marketing plan, optimize profit margins, improve fiscal planning, and supplement packer agreements.

The workshop will run from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, with lunch being provided by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The morning program will concentrate on the fundamentals of futures and options contracts, while the afternoon session will focus on how to process and execute hog margin management. Commodity risk management specialists from Commodity & Ingredient Hedging, LLC will be providing instruction for both sessions. Additionally, Greg Eaton, AgStar Financial Services, will discuss Livestock Risk Protection, a USDA-subsidized risk protection program that is administered by private insurance companies.

There is no cost for the workshop, with expenses being provided for through funding from the National Pork Checkoff, but participants are asked to pre-register with the Minnesota Pork Board office at 1-800-537-7675.

5. Animal ID Telnet program

Livestock producers wishing to learn more about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and its implementation and effects on livestock production in Minnesota can attend one of several Telnet conference sessions to be held throughout the state on February 24th, at 1:00 pm and/or 6:30 pm. Sessions will be approximately 2 hours in length, and will include presentations

from Gene Hugoson, MDA commissioner, and representatives from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

NAIS is a rapid animal and premise identification system designed to control and prevent outbreak of a foreign animal disease in the United States. The program is currently voluntary, with livestock premises identified during the initial phase. Benefits for Minnesota's livestock industry include prevention of large-scale outbreaks of foreign animal diseases and creating value-added opportunities to producers by providing processors and end users with a reliable method for verifying production claims. Minnesota livestock producers are being asked to fill out an application for a premise identification number. Applications are being sent by mail, but will also be passed out at the sessions.

Statewide Broadcast Schedule			
City:	Location:	Times:	Contact Info:
Albert Lea	Albert Lea Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	651.296.2942
Cloquet/Carlton	Carlton County Extension Office	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.384.3511
Crookston	NWROC	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.281.8602
Farmington	Dakota Ext. and Con. Center	1 p.m.	612.624.3073
Grand Rapids	NCROC	6:30 p.m.	218.327.5964
Hutchinson	Hutchinson Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	320.234.0434
Mankato	Mankato Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	507.389.6714
Morris	WCROC	6:30 p.m.	320.589.1711
Rochester	Rochester Regional Center	1 p.m.	507.536.6301
Roseau	To be determined	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.463.0295
Saint Cloud	Michael's Restaurant	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	320.255.6169
Slayton	Court's Meeting Room	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	507.825.6715
Staples	Central Lakes Community College	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	651-296-2942

For more information, access the MN Animal ID website at <http://www.bah.state.mn.us/index/nais/nais.htm> or contact one of the locations listed above.

For more information:

Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

Mark Whitney, PhD
Swine Extension Educator / Assistant Professor
Extension Regional Center, Mankato
1961 Premier Drive, Suite 148
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-5541
whitn007@umn.edu



The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.