



University of Minnesota
SWINE EXTENSION
Update

July 20, 2006

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1. Monitoring Animal Welfare

A discussion by Dr. John Deen, U of MN, on issues and problems with welfare auditing.

2. New Vaccine Developed to Protect Pigs from PMWS

Researchers from Virginia Tech have developed a vaccine to protect pigs from Post-weaning Multi-systemic Wasting syndrome, caused by Porcine Circovirus Type 2 (PCV2).

3. Evaluation of Air Filtration Systems to Reduce PRRS Transmission

Brief summary of completed study by U of MN researchers evaluating four potential methods for reducing aerosol transmission of PRRS virus.

4. Newest Information on CAFO Ruling

A number of links describe the latest changes to the CAFO ruling and what it means to pork producers

5. New Pork Industry Handbook Available Soon

The new 2007 PIH will soon be released, but can be pre-ordered before August 1 for a 20 percent discount.

6. 16th Annual Swine Conference to Be Held August 29th

Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd. is preparing the conference to be held at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL.

7. Lemay Conference to Include Several Workshops Relevant to Swine Producers

Workshops on reproduction, nutrition, health, and ventilation will be part of pre-conference agenda.

1. Monitoring Animal Welfare

In many disciplines there is a saying that administrators should not be trusted if they actually want the job. Likewise, I think that anyone who actually welcomes welfare audits should be questioned. Welfare audits are the result of a dysfunctional relationship between animal agriculture and the general public. They reflect the argument that farm level decisions and decision makers cannot be trusted. If we accept this lack of trust, and invariably a lack of understanding, there is a place for audits, though audits may not be the best method to address the problem.

Welfare audits are problematic in many different aspects. We have problems in definition of the elements of welfare, measurement of those elements and

measurement of processes that lead to unsatisfactory welfare in animals. In application, it is fraught with personal bias, and it is conflicted by many different agendas.

We must come to the issue of welfare measurement with an understanding that our measures can only be partial, that all parties bring inherent biases, and that good communication methods are required to bring efficiencies to the process. In addition, all must admit that there are real needs for improvement in the welfare of farmed animals. It must also be recognized that all improvements are made under the restriction of limited resources. Particularly when we speak of welfare policy, where regulatory aspects are considered, we must view welfare considerations in terms of the allocation of limited resources. It really does become an economic question, though it is difficult for many parties to admit to this.

To read the full article, access the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

2. New Vaccine Developed to Protect Pigs from PMWS

Researchers from Virginia Tech, with funding support from Fort Dodge Animal Health Inc., have developed a vaccine to protect against post-weaning multisystemic wasting syndrome (PMWS). The disease, caused by Porcine Circovirus Type 2 (PCV2), has been in the swine industry for nearly ten years, but has really begun to show up and cause problems in U.S. herds the past year.

To read the full article, access the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

3. Evaluation of Air Filtration Systems to Reduce PRRS Transmission

Researchers from the University of Minnesota recently completed a study comparing four potential methods for reducing aerosol transmission of Porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome virus (PRRSV). Aerosol transmission was tested across 2 chambers connected by a 1.3-m-long duct containing the treatments. Recipient pigs, housed in one chamber, were exposed to artificial aerosols created by a mechanically operated mister containing modified live PRRSV vaccine located in the other chamber. Aerosol transmission of PRRSV occurred in 0 of the 10 HEPA-filtration replicates (0%), 2 of the 10 bag-filtration replicates (20%), 4 of the 10 low-cost-filtration replicates (40%), 0 of the 10 95%-DOP, 0.3- μ m-filtration replicates (0%), and all 10 of the control replicates (100%).

To read the full article, access the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

4. Newest Information on CAFO Ruling

A recent court ruling has raised questions as to how it will affect EPA guidelines, and more specifically, how livestock producers and owners will be affected. Links to various sources of information concerning the ruling are provided from the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

5. New Pork Industry Handbook Available Soon

The New 2007 Pork Industry Handbook is soon to be released. This updated and revised reference will be available in both hardcover book and DVD formats. It contains over 180 proven and useful fact sheets that cover everything about modern pork production, from the best housing options and nutrition practices to waste management, pork quality, and marketing.

The book and the DVD are going to be available on October 15th, 2006. For a limited time, however, you can pre-order a copy of the book, DVD, or both at a discounted rate. If you pre-order before August 1, 2006, you will receive a 20 percent discount. For more information and to obtain an order form visit the PIH Web page at www.ces.purdue.edu/porkindustryhandbook2 or call (888) 398-4636. Please note that pre-orders can only be received by phone, fax, email, or standard mail. They can not be submitted online.

6. 16th Annual Swine Conference to Be Held August 29th

Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd. is preparing for the 16th Annual Swine Conference to be held on Tuesday, August 29, 2006 at Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL. This conference is attended by more than 500 people and 50 companies and is recognized as an outstanding conference for pork producers. The conference has topics on disease, management, reproduction, economics, environmental management, and biosecurity. The format of the conference is short science and practical presentations with in depth breakout sessions appealing to staff, owners, lenders, and suppliers. This years meeting will have presentations on emerging diseases such as PMWS and Avian Influenza H5N1 as well as cutting edge presentations on PRRS, SIV, trailer drying, DDGS, autosort, and cost of production. The breakout sessions are Basics of Reproduction, Wean to Finish Management, Baby Pig Survivability, and Environmental Management. Key speakers include Dr. Scott Dee, Dr. Ralph Vinson, Dr. Ron Plain, Dr. Dennis DiPietre, and Dr. Mark Eisenhart. As in the past, there will be a separate all day session in Spanish focusing on breeding and farrowing.

For more information or to register for the conference, contact Barb Roskamp, Human Resources / Events Coordinator for Professional Swine Management at 217-357-2811 EXT. #116

7. Leman Conference to Include Several Workshops Relevant to Swine Producers

Conference sessions and registration information have been finalized and posted on the web at <http://www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach/events/adl/home.html>. The conference will be held this year on September 23 - 26 at the St. Paul Rivercentre. Producers are always invited to participate in any part of the conference and this year there are a number of pre-conference sessions that may be of particular interest:

Saturday, September 23rd

- *Reproduction Workshop: Achieving and Exceeding Sow Production Targets*
- *Swine Lameness and Arthritis session*
- *Analyzing Production and Financial Information*
- *Advanced Ventilation Workshop: Troubleshooting Curtain-sided Barns and Variable Speed Fan Ventilation Systems*

Sunday, September 24th

- *Nutrition Session: Impact of Ethanol Industry on Swine Farm Nutrition Economics*

For more information or to register, call 1-800-380-8636.

Questions?

It is our goal to bring University research to the Minnesota Pork Industry, ensuring the continued sustainability and competitiveness of producers and allied industry. Periodically check our events calendar on the U of MN Swine Extension website (www.extension.umn.edu) for upcoming workshops and seminars. Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

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