



University of Minnesota
SWINE EXTENSION
Update

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Volume 15

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1. Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) update

This short update, originally included in the March 9 Pork Leader, provides a summary of points covered at a preconference workshop focused on Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PWMS) and held at the American Association of Swine Veterinarians' annual meeting in Kansas City.

PMWS is not a food safety or public health issue, but is associated with Porcine Circovirus-2 (PCV-2), which has been present in the U.S. since the 1990s. A more severe form of the disease has recently been reported in eastern Canada since late 2004 and has also been reported in the U.S. PCV-2 is widely spread across production and is present in operations that have experienced PMWS and also in those that have

not. Because of this, searching for PCV-2 naïve breeding stock and semen sources would most likely be very difficult.

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

2. Swine Production in the Land of 10,000 Lakes

Those of us who live in Minnesota know how lucky we are to live in the “Land of 10,000 Lakes.” It seems that clean, fresh water surrounds us. A favorite fishing hole or good spot for water-skiing are just a few miles away. But, what would happen if you woke up one morning and found that you no longer had a safe water supply? What would you do if the water you rely on for drinking and recreation was contaminated and considered unfit for human and animal use? The mere mention of contamination in our water supply is enough to make most of us uncomfortable. Yet, we often take our water supply for granted.

Most Minnesota livestock producers are good environmental stewards and practice due diligence when it comes to protecting waters of the state. Large, confined swine operations are often scrutinized for their potential impact on water quality. In reality, both small and large swine operations have the potential to pollute Minnesota’s waters if they are not managed properly. That is why it is important for all swine producers in Minnesota to remember that they have a vital role in protecting our waters.

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

3. Effect of Corn Particle Size on Various Phases of Production

Ensuring your pigs grow quickly, efficiently, and profitably involves special attention to the diet, since feed typically represents 2/3 to ¾ of the total cost of producing market pigs. One characteristic of a feed quality control program that is sometimes neglected is particle size. A consistent desired particle size will ensure that diets are efficiently utilized, enhancing pig performance while minimizing nutrient excretion while improving handling and mixing characteristics. In general, reducing particle size increases the overall surface area of the grain allowing digestive enzymes more area to break down nutrients and begin the digestive process. However, reducing particle size too much can cause bridging and dust problems, increase energy usage and reduces throughput at the feed mill, and can increase the incidence of gastric ulcers.

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

4. Managing People in Pork Production Conference June 20th

Managing People in Pork Production: An Employee Management Conference for Swine Managers and Owners will be June 20 at the Best Western Garden Inn, North Mankato, MN. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with program speakers from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. This high energy conference will provide insightful and highly practical information that can be taken back to the farm for implementation the very next day. The workshop is a very unique opportunity to hear from top speakers on motivating, rewarding, and training a swine production workforce. Confirmed speakers and their topics will be:

- Sarah Fogleman, Kansas State University, Extension Agricultural Economist, "Breaking the Turnover Cycle" and "Incentives, Rewards and Compensation."
- Bob Milligan, senior consultant with Dairy Strategies and former Cornell University professor in the Department of Applied Economics and Management, "Managing Conflict, Coworkers, and Difficult People" and "Being a Boss to Family, Friends and Other Folks."
- Kit Welchlin, Welchlin Communication Strategies, "Managing the Generations at Work: Managing the Clash of Veterans, Boomers, Xers and Nexters" and "Communication between Men and Women: Men are from Fleet Farm - Women are from Nordstrom's."

Advance registration fee is \$20; register at the door for \$40. The fee includes speakers, materials, lunch and breaks. Questions on this Pork Checkoff-supported workshop can be directed to Trudy Wastweet, Minnesota Pork Board Education Director, at 1-800-537-7675 or trudy@mpork.com.

5. Breeding and Gestation Management Courses Coming End of July

Conventional and alternative breeding and gestation management are the focus Swine Training Programs scheduled for July in Waseca and Morris. Breeding and Gestation Management will be July 27 and 28 at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center, Waseca, and Alternative Breeding and Gestation Management will be July 31 and Aug. 1 at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center, Morris.

At the Waseca workshop, instructors will examine and evaluate indoor confinement housing systems utilizing individual stalls and large group housing. At the Morris workshop, instructors will examine and evaluate alternative housing systems, including large group pens in hoop buildings and the Swedish deep-bedded system, in addition to comparing these systems to conventional confinement. The curriculum for both sessions will be similar in content but will differ slightly to meet enrollees' educational objectives and to address variations between conventional and alternative systems.

These two-day intensive workshops are designed to increase participants understanding of the factors involved to successfully breed females and to care for them during gestation. The course is appropriate for people with a limited knowledge of pork production, veterans wishing to review the basics and stay abreast on recent developments, and producers who seek researched-based information on alterative

systems. Classroom instruction on the first day of the program is from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. A hands-on session, conducted at the centers' swine research facilities, are conducted the second day of the program from 8 am to noon. To maximize student learning and understanding, the hands-on session incorporates numerous activities relating to material covered in the classroom portion of the course. Class participants will be automatically certified or recertified under the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) program by completing the course.

U of M faculty and swine industry experts provide instruction for the course. Cost of the program is \$100 per person and includes learning materials, meals, breaks, instructor fees and biosecurity clothing for hands-on training sessions. Additional participants from the same production system may register for \$50 each. Individuals wishing to participate in multiple courses should call Minnesota Pork Board for a reduced fee schedule. Overnight lodging is the student's responsibility. For more information, contact U of M Swine Extension Educator Dr. Mark Whitney at (507) 389-5541 or Minnesota Pork Board Education Director Trudy Wastweet at (507) 345-8814. A registration form is available at www.mnpork.com.

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

This conference for Minnesota practitioners began in a small lecture hall on the St. Paul Campus and has evolved into the multi-session, international meeting it is today. 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*

Producers are welcome to register for a pre-conference session only if they wish. There is no need to register and/or attend the entire Leman Conference in order to attend a pre-conference session.

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

7. New Certification Program for Pork Industry to Launch July 2007

A pork industry coalition has developed a new certification program, called the Pork Quality Assurance Plus program. The program incorporates an animal well-being component, mainly the pork industry's Swine Welfare Assurance Program, into the Pork Quality Assurance Certification program. It focuses on producer education and premises assessment, with an audit of a representative sample of producers to provide extra credibility for the program. Funded by the pork checkoff, the program is the result of more than a year of work by pork producers, packers/processors, restaurants and food retailers. The program will launch on July 1, 2007, and will have a three-year implementation period. Producers interested in testing the program and sharing their input and experiences can call the Pork Service Center at (800) 456-7675.

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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