



University of Minnesota
SWINE EXTENSION
Update

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Access the article from www.extension.umn.edu/swine.
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Call the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-PORK or check the Internet at pork.org for more information.

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1. Swine ventilation workshop to be held March 15th in St. James



Improving the environment and fuel usage efficiency in swine facilities are scheduled topics at an upcoming swine ventilation workshop March 15, 2006 in St. James. The workshop is titled, "Managing Your Unseen Employee: The

Ventilation System." It's designed for swine producers wishing to improve the environment inside their animal facilities, improve the efficiency of fuel usage inside their barns, or in just learning more about ventilation systems. The (Wednesday) March 15 session runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The cost is \$100 per person, and pre-registration and pre-payment is required. Registration includes materials, classroom instruction, hands-on training in a mobile ventilation unit and lunch. Instructors will be University of Minnesota Extension agricultural engineer Larry Jacobson, U of M Extension swine educator Mark Whitney, and Iowa State University agricultural engineer Jay Harmon. In addition, Bethany Hahn with the Minnesota Board of Animal Health will present information on the Animal Identification system in Minnesota.

Registration and workshop details, including specific workshop location, are available from the Mankato Extension regional center at (507) 389-6714 or 1-888-241-3214. A registration form will also be available for download from the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

2. New UMN researcher to focus on animal behavior and welfare



The U of MN West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC), located in Morris, has completed a successful search to fill an assistant professorship position in Animal Science. Dr. Yuzhi Li comes to WCROC from the renowned Prairie Swine Centre in Saskatchewan. Prior to that post she completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of Alberta.

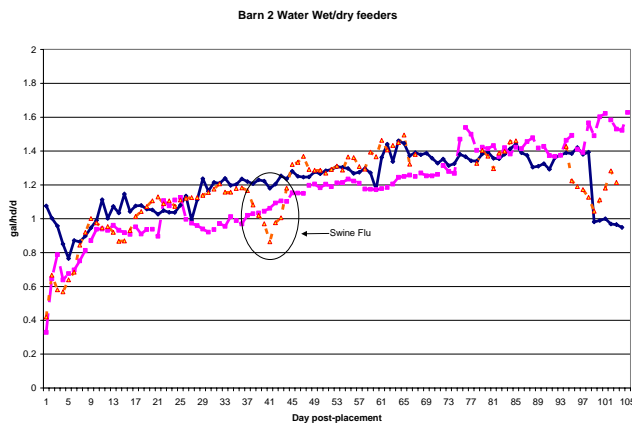
Having earned her Ph.D. from Hiroshima University in Japan, Dr. Li specializes in animal production systems, environmental management, and animal welfare. In particular, Li investigates swine housing issues. She says, "We need to know how animals respond to their environment in terms of behavior.... Animal behavior is a powerful means for us to understand what animals need for their environment because animals adjust their behavior before we see changes in physiology or productivity." Li's interest in swine housing also includes housing of gestating sows, space requirements, and group sizes for growing and finishing pigs.

At WCROC, Dr. Li will devote most of her time to research duties, coordinating and facilitating research on components of swine production systems, and emphasizing animal behavior/applied ethology. Her outreach responsibilities will include working with local swine farmers to lend her expertise for optimal pork production systems. Welcome, Yuzhi, to our UMN Swine Team!

3. Should we be monitoring water intake in our barns?

Availability of water recording devices, whether manual or electronic, allow producers to better monitor water usage by room or barn. Research by Dr. Brumm and others would indicate a strong relationship between drinking water usage and animal health. Based on field observations, if water usage drops more than 30% in a day, or drops for three consecutive days, a potential health challenge may be occurring. Monitoring these daily trends can allow a producer to detect disease onset or health challenges in a group of pigs 24 - 48 hours before clinical symptoms occur. Providing preventative therapy at the earliest possible time can mean the difference between a relatively insignificant performance blip and an all-out disease outbreak.

Several companies offer electronic water monitoring systems that provide real time data and offer the greatest sensitivity. However, a less expensive alternative that is easy to implement involves using a "Water Usage Chart" to map out water usage on a daily basis. Developed in cooperation with the University of Nebraska and the Iowa Pork Industry Center, the spreadsheet can be downloaded free of charge. The producer or employee reads the water meter once a day, at the same time each day, records the information and updates the graph on the form. The graph provides a visual depiction of water disappearance, and allows the caretaker to more easily identify changes in water intake, and thereby pig performance.



Monitoring water usage on individual groups of pigs on a daily basis offers an inexpensive, yet valuable management tool to better observe and care for pigs. Charting of water disappearance allows for quicker detection that something is negatively affecting pig performance, although it does not directly indicate what the problem is. Research and

field observations would indicate that monitoring water usage is much more predictable and sensitive than monitoring feed disappearance, and takes minimal time to implement and maintain.

Download or access the entire article from the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

4. Manure management and air quality workshops for 2006 announced

Are you looking for the latest and most comprehensive information on manure management planning or air quality?

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, as well as air quality issues. Manure management workshops are designed specifically for those involved in writing or reviewing manure management plans or integrating manure nutrients into crop production systems. Air quality workshops provide background information on animal agricultures and its effects on air quality, as well as biofilter design and construction. Individuals from both the private and public sectors are encouraged to attend.

The four Manure Management Planning 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. You can select one course or attend all four! 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.

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.

5. Pork Profit Days will be held March 13th in Marshall

A full day program aimed at all pork producers will be conducted March 13th at the SMSU Upper Level Conference Center in Marshall from 9 am - 3 pm. Speakers and topics include:

- Dr. Jerry Shurson, U of MN, "Value of Feeding High-Quality DDGS for Swine"
- Dr. John Deen, U of MN, "Loss of Pigs and Performance in Grow/Finish"
- Mr. Mark Schultz, Northstar Commodity, "Markets and Projections"
- Lange Ag Service, "Medicators and Sort Systems"
- Dr. Sam Baidoo, U of MN, "Use of Oregano Oils in Swine Production Systems"
- Dr. Jim Hedges, Ralco Nutrition, "Net Energy Formulation"

The program is sponsored by the Animal Health Center, Lyon County Pork Producers, Lange Ag Systems, US Commodities, Farm Credit Services, Wells Fargo, First Independent Bank, and Ralco Nutrition. There is no cost to attend the program, and lunch will be provided, but producers are asked to RSVP to (507) 532-5748 by March 9th.

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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