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1. Resource List for Assisting Pork Producers in Difficult Financial Times Available

The pork industry has been experiencing a combination of high feed costs and below-cost hog prices that is stretching producer resources and making for very difficult situations. In response to these harsh financial times, UMN Extension has compiled a list of resources pork producers can utilize. The web-based guide, "Pork Producer Resources for Difficult Financial Times", is located at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine). Direct links to downloadable fact sheets, interactive models, market forecasts, and web programs, as well as contact data for further information are provided in areas covering pork production, economics, financial and business management, and legal issues to consider, as well as information on managing family and personal stress.

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2. Farm Transfer Estate Planning Program Available Online

The PorkCast online seminar, "Farm Transfer Estate Planning" presented by UMN Extension Educator Gary Hachfeld on May 6<sup>th</sup> is now available to view online. Topics covered include: (1) establishing personal, family and business goals, (2) tax issues to consider when transferring the farm business, (3) business entities and transfer strategies, (4) treatment of heirs, (5) financial assistance for the entering generation, (6) estate planning issues, and (7) developing a written transfer plan. The program, presented by UMN Extension and MN Pork Board, can be accessed at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast).

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### **3. Swine Employee Management Conference in Mankato June 24th**

The third annual Managing People in Pork Production conference will be held June 24<sup>th</sup> at the Best Western Hotel and Conference Center in North Mankato, MN. Conference seminars are designed to assist pork producers, swine unit supervisors, system managers and others train and motivate employees and family members who work in production agriculture. Pre-registration is strongly advised, as space is limited and turnout has been outstanding in previous years. For more information or to register, contact the MN Pork Board at 1-800-537-7675 or go to [www.mnpork.com/employ.php](http://www.mnpork.com/employ.php).

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### **4. Upcoming Swine Training Program Workshops Include Breeding and Gestation Management and a Spanish Language Farrowing Management Course**

Two Swine Training Program workshops will be held this summer. The first, Breeding and Gestation Management, will be held July 31 - Aug 1 at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca. The second program is the first ever Spanish language training program offered and will cover Farrowing Management, held August 8<sup>th</sup> at the Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton. Swine Training Program courses provide classroom and hands-on learning activities maximize participant learning and understanding of material presented, and are designed to increase understanding of the factors necessary to successfully manage and complete tasks in different phases of pork production. University of Minnesota faculty and swine industry experts provide instruction for the course. Courses are appropriate for individuals who have limited knowledge of pork production as well as experienced producers who want to review the basics and learn about recent developments. Swine Training Program courses are sponsored by UMN Extension and MN Pork Board. For more information or to register, go online to [www.mnpork.com/producer/training](http://www.mnpork.com/producer/training) or contact UMN Swine Extension Educator Mark Whitney (507-389-5541) or MN Pork Board Education Director Trudy Wastweet (1-800-537-7675)

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### **5. ISU and U of NE to Hold Advanced Reproduction Seminar June 10th**

Information on new technology and management methods to help achieve a high and efficient sow reproductive rate will be presented at an advanced swine reproduction seminar in South Sioux City, Neb., on June 10. Iowa State University (ISU) Extension swine field specialist Dave Stender said swine reproduction specialists from two universities will join him in presenting useful information for those who work with sow herds. "Keynote speakers North Carolina State University professor Billy Flowers and University of Nebraska-Lincoln swine specialist Don Levis will provide information and insights on on-site semen management, reproductive herd performance tips, and trouble-shooting breeding performance problems," Stender said. "In the afternoon, they'll also present a swine reproduction question-and-answer panel." Stender will talk about strategic ways to cut output while retaining the ability to benefit individual herds and operations, as well as the industry as a whole. For more information or to preregister, contact Stender at (712) 225-6196 or [dstender@iastate.edu](mailto:dstender@iastate.edu).

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## 6. Research Report: Utilization of Manure Nutrients for Soybean Crop Production

A summary on the utilization of nutrients in hog manure for soybean crop production can be downloaded and viewed from our UMN Swine Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine). The publication, funded through Pork Checkoff and completed by faculty at Iowa State University, reviews available literature for the subject area, and primarily deals with yield response of soybeans to manure application and potential groundwater quality impacts. In general, the summary indicates a potential to produce higher yields when fertilizing soybeans with manure versus fertilizing with commercial fertilizer alone or not fertilizing. However, drainage water nitrate levels have also been shown to increase, and must be considered.

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## 7. Upcoming Events Calendar

May 29 <sup>th</sup>	PorkBridge: Use of Large Group Pens and Auto-sort Technology
June 4 <sup>th</sup>	SowBridge: Ways to Reduce Preweaning Mortality
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	Employee Management in Pork Production Conference (Mankato)
July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	SowBridge: Feeding Management in Lactation
July 31 <sup>st</sup>	Swine Training Program: Breeding and Gestation Mgmt (Waseca)
Aug 6 <sup>th</sup>	SowBridge: Keeping Gilts in the Breeding Herd and Productive
Aug 7 <sup>th</sup>	PorkBridge: Properly Walking Pens
Aug 8 <sup>th</sup>	Swine Training Program: Spanish Language Farrowing Mgmt (Lamberton)
Aug 20 <sup>th</sup>	PorkCast: Emergency Ventilation and Pump-out Procedures

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## 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](http://www.extension.umn.edu)) for upcoming workshops and seminars. Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

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