



U of MN Swine Extension Update



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Volume 4

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1. Nutritional and Feeding Strategies to Minimize Nutrient Losses in Livestock Manure

The livestock industry has undergone substantial changes in the past few decades. The poultry, swine, and dairy industries in particular have become increasingly concentrated. This has resulted in fewer, but larger, livestock operations throughout the country. As a result, there has been a growing concern about odor emissions from livestock operations and potential decreased water quality caused by nutrient runoff from livestock manure. One of the key components to lowering air and water pollution from manure is the animal diet. This article highlights different feed management practices that can and should be done to minimize nutrient excretion in manure, in particular nitrogen and phosphorus. Access this article on the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine (located under the "What's New" section).

2. Protecting Our Food System from International Attack

In June and July, a series of four regional workshops titled "Protecting Our Food System from Intentional Attack" will be held throughout the state. These all-day events will feature speakers from the U of MN, and several state agencies including Agriculture, Health, Public Safety, and the Board of Animal Health. The program has been developed for:

- Dairy, meat, grain, and feed producers
- Input suppliers for agribusinesses
- Food transportation, storage and processing personnel
- Cooperative extension educators and advisors
- Public health and health care professionals
- Local emergency response and management personnel

Even though the focus will be on "intentional" threats to agriculture and our food supply, the information on planning and preparedness will have direct implications for unintentional threats including soybean rust (and other crop disease emergencies); animal disease outbreaks; and natural disasters like floods, tornadoes, and power outages. For more information or registration to the Marshall, Brainerd, Thief River Falls, or West St. Paul workshops, access the web page at <http://safety.coafes.umn.edu/AgPHP/index.html>.

3. Deadline for EPA Air Compliance Agreement is July 1

The deadline for animal producers to sign up for the Air Quality Compliance Agreement is July 1, 2005. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached the agreement to study air emissions from livestock and poultry operations. It allows livestock and poultry producers protection from EPA enforcement of air emission violations from animal production units that occurred prior to and during the agreement period. The agreement also calls for a two-year national monitoring study for measuring air emissions from representative Animal Feeding Operations. Access the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine for more information on the study and key links for the issue.

4. Trucker Quality Assurance and Animal Handling Workshops

Trucker Quality Assurance and Animal Handling Workshops are set for May 19 from 2-5 p.m. at the Truman Community Center (313 North First Avenue) in Truman, Minn., and May 20 from 2-5 p.m. at the Pierce Office Plaza, lower conference room (360 Pierce Avenue), North Mankato, Minn. Pre-registration is requested. To register, call the Minnesota Pork Board office at 1-800-537-7675.

TQA is a Pork Checkoff program designed specifically for transporters, producers and handlers of pigs. The workshop stresses the role of each of these individuals in animal welfare, biosecurity and pork quality. Discussion will address handling pigs properly, biosecurity measures to ensure health standards, and tips for maintaining those standards during transportation. Instructors will be Mark Whitney, University of Minnesota Extension and Pete Hill, Tyson Fresh Meat. There will be an optional testing opportunity following the workshops for individuals who wish to certify or renew TQA status.

5. Current Issues in Manure Management Courses Upcoming

This workshop is designed to meet the 2004 educational requirements of the Commercial Animal Waste Technicians Licensure program but is also useful to others involved in land application of manure. The workshop will provide critical information on a variety of issues such as manure agitation and pumping, manure management plans, manure and flies, insurance coverage, lagoon closure, manure spill response, and manure sampling and testing. Workshops are scheduled for June 10 (Alexandria) and June 14 (Owatonna). For more information on these and other manure and air quality workshops: <http://www.manure.umn.edu/workshops>.

6. PORK Academy offers educational programs for producers

Producers Opportunity for Revenue and Knowledge (PORK) Academy will be June 8th at the Downtown Marriott, Des Moines, Iowa. PORK Academy is a series of in-depth seminars designed specifically to meet pork producers' need for information and education in today's rapidly changing world. PORK Academy allows producers to select those areas in which they have the most interest. Information will be presented during three sessions and at a luncheon program. The Academy runs from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The morning session topics are biosecurity, reproduction and marketing. Afternoon presentations are animal care and behavior, genetics, business and financial management, swine nutrition, environmental management, and alternative production and marketing. The registration fee is \$125 before the event and \$150 for on-site registration. The registration fee includes lunch and materials, including a CD-ROM of the PORK Academy proceedings. A PORK Academy brochure detailing events and registration information is available at www.mnpork.com or by calling the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675.

7. Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo

The 2005 Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo will be held August 11th at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. "Manure Application for the 21st Century" is the theme of this year's program. Held bi-annually, the expo will include field demonstrations of manure handling equipment, a trade show with over 50 vendors, and various educational breakout sessions. Further information and details are available at <http://www.manure.umn.edu/fieldday05>. If you are a producer that hauls manure, or a commercial manure applicator, you won't want to miss this opportunity to learn more on new technologies, methods, and equipment.

8. Input Requested for National Animal Identification System

On May 5th, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns unveiled a thinking paper and timeline on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). Calling on agricultural producers, leaders and industry partners to provide feedback on the draft plan, Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns is encouraging feedback. These documents lay out in more detail projected timelines and potential avenues to achieve system milestones. For example, these documents propose requiring stakeholders to identify premises and animals according to NAIS standards by January 2008. Requiring the full recording of defined animal movements proposed for January 2009. In the event of a disease outbreak, the goal of the NAIS is to be able to trace potentially exposed livestock within 48 hours. The need for this system is especially urgent when you consider the dual risks of livestock disease outbreaks and agro-terrorism. Each poses a serious threat to America's agriculture economy, and without a sound animal identification system, it will be very difficult for us to define and contain the damage.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before June 6, 2005. Guidelines for commenting or emailing comments are posted on the USDA NAIS Homepage at: <http://www.usda.gov/nais>. Once USDA receives feedback on the documents, it will follow the normal rulemaking process before any aspects of the NAIS become mandatory. The public will have the opportunity to submit additional comments on any proposed regulations. More information and links are provided under the Current Topics section of the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

9. Interested in Swine Training Program Workshops or Specialized Training Courses?

Dates and locations for upcoming Swine Training Program workshops have tentatively been set for the upcoming 2005-2006 year. The program, sponsored by the MN Pork Board and U of MN Extension Service, involves 2-day intensive training workshops throughout the year on various phases and aspects of modern pork production. Educators from the U of MN, along with experts from the swine industry, provide

program content and delivery, allowing for both classroom and hands-on learning experiences, while encouraging extensive discussion of timely subjects or issues. Beginning swine farm workers and experienced producers alike have participated and benefited from past workshops. More detailed information on individual courses will be available at www.mnpork.org and www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Workshop</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| July 14-15, 2005 | Breeding & Gestation Mgmt | Waseca |
| Sept 8-9, 2005 | Nursery Management | Morris |
| Dec 1-2, 2005 | Artificial Insemination | Waseca |
| Feb 9-10, 2006 | Wean to Finish Management | Morris |
| Feb 16-17, 2006 | Wean to Finish Management | Waseca |
| April 13-14, 2006 | Farrowing Management | Waseca |

The U of MN Swine Team is also available to provide assistance or instruction for your next training session. Whether you desire certification in National Pork Board programs such as Swine Welfare Assurance Program (SWAP), Trucker Quality Assurance (TQA), Pork Quality Assurance (PQA), or would like instruction in a specialized phase of production, timely topic, or information on new technology and research results, the Swine Team may be able to help. 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, or contact Mark Whitney, Swine Extension Educator, to arrange for a specific or specialized program at (507) 389-5541.

For more information:

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