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### **1. New PorkBridge Distance Education Program Begins in December**

Don't have a lot of time to attend a seminar or conference, but still interested in gaining knowledge in grow-finish pork production? An educational series, entitled "PorkBridge", allows pork production owners, managers and employees to increase knowledge and skills in grow-finish production without having to leave the comfort of their home or the farm.

The program, now getting ready for its second full year, combines electronic information viewed on computer with live oral presentations via phone by experts in topic areas. The week before each session, subscribers receive a CD containing that session's topic-specific presentation, along with information on accessing the live speaker presentation. Subscribers call into a toll-free conference line to listen to speakers, and may ask questions anytime during or after the presentation. Each session is 1 ½ hours in length, beginning either at noon or 7 p.m. central time. In addition, a group discussion email list is available for individuals to post questions between sessions.

Cost for participating in this subscription-only series is \$125, which covers materials and phone calls for all six sessions. Multiple individuals can participate at a site, thereby reducing cost per person. The program runs from December 2006 through October 2007. Session dates, speakers, their university affiliations and topics are as follows.

- Dec. 7, 2006 Jay Harmon, Iowa State University, "How do ventilation controllers communicate with variable speed fans?"

- Feb. 1, 2007 Mark Whitney, University of Minnesota, “Pig handling techniques and options to maximize productivity”
- April 5, 2007 Locke Karriker, Iowa State University, “Why do you have to bleed so many pigs for serology tests?”
- May 31, 2007 Mike Brumm, Brumm Swine Consultancy, “Out-of-feed events - what we’ve learned”
- Aug. 2, 2007 Duane Reese and Al Prosch, University of Nebraska, “Ethanol, corn, and pig profits”
- Oct. 4, 2007 Dick Nicolai, South Dakota State University, “How do we improve the smell of producing pigs?”

Mark Whitney of the University of Minnesota is the series leader and will be the moderator for all sessions. The PorkBridge program is sponsored by the University of Minnesota, South Dakota State University, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska, Ohio State University, and the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence. Those interested in registering or learning more about the program can access material at the U of MN Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine) or contact Mark Whitney at (507) 389-5541 or [whitn007@umn.edu](mailto:whitn007@umn.edu). Registration deadline is November 24<sup>th</sup> - register early to ensure you get your desired time slot.

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## **2. Nursery Management Course in Morris November 16-17**

There is still time to register for a Nursery Management Course to be held November 16-17 in Morris. The University of Minnesota Extension Service and Minnesota Pork Board will be offering the two-day at the University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center (SROC) in Morris, MN. The course, part of the Swine Training Series, is offered once a year to provide current and timely information to help swine producers and employees meet production challenges in the nursery. The course involves one day of classroom presentations and discussion (November 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:30 am to 7 pm) and a second half-day with hands-on activities (November 17<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to noon) at the WCROC sow unit. University of Minnesota educators and swine industry experts will provide instruction and course content.

The course is appropriate for people with a limited knowledge of pork production as well as veterans wishing to review the basics and stay abreast on recent developments and current technology. Specific areas covered in the course include early-wean technology, health management, nutrition programs, facilities, and antimicrobial usage. In addition, information concerning the Swine Welfare Assurance Program (SWAP) will be provided, and all participants will automatically be certified under the Pork Quality Assurance program for 3 years. Cost for the entire workshop is \$100, and includes learning materials, meals, instructor fees, and biosecurity clothing for hands-on training. To register, contact Trudy Wastweet at the Minnesota Pork Board at (507) 345-8814.

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### 3. On-Farm Composting 101

The word “compost” can bring to mind many different images: a small backyard area where fall leaves, grass clippings, and food scrapes are piled together; dark, earthy-smelling mulch that is purchased from a garden center and used in flower beds and vegetables gardens; large windrows of organic materials that are turned on a regular basis. So, what exactly is compost? The correct answer is “all of the above.”

Compost is an organically rich soil amendment produced by the decomposition of organic materials. The process of composting is a natural way of recycling nutrients from animal production. During the composting process, organic materials such as animal manure and livestock carcasses are broken down by microorganisms. The microorganisms consume oxygen and feed on the organic matter. Active composting generates heat, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water vapor.

A correctly managed compost system has numerous benefits. Composting animal manure reduces the moisture, weight, and volume of the material making it easier to handle during transportation to cropland. Properly composted manure has few offensive odors and the high temperatures generated during the process kill fly larva. Applying compost to cropland improves water holding capacity and air infiltration of the soil. Composting can kill weed seeds and pathogenic bacteria that are present in the original organic material. Unlike most inorganic commercial fertilizers, compost is a slow-release nutrient store. Therefore, nutrients are available as the plants require them instead of in one intense application.

To read the full article, which includes instructions on how to properly manage a compost pile to dispose of mortalities, access the UMN Swine Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine).

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### 4. Tips for Fall Manure Application

It's that time of year again - the end of another year spent planting, cultivating, sweating, pacing, worrying, and doing all the things farmers do throughout the year just to get to harvest. As the crops come off the field, livestock manure often goes onto the field. Here are some tips for the fall manure application season.

- Avoid Entering Manure Storage Areas
- Provide Adequate Ventilation.
- Follow All Highway Rules
- Test Soil and Manure Before Application
- Calibrate Manure Application Equipment
- Follow All Manure Application Guidelines
- Have An Emergency Action Plan for Manure Spills
- Be a Good Neighbor

To read the full article, access the UMN Swine Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine).

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## 5. MPCA Encourages Notification of Pumping and Land Application of Manure

It is that time of year again when many feedlots begin agitation and pump-out of liquid manure storage areas. In many cases CAFOs do not notify MPCA that they are beginning to pump and land-apply. Notification ([MN Rules 7020.200](#)) and ([MN Statute 116.0713](#)) grants a temporary exemption from state ambient air quality standards. With notification, MPCA can better explain the issue to the public when they start getting calls. The MPCA encourages livestock producers to call their regional office and provide information about the activity: name, location, permit number (if applicable), and dates of occurrence.

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## 6. Pork Profit Days to be Held in Granite Falls December 7th

Ralco Nutrition is again sponsoring Pork Profit Days. This year it will be Thursday, December 7, 2006 at Prairie's Edge Casino in Granite Falls, Minnesota. The program will start at 9:00 a.m. and finish at 4:00 p.m. Speakers will be:

David Preisler, Minnesota Pork Board, Minnesota Pork Producers Association  
Dr. Jerry Shurson, University of Minnesota  
Dr. Barry Kerkaert, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic  
Dr. Jim Hedges, Ralco Nutrition, Inc.  
Dr. John Deen, University of Minnesota  
Mr. Robert Koehler, UMN Southwest Research and Outreach Center  
Dr. Mark Wilson, Ralco Nutrition, Inc.  
Mr. Mark Schultz, Northstar Commodities

Please RSVP to Carol Differding at 1-800-533-5306 or email to:  
[porkprofitday@ralconutrition.com](mailto:porkprofitday@ralconutrition.com) if you wish to attend the program.

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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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