



## *U of MN Swine Extension Update*



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*Volume 3*

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### 1. Swine Training Program dates announced

Dates 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. Workshops are held at U of MN Research and Outreach Centers either in Waseca or Morris. 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](http://www.mnpork.org) and [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine).

## Dates and locations of Swine Training Programs:

<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

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## 2. Animal Agriculture and Air Quality workshops

Are you looking for comprehensive information on livestock air quality and odor issues? Air emissions (odor, gases and dust) from livestock and poultry production facilities are one of the biggest challenges facing farmers and citizens living in rural areas. Tools and technologies that can help reduce these emissions and solve odor problems have been developed at the University of Minnesota and other research institutes around the world.

The Animal Agriculture and Air Quality Workshop Series, offered by the University of Minnesota Department of Biosystems and Agricultural Engineering, brings this valuable information to farmers, regulators, community members, technicians, consultants, and others dealing with livestock odor concerns on a day-to-day basis. The next set of three one-day workshops will be held May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> in Owatonna, and May 5<sup>th</sup> in Waseca. The first day focuses on health, environmental, and regulatory concerns of air emissions, odor measurement, OFFSET (a tool used to predict the odor impacts from feedlots), and other information to help in the siting and regulation of livestock facilities. The second day focuses on technologies and management techniques to control odor and gas emissions, including manure separation, aeration, anaerobic digestion, and biofiltration. The third day combines field and classroom exercises to give participants a thorough understanding of biofilter design and construction.

You can register for one, two, or all three days of the workshop set, dependent upon your needs and interests. More details on workshop agendas and registration information can be found at <http://www.manure.umn.edu/workshops> or by calling Barb Oliver at 612-625-7024.

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### 3. 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](http://www.mnpork.com) or by calling the Pork Checkoff Service Center at (800) 456-7675.

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### 4. Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo

The 2005 Upper Midwest Manure Handling Expo will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> at the Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. "Manure Application for the 21<sup>st</sup> 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 will be coming in the near future as plans are finalized. 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.

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## 5. What's new on the U of MN Swine Extension website

### *"Gestation Housing - How does it affect sow longevity and performance?"*

Use of individual gestation stalls continues to receive more and more criticism due to perceived reductions in animal welfare. Research studies comparing group pen and individual stall gestation systems are being conducted at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach Center in Waseca, MN. Two recently completed trials shed light on differences in sow longevity and reproductive performance that can be expected between the two sow housing systems. This brief summary highlights some of the causes of variation and strategies to minimize it.

### *"Use of a Soil Hydrometer to determine N and P in liquid swine manure"*

An important component of on-farm nutrient management is the estimation of nutrient content in liquid manure prior to land application. To date, there have been few techniques easy to use by animal producers to quickly test nutrient content in liquid manure, such as total nitrogen and phosphorus. This short bulletin describes a new method, developed by UMN researchers, that allows the specific gravity of liquid manure to be measured, and then related to nutrient concentration in the manure.

### *Air compliance agreement deadlines extended for livestock producers*

Both the comment and sign-up periods for the Air Quality Compliance Agreement have been extended. The comment period is to be reopened from April 1 to May 2, 2005; the deadline for animal producers to sign up has been extended until 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.

To access these articles or other information resources, connect to the U of MN Swine Extension website at: [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine)

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## 6. Interested in specialized training courses?

The U of MN Swine Team is 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](http://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.

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