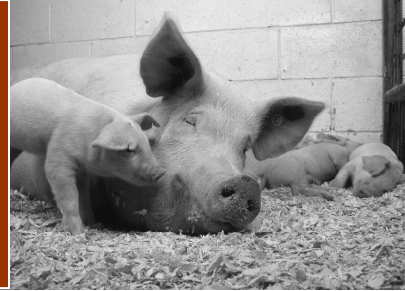




U of MN Swine Extension Update



February 17, 2005

Volume 2

Contents:

1. Animal ID Telnet program
February 24 at various locations throughout the state
 2. Risk Management workshops
March 1 (Marshall), March 2 (Mankato), and March 3 (Austin)
 3. Advanced Swine Reproductive Management seminar
March 4, Sheldon, IA
 4. FINPACK training offered
April 13 - 14, St. Paul
 5. New Air Quality workshops
Animal Ag & Air Quality I - May 3, Owatonna
Animal Ag & Air Quality II - May 4, Owatonna
Biofilter Design & Construction - May 5, Waseca
 6. What's New on the U of MN Swine Extension website
Weight Variation - Can It Be Managed?
Information on the EPA Air Quality Agreement with livestock operations
 7. Interested in Specialized Training Courses?
The U of MN Swine Team may be able to provide assistance or instruction
-

1. Animal ID Telnet program

Livestock producers wishing to learn more about the National Animal Identification System (NAIS) and its implementation and effects on livestock production in Minnesota can attend one of several free Telnet conference sessions to be held throughout the state on February 24th, at 1:00 pm and/or 6:30 pm. Sessions will be approximately 2 hours in length, and will include presentations from Gene Hugoson, MDA commissioner, and representatives from the Minnesota Board of Animal Health.

NAIS is a rapid animal and premise identification system designed to control and prevent outbreak of a foreign animal disease in the United States. The program is currently voluntary, with livestock premises identified during the

initial phase. Benefits for Minnesota's livestock industry include prevention of large-scale outbreaks of foreign animal diseases and creating value-added opportunities to producers by providing processors and end users with a reliable method for verifying production claims. Minnesota livestock producers are being asked to fill out an application for a premise identification number. Applications are being sent by mail, but will also be passed out at the sessions.

Statewide Broadcast Schedule			
City:	Location:	Times:	Contact Info:
Albert Lea	Albert Lea Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	651.296.2942
Cloquet/Carlton	Carlton County Extension Office	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.384.3511
Crookston	NWROC	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.281.8602
Farmington	Dakota Ext. and Con. Center	1 p.m.	612.624.3073
Grand Rapids	NCROC	6:30 p.m.	218.327.5964
Hutchinson	Hutchinson Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	320.234.0434
Mankato	Mankato Regional Center	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	507.389.6714
Morris	WCROC	6:30 p.m.	320.589.1711
Rochester	Rochester Regional Center	1 p.m.	507.536.6301
Roseau	To be determined	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	218.463.0295
Saint Cloud	Michael's Restaurant	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	320.255.6169
Slayton	Court's Meeting Room	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	507.825.6715
Staples	Central Lakes Community College	1 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.	651-296-2942

For more information, access the MN Animal ID website at <http://www.bah.state.mn.us/index/nais/nais.htm> or contact one of the locations listed above.

2. Risk Management workshops

To assist producers in evaluating marketing alternatives, the Minnesota Pork Board and University of Minnesota are offering a one-day workshop at several locations throughout the state entitled "Managing Prices for Optimal Pork Returns." Seminar dates and locations include March 1st (Marshall - AmericInn Hotel), March 2nd (North Mankato - South Central Technical College), and March 3rd (Austin - Riverland Community College). Participants will learn how managing price risk can help control hog prices and feed costs, evaluate contracting choices, develop a marketing plan, optimize profit margins, improve fiscal planning, and supplement packer agreements.

The workshop will run from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm, with lunch being provided by the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The morning program will concentrate on the fundamentals of futures and options contracts, while the afternoon session will focus on how to process and execute hog margin management. Commodity risk management specialists from Commodity & Ingredient Hedging, LLC will be providing instruction for both sessions. Additionally, Greg Eaton, AgStar

Financial Services, will discuss Livestock Risk Protection, a USDA-subsidized risk protection program that is administered by private insurance companies.

There is no cost for the workshop, with expenses being provided for through funding from the National Pork Checkoff, but participants are asked to pre-register with the Minnesota Pork Board office at 1-800-537-7675.

3. Advanced Swine Reproductive Management seminar

Swine producers in southern Minnesota may wish to “cross the border” and travel to northwestern Iowa for an Advanced Swine Reproductive Management seminar to be held on Friday, March 4th. The day-long program will be held in the NCC Auditorium in Sheldon, Iowa, and is scheduled to run from 10:00 am - 3:30 pm.

The program is designed to help swine producers find critical points to improve their operation’s breeding herd management and performance. Topics to be covered include: new technology tools, using BLUP technology on a commercial farm, developing a genetic program in a closed herd, enhancing AI skills, feeding for increased reproductive efficiency, weaning age impact on the bottom line, using ultrasound as a management tool, and selecting the replacement gilt.

Speakers slated to present include: Rob Knox, Swine Reproduction Specialist at the University of Illinois; John Mabry, Director of the Iowa Pork Industry Center; Mark Whitney, Swine Extension Educator/Assistant Professor with the University of Minnesota; Colin Johnson, Swine Production Specialist with the Iowa Pork Industry Center; and Dave Stender, Swine Field Specialist with Iowa State University.

Individuals are requested to pre-register for the seminar by March 2nd in order to reserve lunch and materials. Contact Terry Janssen, O’Brien County Extension Education Director, at (712) 957-5045 for questions or to register. Cost of the program is \$35.

4. FINPACK training offered

The Center for Farm Financial Management will be offering an intensive training session on FINPACK 2005 on April 13th (9:00am-5:00pm) and 14th (8:00am-4:00pm) at the University of Minnesota St. Paul campus.

FINPACK is a comprehensive computerized farm financial planning and analysis system that helps producers evaluate their financial situation, explore alternatives, and make informed decisions about the future direction of their farm.

The training session will use a case farm approach to show participants how to utilize the features available in FINPACK 2005. There will be plenty of hands-on time to evaluate the case farm's financial situation, explore alternatives, recommend management strategies, and make informed loan decisions. The training fee is \$200 per person.

For more information on registering for the training course, contact Jane Sandstrom at (800) 234-1111. For more information on FINPACK 2005, access the Center for Farm Financial Management website at: www.cffm.umn.edu

5. New Air Quality workshops

Animal Agriculture and Air Quality I

May 3rd, 2005 - Owatonna

This one-day hands-on workshop is designed to give participants an understanding of the factors affecting livestock and poultry air emissions (odor, dust, ammonia, hydrogen sulfide, etc.), health issues related to air emissions, Federal and State regulatory concerns regarding these emissions, and methods for addressing odor concerns at the local level. The use and implementation of a tool for siting agricultural facilities using OFFSET (Odor From Feedlots Setback Estimation Tool) will also be presented along with a discussion of developing odor management plans. The information presented will be invaluable to those involved in the development of regulations, zoning guidelines, or land use plans for rural Minnesota and others who have a general interest in livestock and poultry odors. For more information, <http://www.manure.umn.edu/workshops/workshops/animalair1.html>

Animal Agriculture and Air Quality II

May 4th, 2005 - Owatonna

Animal Agriculture and Air Quality II will provide participants with a thorough understanding of management and technologies for controlling odor and other air emissions from buildings and manure storages. The discussion will focus on the basic principles of air emissions control including dispersion, capture and treat, and reducing generation through chemical and biological. The economics of these systems will also be evaluated. Several examples of current field scale systems will be presented along with the design parameters for these systems. New and innovative technologies will also be discussed along with an update on current research activities in this area. This hands-on course (practical examples, problems, etc.) will be extremely valuable to technical staff,

engineers and government officials who work with livestock producers on issues associated with livestock odors. Prior participation at Animal Agriculture and Air Quality I or some background in odor quantification and control is recommended. For more information on the course:
<http://www.manure.umn.edu/workshops/workshops/animalair2.html>

Biofilter Design and Construction

May 5th, 2005 - Waseca

Biofiltration is one of the most effective and economical means of reducing odor and hydrogen sulfide emissions from livestock and poultry buildings. The use of biofiltration is now gaining popularity in the field and both field research data and neighbor testimonials have validated their effectiveness for odor control. This intensive one-day workshop with both lecture and hands-on exercises in both the classroom and the field exercises has been designed to provide participants with a thorough understanding of the theory of biofiltration and practical information on design and construction of biofilter systems. For more information on the course:
<http://www.manure.umn.edu/workshops/workshops/biofilter.html>

6. What's New on the U of MN Swine Extension website

“Weight Variation - Can It Be Managed?”

Variation in the growth and bodyweight of pigs continues to present provide problems to our pork industry, both from the standpoint of capitalizing facility usage and maximizing economic returns. This brief summary highlights some of the causes of variation and strategies to minimize it.

EPA Air Quality Agreement

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has announced that it has reached an agreement to study air emissions from livestock and poultry operations. Information on what the agreement consists of and how producers can participate are provided.

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

7. 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 you 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:

Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

Mark Whitney, PhD
Swine Extension Educator / Assistant Professor
Extension Regional Center, Mankato
1961 Premier Drive, Suite 148
Mankato, MN 56001
(507) 389-5541
whitn007@umn.edu



The University of Minnesota is an equal opportunity educator and employer.