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1. Mini-conference on use of corn and ethanol co-products in the pork industry

At the MN Pork Congress on January 17th, several faculty from the University of Minnesota provided presentations during a mini-conference addressing the corn/ethanol issue as it affects hog production. Topics included: Feed Procurement Strategies, Feeding Ethanol Byproducts to the Breeding Herd, Feeding DDGS to Grow-Finish Pigs, and the Value of Flowability Agents for DDGS. Copies of these presentations are available at the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu or the Minnesota Pork Board website at www.mnpork.com.

2. Feed intake during lactation important for sow longevity

Recent research conducted and reported by University of Minnesota researchers indicates that maximizing feed intake during the lactation period can provide substantial benefits towards keeping sows in the herd and enhancing sow longevity. Access the article on the UMN Swine Extension home page at www.extension.umn.edu.

3. Economic implications of ethanol on swine production

How will the current increase in demand for domestic corn, largely "fueled" by increasing production of ethanol, affect corn availability and profitability for swine, and to a larger extent, livestock production? These were just a few of the topics discussed during the "Distillers Grains: Implications for the U.S. Pork Industry" conference hosted by the National Pork Board and held in Des Moines on November 20th. One of the potential opportunities in light of the current and future challenges for corn procurement and/or cost involves feeding

distiller's grains co-products, such as DDGS (distiller's dried grains with solubles) generated from the ethanol plants.

To access the full article, go to the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

4. Use of farrowing room hovers saves energy

Hovers are simple, solid partition enclosures located in the farrowing crate or pen to which piglets have free access. A few commercial companies are selling hovers for use in farrowing, but a majority of the existing units are homemade. Plywood, fiberglass, and rigid board plastic are the common building materials with the synthetic materials most popular because of easier cleaning. Although a number of producers are using them, very little research information on energy consumption, pig performance, and management requirements has been collected for hover usage in Minnesota. A fact sheet describing University of Minnesota research evaluating these items is available at

<http://www.extension.umn.edu/distribution/livestocksystems/DI6513.html>

5. Checklist provides guide for feedlot permitting

"Feedlot Permitting in Minnesota: A Checklist for Producers" is a publication available through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, intended to assist livestock producers in understanding and successfully navigating the permitting process when planning projects to modernize, expand, or build new feedlots. A checklist provides an overview of federal, state, and local regulations, and the feedlot permitting process, and also includes a list of contacts for more information. Access the guide at

<http://www.mda.state.mn.us/feedlots/permitting.htm>

6. You can still sign up for the PorkBridge distance education program

Although the first two presentations have occurred for the PorkBridge grow-finish program, individuals can still sign up for the remaining four presentations, at a bargain price of \$100, and will receive the first two presentations on CD. 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 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. Upcoming session dates, speakers, their university affiliations and topics are as follows.

- 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?"

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.

7. Seminars on truck weight

Daylong training seminars are currently underway throughout the state addressing truck weight regulations to reduce road damage and repair. The seminars are designed for trucking firms, scale operators, farm truck owners and operators, aggregate haulers, truck manufacturers, township and county authorities, out-of-state companies and others interested in becoming familiar with the regulations. Instructor for the seminars is Greg Hayes, Northland Community and Technical College, who has supervised commercial vehicle enforcement for 16 years as a state patrol lieutenant. For more information or to register for a seminar online, go to www.mnltap.umn.edu/register/truckweight. There is no fee for the seminar.

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) for upcoming workshops and seminars. Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

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