



University of Minnesota
SWINE EXTENSION
Update

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The two-day intensive training course will be held at two times and locations: Feb 9-10 (Morris) and Feb 16-17 (Waseca).

1. There is still time to register for PorkBridge 2005-2006

Although the first session of PorkBridge has come and gone ("Impact of out-of-feed events and water restrictions on grow-finish performance" by Mike Brumm, University of Nebraska), spots are still open to register for the remaining 5 presentations. The program combines electronic information viewed on computer with live oral presentations via phone by experts in the topic areas. The week before each session, subscribers will receive a CD containing that session's topic-specific presentation, along with a short homework assignment and information on accessing the live speaker presentation.

Remaining dates, speakers, and topics are: Feb. 9, 2006 Locke Karriker, Iowa State University, "The basics of on-farm necropsy"; April 6, 2006 Rick Stowell, University of

Nebraska, "The basics of ventilation controllers"; June 1, 2006 Robert Thaler, South Dakota State University, "Keeping pigs eating in hot weather"; Aug. 3, 2006 Alex Ramirez, Iowa State University, "The basics of grow-finish biosecurity"; and Oct. 5, 2006 Lee Johnston, University of Minnesota, "Animal welfare considerations in grow-finish facilities."

To register, contact Sherry Hoyer at (515)294-4496. Cost is \$125 for all remaining 5 sessions, covers one phone line and CD, and multiple people can participate from one line and subscription. For more information, contact Mark Whitney at (507)389-5541.

2. Wean-finish management training courses coming up in February

Two-day intensive workshops designed to address the basics of day-to-day management activities in pork production related to growing and finishing pigs will be held February 9 and 10 in Morris and February 16 and 17 in Waseca. 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. Topics that will be covered in the workshop include:

Production Systems : Comparison of wean to finish and conventional nursery/grow-finish systems; sorting systems; feeder types

Preparing the Facility to Receive Pigs : Maintain and repair equipment and facilities; clean and disinfect; pest management; space allowances; biosecurity

Nutrition : Feeding strategies; feed budgeting; feed quality; sampling and quality assurance; managing feeders and waterers; proper diet processing; alternative feed ingredients and additives

Environment and Performance : Temperature; air quality; ventilation management; sanitation; manure management; introduction to SWAP

Animal Health : Developing a herd health program; proper use of pharmaceuticals; control of existing herd health challenges; health monitoring; treatment options; review PQA good production practices, guidelines for on-farm necropsy

Classroom instruction is provided on the first day of the program, lasting from noon - 9 pm. A hands-on session, conducted at swine research facilities, is conducted the second day of the program from 8 am to noon. The hands-on session incorporates numerous activities relating to material covered in the classroom portion of the course in order to maximize student learning and understanding.

University of Minnesota faculty and educators and swine industry experts provide instruction for the course. Cost of the program is \$100 per person, and includes learning materials, lunches, breaks, instructor fees, and biosecurity clothing for hands-on training sessions. Reduced registration for multiple registrations is also available. For more information, contact Dr. Mark Whitney, swine extension educator,

at (507) 389-5541. Individuals wishing to register for the workshop should contact the Minnesota Pork Board at (507) 345-8814.

3. The economics of pig space in finishing facilities

Animal welfare pressures have spurred researchers and producers alike to consider adding space for pigs in confinement barns. In view of animal welfare, the optimal levels of pig stocking density are measured as either improvements in growth performance or behavior (less fighting, dunging in sleeping areas, etc.).

A recent study sponsored by the National Pork Board and completed by Brian Buhr, Derald Holtkamp, Micheal Brumm and Jim Kliebenstein sought to determine the economic implications of potential increases in pig space allocation. An industry survey of three-dozen producers, veterinarians, industry consultants and university swine specialists was completed and results showed that finishing pig space allocations currently used in confinement barns averaged 7.19 sq. ft. and 11.57 sq. ft. for hoop systems. Survey results of marketing practices found that 90% of the U.S. hog industry topped finishing pens and sold pigs from a finishing facility for 24.8 days on average, the critical weight for space allocation to maintain a space allocation of 8.73 square feet is also much reduced and would have tremendous impacts on prices received under current packer grids.

An economic simulation model was developed that estimated the cost of increasing pig space allocation at finishing. To access a full summary of the results, go to the UMN Swine Extension website at www.extension.umn.edu/swine.

4. Manure management and air quality workshops for 2006 announced

Are you looking for the latest and most comprehensive information on manure management planning or air quality?

The University of Minnesota and University of Minnesota Extension Service has partnered with other Minnesota state agencies on a series of workshops that will provide participants with both practical and scientific information regarding the utilization of manure in crop production and water quality issues related to manure application, as well as air quality issues. Manure management workshops are designed specifically for those involved in writing or reviewing manure management plans or integrating manure nutrients into crop production systems. Air quality workshops provide background information on animal agriculture and its effects on air quality, as well as biofilter design and construction. Individuals from both the private and public sectors are encouraged to attend.

The four Manure Management Planning workshop days build on each other with the first focusing on manure nitrogen, the second on manure phosphorus, the third on manure management planning, and the fourth on manure management planning software. You can select one course or attend all four! Course instructors include faculty from the University of Minnesota involved in manure application research and

education and expert staff from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Natural Resource Conservation Service.

Workshop descriptions, schedules, a printable brochure, and on-line registration can be found at <http://manure.coafes.umn.edu/workshops> . Information on other manure and air quality workshops can also be found at this website.

5. Training sessions for the MN P Index offered by UMN Extension

One-day training sessions for the MN P Index are scheduled for 10:00 to 3:00 on January 26 in Crookston, January 27 in Staples, February 1 in Willmar, February 2 in Lamberton, and February 3 in Rochester. Participants will get hands-on experience using the new Windows-based version of the P Index. The new "user friendly" P Index software allows users to run the Universal Soil Loss Estimator (RUSLE2) in the background which gives those unfamiliar with this complex program an opportunity to use it in estimating P loss risk. The Minnesota Phosphorus Index helps users identify sites at high risk for P loss, and choose management options to reduce those risks. Participants will learn about management practices and landscape factors that affect phosphorus movement to lakes and streams from both manured and non-manured fields. Representatives from the MDA, MPCA, and NRCS will discuss uses of the P Index for nutrient and manure management, education, TMDL planning, and program targeting.

The intended audience is conservationists, ag consultants, nutrient planners, manure managers and planners, and watershed planners.

The workshop is organized by the U of MN Dept. of Soil, Water, & Climate in cooperation with the MN Dept. of Agriculture, MN Pollution Control Agency, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and the UMN Extension Service. Space is limited and will be filled on a first-come basis. Register by January 19, 2006. For more information, or to register, contact Ann Lewandowski at alewand@umn.edu or 612-624-6765, or go to the Minnesota Phosphorus Index Web site <http://www.mnpi.umn.edu/>.

6. EQIP sign-up closes January 31

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) applications for 2006 funding are due on Jan. 31. This will be the only sign up period in 2006. EQIP provides technical assistance, cost share payments, and incentive payments to assist livestock and crop producers with environmental and conservation improvements to their operations. Among projects eligible for 2006 EQIP cost share consideration are animal mortality facilities and practices to correct air quality problems including the installation of boilers. Livestock producers who want to learn more about the EQIP application process and project eligibility need to visit their area Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office.

EQIP is a voluntary USDA conservation program. Successful EQIP enrollees can receive up to 50 percent of the cost of eligible conservation practices. National EQIP priorities are projects that control soil erosion, address water quality and air quality, and encourage wildlife habitat. In Minnesota, an application must address at least one of the four national priorities to be in contention for funding. EQIP cost sharing authorized for animal mortalities include facilities and incinerators. The rules stipulate that dead animals for composting must be from the producer's operation and not purchased or provided by outside sources.

EQIP cost share is possible for anaerobic digesters that will correct an existing air and/or water quality problem and for manure composting structures. Also eligible for cost share is boiler installation that corrects existing air quality concerns associated with mechanically ventilated livestock buildings and boiler components such as plenums, exhaust fan upgrades, and moisture management equipment. Other potential projects that EQIP may cost share is manure transfer equipment such as reception pits, pumps and pipeline, nutrient management on cropland acres and certain feedlot control runoff plans.

Additional information can be found at www.mppainsider.org

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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