



Contents:

1. Resource List for Assisting Pork Producers in Difficult Financial Times Available
2. New Pocket Guide Helps Find Proper Manure Application Rates for Nitrogen
3. Breeding and Gestation Management Training Course July 31 - Aug 1
4. New Spanish Language Farrowing Management Course August 8
5. Meetings in July and August on Proposed Feedlot Permit Changes
6. Workshops on Options for Raising Hogs in Alternative Systems to be Held in July
7. Webcast on Emergency Ventilation when Pumping Pits August 20th
8. Registration Now Open for MN Nutrition Conference

1. Resource List for Assisting Pork Producers in Difficult Financial Times Available

The pork industry has been experiencing a combination of high feed costs and below-cost hog prices that is stretching producer resources and making for very difficult situations. In response to these harsh financial times, UMN Extension has compiled a list of resources pork producers can utilize. The web-based guide, "Pork Producer Resources for Difficult Financial Times", is located at www.extension.umn.edu/swine. Direct links to downloadable fact sheets, interactive models, market forecasts, and web programs, as well as contact data for further information are provided in areas covering pork production, economics, financial and business management, and legal issues to consider, as well as information on managing family and personal stress.

2. New Pocket Guide Helps Find Proper Manure Application Rates for Nitrogen

A handy pocket guide is now available to help determine application rates according to manure nitrogen content and crop needs. It has four sections with charts for swine, dairy, beef, and poultry manure in liquid or solid form. Charts with ranges of manure nitrogen test amounts and the crop needs quickly identify the proper manure application rate. The 48-page booklets are available from MPCA at the website (www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html) or from regional offices.

3. Breeding and Gestation Management Training Course July 31 - Aug 1

A Breeding and Gestation Management short course will be on July 31-Aug. 1 at the University of Minnesota Southern Research and Outreach, Waseca. Classroom instruction on the first day will be from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. A hands-on session at the center's swine research facilities on the second day will be from 8 a.m. to noon. To maximize student learning and understanding, the hands-on session incorporates activities that relate to material from the previous day's class. The registration deadline is July 21.

The two-day workshop is designed to increase participants understanding of the factors necessary to successfully breed females and to care for them during gestation. The course is appropriate for individuals who have limited knowledge of pork production and experienced producers who want to review the basics and remain current with recent developments in breeding and gestation practices. More information on course details is available at <http://www.mnpork.com/producers/ed/stp.php>. For more information or to register, contact the MN Pork Board at (507) 345-8814.

4. New Spanish Language Farrowing Management Course August 8

Spanish-speaking pork producers, unit managers and employees have an opportunity to improve their knowledge and skills in farrowing management during a 1-day workshop being offered by the Minnesota Pork Board and University of Minnesota Extension. The course is designed for individuals working in the farrowing area of any pork production operation, and is appropriate for people with a limited knowledge of pork production as well as veterans wishing to review the basics and get updates on recent developments.

The course will be conducted at the University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center in Lamberton on August 8th from 9 am - 4 pm, with registration beginning at 8:30 pm. Topics that will be covered include pre-farrowing management, the farrowing process, processing piglets, managing the sow during lactation, and piglet management. Numerous hands-on activities will be incorporated to maximize student learning and understanding. Additionally, participants will be trained and individually certified under the PQA Plus program. Instructors for the course include Spanish-speaking swine management and health professionals.

Program cost is \$100 per person and includes learning materials, meals, and instructor fees. Lodging, if required, is the participant's responsibility. The first registration from a farm is \$100. Additional participants from the same production system may register for \$50 each. For more information contact U of M Swine Extension Educator Mark Whitney at (507) 389-5541. To register, contact the MN Pork Board at 1-800-537-7675.

5. Meetings in July and August on Proposed Feedlot Permit Changes

The MPCA feedlot program has scheduled a series of meetings to receive input from livestock producers about proposed changes in the next 5-year (2011-2016) general operating permit for large feedlots, or CAFOs. More than 1000 large livestock facilities in Minnesota operate under a general National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. The NPDES program regulates the discharge of pollutants from point sources to waters of the United States. The Clean Water Act defines CAFOs as point sources. Meetings will be from 2 - 4:30 pm at the following locations:

- Monday, July 21, Pope County Courthouse, Glenwood
- Tuesday, July 22, City Center, Blooming Prairie
- Thursday, July 24, Jackson County Resource Center Community Room, Jackson
- Tuesday, Jul 29, Redwood Area Community Center, Redwood Falls
- Monday, Aug 4, Detroit Lakes Public Library
- Monday, Aug 11, Blue Earth County Public Library, Mankato

A draft copy of the permit is available at www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/feedlots.html

6. Workshops on Options for Raising Hogs in Alternative Systems to be Held in July

July workshops at two locations will present options for producing, feeding and marketing hogs in alternative systems:

- Wednesday July 16, Redwood Falls Community Center, 3:00 - 8:30 p.m.
- Monday July 28, St Charles Community Center, 3:00 - 8:30 p.m.

The workshops will begin with a resource fair featuring agencies and organizations that provide services and resources for sustainable hog farmers. Beginning at 4 p.m., speakers from the University of Minnesota and Iowa State University will discuss the latest research. You will also hear from Minnesota farmers who are using alternative feeds, engaging in niche or alternative marketing, and keeping fixed costs low by renovating older buildings.

Topics include 1) Incorporating alternative feeds into swine diets, 2) Economics of natural and organic hog production, and 3) Retro-fitting hardware from conventional hog barns for natural farrowing systems. There is no fee for the workshops but a light supper will be served at a cost of \$5 per person. These workshops are sponsored by the Land Stewardship Project and the USDA's Risk Management Agency and Farm Service Agency. Participants should reserve a spot by contacting Amy Bacigalupo at the Land Stewardship Project, 320-269-2105 or amyb@landstewardshipproject.org.

7. Webcast on Emergency Ventilation when Pumping Pits August 20th

As producers begin to prepare to empty manure pits and apply manure to fields this fall, one of the biggest concerns is ensuring that pit pumping procedures allow for adequate ventilation, ensuring pigs and people are not affected. Ideally, barns are empty when agitating and pumping pits, but in most cases, this is not practical. University of Minnesota Swine Extension and Minnesota Pork Board will again be sponsoring a PorkCast webcast presentation, "Emergency Ventilation and Properly Ventilating Barns When Emptying Manure Storage Pits", to be presented by Dr. Mike Brumm, Brumm Consulting, on August 20th from 1 - 2 pm. Dr. Brumm will be addressing a number of areas related to barn and ventilation management that can significantly reduce the risks of asphyxiation. PorkCast is a quarterly online seminar series aimed to provide management level information in a timely and efficient manner. There is no cost to take in a PorkCast program. Information on connecting to the upcoming PorkCast presentation, along with past programs, is available at www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast.

8. Registration Now Open for MN Nutrition Conference

The 69th MN Nutrition Conference will be held September 16th and 17th at the Holiday Inn in Owatonna. The **Minnesota Nutrition Conference** provides a forum for feed industry professionals to update their knowledge of beef, dairy, poultry, and swine nutrition. Speakers from throughout North America bring the latest concepts in livestock feeding to the upper Midwest. For more information or to register, visit the Conference website at <http://www.ansci.umn.edu/mnc.html>.

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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