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1. Welcome Kevin Blanchet, New Regional Extension Educator in Manure Systems

Kevin Blanchet, Extension Educator in Crop Systems, has been hired to fill the Regional Extension Educator position in Manure Systems. Kevin brings to the position a strong background in crops and livestock as well as lots of practical experience in manure application and nutrient management. He grew up on and managed a dairy and crops farm before receiving his BS and MS degrees in Agronomy from Iowa State University. He worked for Golden Harvest Seeds as a research and technical support agronomist before joining the staff at the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center as and Extension Educator. We are looking forward to Kevin continuing his outstanding work in Extension in the new position.

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2. "Cutting Energy Costs" Program Available Online, Next PorkCast Program May 6<sup>th</sup>

The February 5<sup>th</sup> webcast titled "Prioritizing Your Energy Investment" by Dr. Jay Harmon, Extension Agricultural Engineer at Iowa State University, is available online at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine/porkcast). The February 5th PorkCast program provided various strategies and areas of emphasis to assist pork producers in reducing energy expenditures while maintaining or improving performance and production in their barns and systems. The webcast is part of the quarterly online seminar series sponsored by U of MN Extension and the MN Pork Board that provides management level research-driven information to pork production managers and owners.

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### 3. Practical Ideas to Address High Feed and Production Costs

Pork producers are currently facing high feed and production costs along with lower hog prices. A listing of 44 management tips and resources were compiled by Pork Checkoff to assist producers in identifying opportunities to increase efficiencies and reduce costs. The information was gathered from experts and producers across academia and industry and from many valuable industry-based Web sites in the United States and Canada. You can access the 12-page checklist/tip sheet from the UMN Swine Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine).

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### 4. Biodiesel Feeds Website Now Available Through UMN

The U.S. biodiesel industry is rapidly growing like the U.S. ethanol industry. The primary by-product of biodiesel production is crude glycerine (glycerol). In fact, for every gallon of biodiesel produced, 0.3 kg of crude glycerine is generated. Glycerine has been used for many years in numerous industrial applications including being a food sweetener and preservative. It is also widely used in drug and pharmaceutical products and is added as a moisturizing agent in cosmetics and body lotions. However, with the growing supply of glycerine being produced, new alternative uses are being developed including using crude glycerine as an energy source in livestock and poultry feeds. Researchers in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Minnesota, and their collaborators, are leading a new research effort to evaluate the benefits and limitations of feeding crude glycerine to livestock and poultry. We have developed this website to provide current and comprehensive information about utilizing glycerine in animal and poultry feeds. You can access the website through the UMN Swine Extension website, or directly at <http://biodieselfeeds.cfans.umn.edu>.

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### 5. Impact of Ethanol Co-Products on Manure Nutrient Management

The rapidly expanding ethanol industry is producing increasing amounts of corn co-products that will be used in livestock and poultry diets. Inclusion of distillers grains and corn gluten feed in diets alter excretion of nitrogen and phosphorus in manure and therefore impacts nutrient planning. On February 15<sup>th</sup>, the Livestock and Poultry Environmental Learning Center hosted a webcast explaining how feeding ethanol co-products may impact manure nutrient management. The speakers were: Joel DeRouchey, Kansas State University who discussed the impacts for swine and poultry operations, and Galen Erickson, University of Nebraska, who discussed considerations for beef and dairy operations. Narrated slides from the program are available online, and can be accessed through the UMN Swine Extension website at [www.extension.umn.edu/swine](http://www.extension.umn.edu/swine).

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### 6. PQA Plus Certification Workshops Available March 27<sup>th</sup> and April 1<sup>st</sup>

Swine producers that need to renew their Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) training are invited to attend one of two upcoming workshops. A March 27<sup>th</sup> LeCenter workshop is from 9 am through noon, and will also provide a program on dealing with high feed costs. Cost is \$5, which includes lunch, and requires pre-registration by March 24<sup>th</sup> to

Dianne Stouffer, local Extension educator, at (507)357-8230, (507)304-4325, or [stouf002@umn.edu](mailto:stouf002@umn.edu). An April 1<sup>st</sup> workshop will be held at the West Central Research and Outreach Center in Morris, from 1 - 3 p.m, and is free of charge. Pre-registration is preferred. Questions and pre-registrations can be directed to Lee Johnston or Jean Spohr at the West Central Research and Outreach Center at 320/589-1711.

In 2007, the National Pork Board introduced PQA Plus to replace the PQA program that began many years ago. PQA Plus adds principles of animal care and well-being to the pork safety content already included in the old PQA program. In addition, PQA Plus also includes a voluntary farm assessment. Most pork packers in the U.S. require that all their pig suppliers be PQA certified. PQA Plus producer certification is similar to producer certification in the old PQA program. Producers must attend an educational session. Once the training is complete, the producer's name will be sent to the National Pork Board which will send a certification card to the producer. This card may be requested when the producer sells pigs to a packer. A PQA Advisor Locator Tool is also available from the National Pork Board at <http://www.pork.org/Producers/PQA/PQAPlusLocateAdvisor.aspx>.

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## 7. Have You Checked Out the New Pork Information Gateway (PIG)Lately?

The U.S. Pork Center of Excellence and University of Minnesota have upgraded the Pork Information Gateway (PIG) Web site, [www.umn.porkgateway.org](http://www.umn.porkgateway.org), for improved usability. The newest feature is the PIG Library which provides questions and answers, factsheets and references about pork production. A username and password is required to view the PIG Library, but the entire site remains free for all users. The Web site now supports Mozilla Firefox and Safari Internet browsers and the search engine has been improved to mirror that of industry leaders. A "Remember Me" option has also been added to PIG to allow returning users to remain logged into the site. PIG is an online resource tool for the U.S. Pork Industry launched in 2006 by the U.S. Pork Center of Excellence.

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## 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](http://www.extension.umn.edu)) for upcoming workshops and seminars. Please email or call me if I can be of assistance:

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