

Nursery Management Workshop

November 16-17, 2006

West Central Research and Outreach Center – Morris, MN

Early weaning practices have been utilized extensively in the U.S. swine industry in recent years, due in large part to the development of large, intensive pig production operations. Economies of scale have dictated increased number and concentration of pigs within an operation, but have also inadvertently put heightened pressure on the health of the pig. Use of early weaning practices is an attempt to control chronic diseases by stopping spread of the causative organisms from dam to offspring. Use of early and conventional nursery technologies provide opportunities for improved economical and productive efficiency, but also increase the knowledge and understanding needed by those individuals working with the pigs on a daily basis.

This two-day intensive course is designed to give participants an increased understanding of the factors involved in successfully managing pigs immediately after weaning and during the nursery phase. 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:

Early Wean Technology: Principles behind successful implementation of the technology; diseases controlled; proper biosecurity procedures

Health Management: Biosecurity protocols; common diseases; procedures to reduce health related problems in the nursery

Facilities: Nursery facility options; space requirements; ventilation; other environmental needs

Nutritional Programs: Feeding strategies and management; nutrient requirements; feed budgeting; antimicrobial and antimicrobial alternative usage; diet complexity

Antimicrobial Usage: Background on antibiotic issue; identification and evaluation of antimicrobial alternatives; strategic use of antibiotics

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. In addition, class participants will be automatically certified or recertified under the Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) program by completing the course.

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. 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.