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2009 Review—ISU Swine Teaching Farm South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

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A.S. Leaflet R2572

Allen Christian, superintendent,
Animal Science Swine Teaching Unit

Summary

The Swine Teaching Farm provides swine and facilities for teaching support of at least 12 courses each year. Students learn the entire breadth of the swine industry from breed identification in introductory classes to enterprise management and swine production systems. The farm hosts an extensive number of tours for local grade school classes, 4-H and FFA clubs, prospective student groups, and international groups. Animals from the farm are shown and sold successfully in major national events.

Teaching Objectives of the Swine Farm

- To provide a setting for students in which to acquaint and to teach them about swine production and the swine industry.
- To provide animals with variation in performance and composition necessary to dramatize differences in a classroom situation.

Herd Composition (85 sows)

- 30 Berkshire
- 7 Duroc
- 2 Hampshire
- 8 Landrace
- 8 Yorkshire
- 30 Crossbred

Courses utilizing swine/swine farm include:

AnS 101 Working with Animals, AnS 214 Domestic Animal Physiology, AnS 225 Swine Science, AnS 270 Foods of Animal Origin, AnS 305 Livestock Evaluation, AnS 332 Laboratory Methods in Animal Reproduction, AnS 336 Domestic Animal Behavior and Well-Being, AnS 320 Applied Animal Nutrition, AnS 425 Swine Systems Management, AnS 475A Intercollegiate Judging Training and Competition, AnS 475D Meat Animal Evaluation.

The farm also supports research activities in reproductive physiology for Dr. Lloyd Anderson and Dr. Jason Ross, semen extender research for Dr. Larry Evans from the College of Veterinary Medicine, baby pig project with Dr. Nick Gabler, and Ultrasound Project for Dr. Doyle Wilson.

Demonstrations Provided

- National Pork Producer – Pork 101 Course/Video Session
- State 4-H Roundup
- State FFA Meats Contest
- State 4-H/FFA Evaluation Contest
- Regional Meats Contest
- ISU Block and Bridle (BB) Little North American Showmanship Contest
- ISU BB Petting Zoo
- ISU BB School Fair
- ISU BB Evaluation Contest
- Kiss the Pig Contests (2)
- Extension 4-H pig handling/Larry McMullen
- VEISHEA Display
- Visiting Livestock Evaluation Teams (15)
- Regional Quadrathlon Contest
- ISU Judging Camp
- Ultrasound Demos (many)
- Ultrasound Training Sessions (4)
- NSIF Ultrasound Accreditation Clinic
- Anthropology projects
- Photo shoots for Farms Com.
- Photo Session, DM Register/Dr. Rothschild
- Photo Session, National Hog Farmer/ISU Ext.

Tours Given

- Central America group
- Russian group
- Korean groups (3)
- Puerto Rico group
- Dominican group
- Japan Tours and Demonstrations (2)
- Ia. Pork Producer Assn.
- Hyline Co.
- Pennsylvania breeder group
- Preschool, elementary, FFA groups
- Many drop-in visitors (industry representatives, breeders, educators)
- Prospective students (Iowa and out of state)
- Over 400 visitors annually

Iowa State University Animal Industry Report 2010

Accomplishments

- Breeding stock sales to 12 states and Korea
 - Winter Type Conference
 - 1st place boar
 - World Pork Expo:
 - 1st place Berkshire boar, 3rd top selling
 - Reserve Champion Berkshire gilt
 - Iowa State Fair:
 - Reserve Champion purebred truck load
 - National Barrow Show:
 - 1 Super Sire Award (Berkshire)
 - 1 Por Que Award (Meat Quality)
 - 2nd and 3rd place Purebred truck loads
 - 1st and 3rd place crossbred truck loads
 - Reserve champion carcass truck load over all
 - 2nd, 10th and 11th place carcass truck loads over all
 - Landrace Hog College gilt and top selling Landrace female
 - Record number of private Treaty sales
 - Provided a learning environment for many people
- Al Christian, farm manager:
- Concluded 8 semesters of co-teaching AS Swine Fellows class

- Recognized and honored for fifty years of employment at ISU
- Received the Board of Regents Staff of Excellence Award
- Honored as the first recipient of the Lauren Christian Award for distinguished service to the Pork Industry of Iowa
- Continued student recruitment while judging county and state swine shows
- Continued management of wild prairie and wild flower areas as well as many flower beds and grass areas

Conclusion

Every effort has been made to become more efficient throughout the year and still accommodate the needs of the department and our students.

Our efforts in hosting tours and events have helped build rapport with those we serve. Excellent feedback has made us proud of our effort and gives me a sense of purpose.



New sign at Swine Teaching Farm welcomes visitors and students to the farrow-to-finish farm



1st place Middle wt. Truck load and Reserve Champion Carcass load over all 2009 National Barrow Show



Reserve Champion Berkshire female 2009 World Pork Expo



Landrace Hog College Gilt 2009 National Barrow Show