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2006 Review—ISU Swine Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

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2006 Review - ISU Swine Teaching Farm South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

A.S. Leaflet R2249

Allen Christian, superintendent
Animal Science Swine Teaching Unit

Summary

The Swine Teaching Farm provides swine and facilities for teaching support of over 15 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. Hogs 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 (110 sows)

- 40 Berkshire
- 10 Duroc
- 5 Hampshire
- 10 Landrace
- 10 Yorkshire
- 35 Crossbred

Courses utilizing swine/swine farm include:

AnS 101, AnS 114, AnS 214, AnS 225, AnS 270, AnS 305, AnS 332, AS 336, Vet Med 340X, AnS 345, AnS 370, AnS 425, AnS 475A, AnS 475D.

The farm also supports research activities in meats for Dr. Joe Sebranek, reproductive physiology for Dr. Lloyd Anderson, the Veterinary Medicine Research Institute for Dr. James Roth, boar semen for Dr. Evans of Veterinary Medicine, and the Food Technical group for Dr. Spurlock.

Demonstrations Provided

- National Pork Producer – Pork 101 Course
- State 4-H Roundup
- State FFA Meats Contest
- State 4-H/FFA Evaluation Contest
- Regional Meats Contest
 - ISU B.B. LNA Contest
 - ISU B.B. Evaluation Contest

- Visiting Evaluation Teams
- Quadrathlon Contest (ISU)
- Regional Quadrathlon Contest
- ISU Judging Camp
- Ultrasound Training Sessions (8)
- NSIF Ultrasound Accreditation Clinic
- Hosts over 20 visiting judging teams
- Anthropology projects
- Photo shoots for NPB education material
- Ultrasound Demos
- Photo Session for Pork Industry Center (Dr. Stalder)

Tours Given

- Central America group
- English group
- Chinese group
- Japan tours and demonstrations
- Taiwan group
- Korean group
- Drake University class
- Preschool, elementary, FFA groups
- Many drop-in visitors (industry representatives, breeders, educators)
- Pew Commission Charitable Trust group
- Time Magazine
- Prospective students (Iowa and out of state)

Accomplishments

- Sold breeding stock to 11 states
- Exported pigs to Japan, Korea, and Mexico
- Winter Type Conference (Berkshire)
 - High placing boar/gilt
- World Pork Expo:
 - Champion Landrace boar & top selling
 - Reserve Champion Landrace gilt
 - Premier Sire Award
 - Reserve Champion Berkshire boar
- Iowa State Fair:
 - 1st and 2nd place Berkshire boars
 - 3rd top selling gilt
- National Barrow Show:
 - Reserve Champion Gilt (Berkshire)
 - Two 1st place boars (Berkshire)
 - Premier Sire (Berkshire)
 - Premier Exhibitor (Berkshire)
 - Super Sire Award (Berkshire)
 - Top Meat Quality Sire Award (Berkshire)
 - Champion Barrow (Berkshire)

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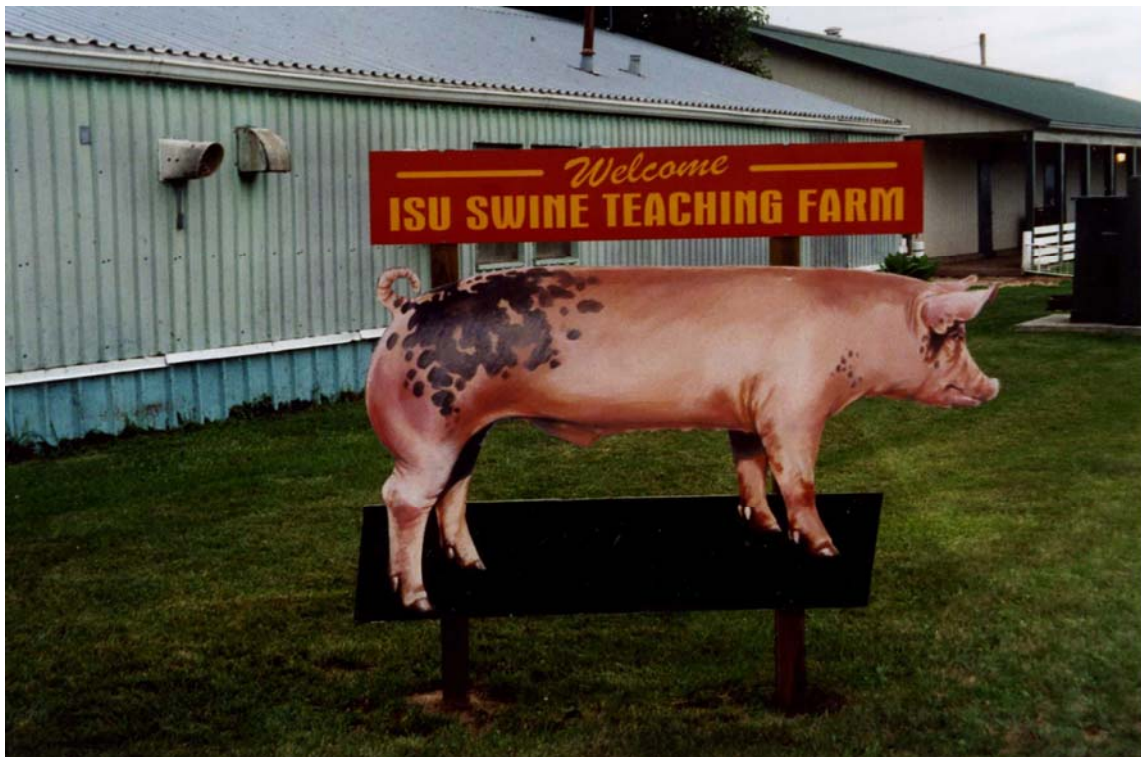
- Reserve Champion Crossbred Market Gilt and Reserve Grand Champion over all
- 1st and 2nd place Purebred truck loads
- 2nd and 3rd place crossbred truck loads
- Reserve champion carcass truck load over all
- 4th, 9th, and 11th place carcass truck loads over all
- Provided a learning environment for many people
- Painted and repaired older buildings
- Continued management of wild prairie and wild flower areas as well as many flower beds and grass areas

- Al Christian, farm manager, inducted into Hall of Fame, National Barrow Show

Conclusion

Every effort has been made throughout the year to 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 me proud of our effort and gives me a sense of purpose.

It has been a rewarding year.



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