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2007 Review—ISU Swine Teaching Farm, South State Avenue, Ames, Iowa

Allen Christian
Iowa State University

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A.S. Leaflet R2372

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 (100 sows)

- 35 Berkshire
- 8 Duroc
- 2 Hampshire
- 10 Landrace
- 10 Yorkshire
- 35 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 345 Growth and Development of Domestic Animals, 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, the Veterinary Medicine Research Institute for Dr. James Roth, boar semen for Dr. Larry Evans from the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Food Technical group for Dr. Mike Spurlock, 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
- ISU BB Evaluation Contest
- Visiting Livestock Evaluation Teams (20)
- Quadrathlon Contest (ISU)
- Regional Quadrathlon Contest
- ISU Judging Camp
- Ultrasound Training Sessions (8)
- NSIF Ultrasound Accreditation Clinic
- Anthropology projects
- Photo shoots for National Pork Board education material
- Ultrasound Demos
- Photo Session, Ames Tribune
- Film Session, Los Angeles, CA film crew

Tours Given

- Central America group
- South America group
- England group
- China group
- Puerto Rico group
- Thailand group
- Hawaii group
- Japan Tours and Demonstrations
- Taiwan group
- Korea group
- Drake University class
- Wm Penn College
- New York City Youth Group
- World Ag Council Tour
- Preschool, elementary, FFA groups
- Many drop-in visitors (industry representatives, breeders, educators)

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- Prospective students (Iowa and out of state)
- Over 500 visitors annually

Accomplishments

- Breeding stock sales to 9 states and Japan
- Winter Type Conference (Berkshire)
 - 2nd High placing boar/gilt
- World Pork Expo:
 - 1st place Berkshire boar and 3rd top selling
- Iowa State Fair:
 - Grand Champion Berkshire boar
 - Champion Crossbred truck load
 - Grand Champion truck load
- National Barrow Show:
 - 2 Super Sire Awards (Berkshire)
 - Reserve Champion barrow (Berkshire)
 - 2nd and 3rd place Purebred truck loads
 - 3rd place crossbred truck load
 - Reserve champion carcass truck load over all
 - 2nd, 10th and 15th place carcass truck loads over all
- Provided a learning environment for many people
- Painted and repaired older buildings

- Al Christian, farm manager, served as referee swine judge (3rd year) at National western Collegiate Judging Contest, Denver, CO
- Al Christian, farm manager, served on Agriculture Career panel at regional conference
- 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
- Al Christian, farm manager, selected as one of the top ten Swine Industry Visionaries by the National Hog Farmer Magazine

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 another rewarding year.



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



2007 National Barrow Show Reserve Champion Carcass Truckload



2007 Iowa State Fair Grand Champion Truckload



2007 State Fair Champion Boar