



~~202005~~

Saskatoon, SK S7H 5N9
Telephone: (306) 373-9922
Fax: (306) 955-2510
www.prairieswine.ca

Pork Producer Meetings Address Financial Challenges and Look to the Future

Saskatoon, SK., February 12, 2008: The pork industry is without a doubt under the greatest pressure in recent memory, making it a serious challenge for individual farms to remain a viable enterprise. At this point, after months of below break-even prices, pork producers are looking for any relief they can find. Lee Whittington, Manager Information Services at Prairie Swine Centre reminds producers and their industry suppliers that “Although it is not possible to find economies in any barn to offset current losses, there are several dollars per hog typically found on most farms. For those producers that have chosen to ride this low point out, ‘When Every Penny Counts’ means methodically checking their current practice against a checklist of best practices.”

In response to the severity and urgency of the challenge Prairie Swine Centre has postponed this year’s Focus on the Future Conference in favour of smaller, more personal meetings to be held across western Canada. “When Every Penny Counts” is the theme for meetings in Portage La Prairie, MB February 19th and Niverville, MB February 20. Topics of discussion are identifying those practices that save 50 cents to over ten dollars per hog. For example, developing a feed budget encourages the nutritionist and pork producer to rebuild the most economical diet and then track usage to ensure the correct amount of that diet is being delivered to each group of pigs. Frequently an audit of this on the farm reveals too much of some feeds and not enough of others are actually being consumed and the net cost can be \$5 or more in additional feed costs per hog marketed.

Other topics covered at the meeting include selecting alternative ingredients, and evaluating power usage, both important areas of research on-going at the Centre.

“I am doing everything I can” is usually how most conversations start, and indeed producers have seen tough times before and are quick to tighten control on costs. “These meetings will help producers check their current practices against a large checklist of best practices to extract any remaining hidden costs out of their production system”, notes Whittington. For producers wanting to check out cost saving ideas immediately they can go to www.prairieswine.ca and click on Survival Strategies.

Lunch is provided and registration is FREE. Registration for the meetings can be done by phone to Manitoba Pork Council at 204-237-7447, or Prairie Swine Centre at 306-373-9922. Additional meetings in Saskatchewan and Alberta will be announced soon.

Prairie Swine Centre Inc., located near Saskatoon, is a non-profit research corporation affiliated with the University of Saskatchewan, and is recognized globally for its contributions to practical, applied science in pork production in the disciplines of nutrition, engineering and applied animal behaviour.

-30-

For more information, contact:

Lee Whittington

Manager, Information Services

Prairie Swine Centre Inc

Phone: 306-667-7447

Fax: 306-955-2510

E-mail: lee.whittington@usask.ca