

## What is a farrowing caretaker interest group?

It's a group of people who are responsible for the daily care of sows and litters in the farrowing area of any pork producing operation. Group members use a common set of educational materials and shared teaching experiences to improve skills critical for success in the farrowing area.

## Why join this interest group?

Join because you want to be connected in a convenient and efficient way to peers in other operations to discuss issues concerning farrowing and devise operation-specific solutions to problems. Having the opportunity to establish a bond with others who share your interests and challenges at work is motivating. It is expected that through this interest group new and sustaining bonds between farrowing personnel at geographically dispersed operations will be established.

## What will members of the interest group do?

~Nov 10th – order Farrowing Management CD ROM  
Nov 17<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 to 1:30 pm CST – 1<sup>st</sup> phone/internet conference; start to review CD ROM  
Nov 20<sup>th</sup> – start 1<sup>st</sup> homework assignment

Dec 1<sup>st</sup> – 12:00 to 1:30 pm CST– 2<sup>nd</sup> phone/internet conference – completed first 5 parts on the CD ROM, taken and graded the quizzes, completed homework  
Dec 4<sup>th</sup> – start 2<sup>nd</sup> homework assignment

Dec 15<sup>th</sup> – 12:00 to 1:30 pm CST– 3<sup>rd</sup> phone/internet conference, completed last 4 parts on the CD ROM, taken and graded the quizzes, completed homework.

On three occasions participants are joined by phone from work, home, or any other location. A high-speed internet hookup is optional. You will have the visuals with audio on the CD ROM which was recently revised.

The group gatherings are designed to address questions about the educational materials and specific

farm issues. **Dave Stender (712)225-6196 and Drs. Reese (402-472-6425) and Locke Karriker and I will facilitate these discussions.** The homework activities and quizzes will be mailed to each group member. Members will score their own quizzes.

## Do I need access to a computer?

Yes. Most of the educational materials will be supplied on a CD ROM. Therefore, it is critical to have a computer with the following system requirements.

- 1) Windows 98/NT or higher
- 2) 200Mhz Intel Processor or higher
- 3) 32MB RAM or higher
- 4) 16-bit color depth or higher
- 5) Sound Blaster compatible sound card

## How much time will it take to participate in this activity?

It takes 3 to 4 hours to view the materials on the CD ROM. The homework activities should take about 1 hour and you'll probably spend 3 to 4 hours on the quizzes. Including the three group meetings you will probably spend 11 to 14 hours in total.

## Has this type of educational program been offered before and what did the participants think?

Yes. A 14-member farrowing interest group was formed in January 2005 in Nebraska. On a scale of 1 (strongly agree) to 4 (strongly disagree), members indicated the group's activities met their expectations (1.5) and they would recommend it to others (1.3).

One owner/operator wrote "Having my three employees attend the Farrowing Caretaker Interest Group is having more impact on my operation than anything we have done in 15 years. Their attitude is much improved."

## Won't I learn as much by simply viewing the Farrowing

## Management CD ROM myself?

No. While the CD ROM is very informative and user-friendly educational tool, it does not connect you to peers in other operations and the authors to discuss issues and solve farrowing problems. Also, there will be limited opportunity to test your knowledge of the subject matter and to probe deeper into certain subjects.

## General Information

This activity is designed for people who work in the farrowing area of any conventional pork producing operation. It covers the basics in lactating sow and piglet care. Although the activity is designed for beginners, it has also served as a refresher for people experienced in farrowing management.

Below is a partial list of tasks that you should be able to perform or perform better as a result of participating in this activity:

- ✓prepare the sow and farrowing space
- ✓know when and how to assist a sow to farrow induce sows to farrow
- ✓process piglets
- ✓manage the sow to maximize feed intake
- ✓identify and treat pig and sow health problems
- ✓identify disadvantaged pigs and improve their survival rate
- ✓euthanize disadvantaged piglets
- ✓keep records
- ✓recognize normal behavior of pigs and sows

## Group Leaders

**Locke Karriker**, College of Veterinary Medicine, Iowa State University

**Duane Reese**, Extension Swine Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Mark Storlie**, Extension Swine Field Specialist, Iowa State University

## Questions?

Mark Storlie 563-425-3331 or [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu)  
Dave Stender 712-261-0225 or [dstender@iastate.edu](mailto:dstender@iastate.edu)  
Duane Reese at 402-472-6425 or [dreesel@unl.edu](mailto:dreesel@unl.edu)

Registration information by phone, fax or mail. **Due Nov 10, 2006.** Call 563-425-3331 to register or complete this form and mail or fax.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Town \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

You may be able to participate in a local County Extension Office, call Mark Storlie to make arrangements. The registration fee of \$20.00 per person includes all educational materials and participation in the group meetings via phone or internet. Enrollment is limited to **15** people.

Credit card registration (by Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006)

Master Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
VISA Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to ISU and mail to Fayette County Extension PO Box 700, Fayette IA 52142 or FAX (563-425-3339) by June 29, 2006.

Questions? Contact Mark Storlie at 563-425-3331 or [mstorlie@iastate.edu](mailto:mstorlie@iastate.edu) OR Duane Reese at 402-472-6425 or at [dreese1@unl.edu](mailto:dreese1@unl.edu)

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University Extension

## Farrowing Caretaker Interest Group –

### *For Conventional Farrowers*



Learn at a time & location  
Convenient to you!

Conference phone calls  
on Nov 17, Dec 1 & 15

Sign up today

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