



CLIPPINGS a weekly column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

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For Immediate Release

Swine Building Maintenance

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Late summer is a good time to schedule maintenance to buildings. The dryer, cooler days offer the only time when roof maintenance can be done with less risk of rain and slippery conditions that impact safety. Many swine buildings are rusting out at the eve, because pit gasses are entering the soffit inlets from the fans or curtains. ISU Extension and Outreach has developed a new recommendation for bringing the fresh air through the gable ends where it is far away from exhaust pit fans or curtains. While it is still pleasant weather, farmers should get up into their building attic space to look for rusting roofs and truss plates.

Pits contain three times more hydrogen sulfide today than they did 20 years ago, before the industry shifted to higher dried distillers' grains that result in sulfuric acid that is very corrosive to metal. While the paint on metal buildings is good, the screw that holds it on pierces through the paint leaving raw steel on the bottom where the sulfuric acid from condensation corrodes it very quickly. The truss plates in the attic are also at risk of corroding to the point that the roof will fail under snow and wind loads in the winter.

ISU Extension and Outreach Ag Engineers are offering a Swine Building Maintenance Webinar Series from 1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. on August 19, 21, 24, 26 and 28. This will teach participants what to look for in maintaining concrete beams, columns and slats; trusses and truss plates; converting soffit inlets to gable end inlets; insulation inspection and new infrared cameras to find gaps in your insulation; and general maintenance to make your building last.

All five one-hour sessions are only \$20 to view via zoom web link, and this program will help producers correct problems before catastrophic failures happen. Register online at <http://www.aep.iastate.edu/building>.

Before harvest begins, building inspection and maintenance should be done.

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