



CLIPPINGS a weekly column from Iowa State University Extension and Outreach

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For Immediate Release

Iowa Swine Day 2019

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Iowa Swine Day has become a big event for swine producers. In 2019, more than 600 producers, students and agricultural professionals attended the one-day event on June 27.

One of the main reasons for the success of Iowa Swine Day is the quality and content delivered from the conference speakers. The day began with Dr. Daniel Robison, the new dean for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at Iowa State University, who introduced himself and offered some welcoming comments.

Dr. Frank Mitloehner, from the University of California at Davis, was the first keynote speaker. Mitloehner conducts research directly related to understanding and mitigating air emissions from livestock operations. He explained that greenhouse gas from livestock is different from fossil fuel greenhouse gas; the majority of gas from livestock is methane, versus fossil fuels which produce carbon dioxide. Mitloehner's point is that methane is part of a cycle, and most methane is destroyed every year. Taking this into account, livestock production is not a major factor in net greenhouse gas production. Burning fossil fuels however, is not a cycle, and thus, once released, carbon dioxide from fuel consumption will remain in the atmosphere for decades.

Dr. Mitloehner also pointed out that the United States livestock production is ranked among the best, having a low carbon footprint among nations. Efficiency is the reason. Think about a gas-guzzling car versus a very fuel-efficient car. Most know that the fuel-efficient car has less greenhouse gas emission. In a similar way, an average U.S. dairy cow producing 23,000 pounds of milk a year is more efficient than a cow from an undeveloped country producing 1,000 pounds per year.

The bottom line from keynote speaker Mitloehner is that trying to change the climate by changing what we eat is a misrepresented concept. One person giving up ALL meat for one year would reduce greenhouse gas as much as one person giving up one-half of one Trans-Atlantic flight. Therefore, including meat in a global warming debate is counterproductive.

Other speakers from the conference were equally informative on different topics. In summary:

- Dr. Wes Jamison focused on helping participants understand how generation Z thinks, speaking generally.
- Dr. Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, from the University of Montreal, explained that human nature makes biosecurity strategies difficult to implement successfully. Vaillancourt showed data that compliance to operating procedures for biosecurity is low, something less than 35 percent.

We also learned more about African Swine Fever, how to manage employees, ventilation systems and a host of other topics. Check out the [Iowa Pork Industry Center website](http://www.ipic.iastate.edu) at www.ipic.iastate.edu for links to listen to some of the Iowa Swine Day 2019 recordings.

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