

Swine Ventilation Workshops

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SPEAKERS

Brett Ramirez, Speaker 3, Christa Hartsook, Dave Stender, Olivia Hanlon

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- C** Christa Hartsook 00:15

Hello, and welcome to the Small Farms Podcast, a production of the Small Farms Program at Iowa State University Extension and Outreach. Our podcast covers the opportunities and challenges associated with rural life.
 - O** Olivia Hanlon 00:29

In this episode I interview Dr. Brett Ramirez, Assistant Professor of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering here at Iowa State, and Dave Stender, swine specialist for Iowa State University Extension and Outreach, and talk about the upcoming Swine Building Ventilation Workshops. I'm Olivia Hanlon, Farm Food and Enterprise Development Education Extension Specialist, and welcome to the show. Brett and Dave, welcome to the show. Thanks for being on.
 - B** Brett Ramirez 00:53

Yes, thank you for having us. It's an exciting opportunity to talk about something I think Dave and I are both passionate about. So thank you again.
 - O** Olivia Hanlon 01:00

Absolutely. So Brett, we will go ahead and get started with you. Can you tell our listeners a

little bit about what it is you do in your role here at Iowa State?

B

Brett Ramirez 01:09

Sure. Here at Iowa State. I'm an assistant professor with a research and extension appointment. My research program includes numerous different facets of the livestock and poultry industry. I conduct research on energy efficiency, natural resource usage, ventilation, housing, technology development, and many other things that impact producers, and then part of my extension appointment. And we'll learn more about that here in a few minutes.

O

Olivia Hanlon 01:34

Dave, we'll turn it to you this time, it's your turn. Can you tell our listeners a little bit about what your role is here Iowa State Extension?

D

Dave Stender 01:40

I hold the extension position of field swine specialist and over the years have been doing a lot of different things. But mainly what we do is interface between the University and producers and bring up the ideas and research from the University out into the field. I've worked in in terms of training for manure, training for niche markets, like what we're talking about small farms, big farms, we do a lot on computer kinds of things. We do husbandry kinds of things. We do management kinds of things, records. And so it's a kind of a wide variety of topics. And then in the spare time we do some demonstration kind of field research and outlying research farms once in a while. Sounds like you don't have much spare time to do that. It varies by season.

O

Olivia Hanlon 02:34

Dave, could you tell us what counties are in your region or give us a brief synopsis of what region you're in?

D

Dave Stender 02:39

22 counties, and basically all of northwest Iowa.

O

Olivia Hanlon 02:42

Perfect. So then your extension role also crosses over with your role for the Iowa Pork

Industry Center. Could you tell us a little bit about that center and what your role is like there?

D

Dave Stender 02:51

Extension is with Iowa Pork Industry Center, but the Iowa Pork Industry Center is so much bigger than that. It's a hub, where we connect with the researchers on campus and all the other colleges on campus. And so it's a kind of a, it's kind of a central programming go-to-place for the University and the state of Iowa to get new information and to disseminate information.

O

Olivia Hanlon 03:14

All right. So you're both involved in the upcoming Swine Ventilation Workshops. Does want to you want to take a swing at telling people what exactly they could expect to gain from these workshops?

B

Brett Ramirez 03:26

Sure, from these workshops, we're hoping that this offers attendees kind of a way to progressively develop a bit of a deeper understanding of ventilation management and troubleshooting to kind of create that best environment for the pigs. We go through a lot of different things ranging from the pig in its environment, the actual mechanical systems, and then to hands-on portions. But really what what we want to do is we really know the producers understand their systems and they know their system the best. And what we want to help do is make sure to reinforce the fundamentals and help kind of give them the best chance at success in managing their system and creating the best environment for the pig.

O

Olivia Hanlon 04:04

So this is an exciting workshop because it's one of the first to be back in person, right? Super exciting in that way. So do you want to explain a little bit about how this program will be delivered from site to site?

B

Brett Ramirez 04:17

Sure, we have multiple locations that we'll get into at each site. The workshop is going to run from 9:30am to 3:30pm. At each one, we have a classroom portion and then a hands on learning. The classroom portion will go from about 9:30 to noon, and that's going to

consist of animal on its environment and then the mechanical system, and we'll break for a free lunch sponsored by Iowa Pork Producers Association. Then we'll go into a few more materials on more specific parts and then we'll get a chance to get into the hands on learning with our 24 foot long custom ventilation trailer. This really offers producers a chance to engage with the equipment themselves. It's one thing to hear about it and see it on a slide. It's another thing to actually get in the trailer and experience it and be able to see the direct impact of the concepts we talked about in the classroom, and how they specifically change things in the ventilation system. So that's kind of how they're gonna run, and it should be good time.



Dave Stender 05:18

In the classrooms we'll be able to spread out. And we'll just take small groups at a time into the trailer. The University still, I think, as a mask requirement in place too, so make sure you bring the bring your mask.



Olivia Hanlon 05:32

Alright, does one of you have a list of your workshop locations that you could share with us?



Brett Ramirez 05:39

Yes, I have them here in front of me. The first workshop is on March 15th, and that will be in Sutherland. The second one is on March 16th, and that is in Emmetsburg. Dave, and I will be doing both of those. On Wednesday, March 17th, that will be in Radcliffe, that will be with Russ. On the 18th, that'll be in Cresco with Mark. And then the last one is on Friday, March 19th, in Iowa City with Matt.



Olivia Hanlon 06:05

Perfect and you said these run 9:30am to?



Brett Ramirez 06:08

3:30.



Olivia Hanlon 06:10

Wonderful. So if our listeners are interested in attending, do they need to register for these

workshops ahead of time? And where can they do that?

B Brett Ramirez 06:20

Yes, we do have limited space due to a variety of reasons and registration is required, I am getting the link now that I can post here in the chat. And if not, it should be on our press release. We also have a very nice brochure that's available for listeners and others to check out. And it provides a good written recap of everything we've talked about here.

O Olivia Hanlon 06:44

And I will go ahead and drop that in the show notes below for you guys who are listening. If they're looking for more information on the workshops, and to see that full list of dates again, will they be able to find that at that same link?

B Brett Ramirez 06:57

Yes, everything's there.

O Olivia Hanlon 06:59

Perfect. And then that'll have contact information for each specialist as well? Such as Dave?

B Brett Ramirez 07:04

Correct.

O Olivia Hanlon 07:05

So this sounds like a really good opportunity for pork producers out there. To wrap it up and to really bring this home I guess, why is ventilation such an important topic? So why should producers consider registering for one of these workshops?

D Dave Stender 07:19

We tried to do some learning objectives for this workshop about a year ago. And there's like 20 different things that we're trying to teach, and concepts, and little handy tips that producers can use in their operation. And, you know, one of one of the examples is if cold

air drops, and if you if you don't set your inlets, right for the right kind of speed out of the air inlets, and once you're going to drop cold air on your pigs and, and chill them. And so it's kind of a understanding, and then taking that understanding to apply these principles back into your operation. So what is another pet peeve of mine over the years is that a lot of producers just come into a building and say, oh, it's a little stuffy in here. So they raised the fan. And that's all they do, they increase the fan speed and, and there's some underlying things that we can do to fix these problems and understand how to better utilize our resources and get fresher air for the pigs. And so the bottom line, we want to we want to spend less on energy and we want to have more fresh air better distributed in the barns. And so that's that's the kind of the ultimate goal, these workshops in my opinion.

B

Brett Ramirez 08:32

Yeah, I think that's really well put, Dave, I agree with that. Another thing I'd like to kind of chime in and mention is that you never get too comfortable with ventilation. It is your, as the title of the workshop states it is your unseen employee, it's running 24/7. And it's really a key factor in raising pigs efficiently. And so never take it for granted. It never hurts to have a refresher once in a while. Always, you know, a lot of people that attend these, they say may might take the second or third workshop before it starts to click, but it's that continue to development and engagement really builds a good foundation for success and ventilation management. One of the other things I do want to point out is that these are multiple locations, please register for only one location. It is the same workshop at each one. And the other thing to note is it is a free workshop that is due to sponsorship by Automated Production Systems or AP that has made this available to Iowa producers to attend at no cost.

O

Olivia Hanlon 09:31

We love to hear free workshops coming from Iowa State right?

D

Dave Stender 09:34

Yes. And thank you to AP's kind sponsorship.

O

Olivia Hanlon 09:39

Absolutely. So with that, is there anything that we didn't cover today that you guys would like to add either about the workshops, I think this is maybe both of your first times on our podcast, so anything you'd like to add in general?



Brett Ramirez 09:52

I'd say thanks for this opportunity. I think another form of media to get the information out to advertise for this is really going to help get the attendees and unfortunately, it is limited. So as more and more people hear this, it's a good learning opportunity. So I appreciate you having us on today. Thank you.



Olivia Hanlon 10:08

Thank you both so much for joining us. And I look forward to maybe having some more topics to speak with you guys about in the future.



Dave Stender 10:15

Thanks, Olivia.



Brett Ramirez 10:16

Yep. Anytime, Olivia. You know, you know how to get ahold of us not too hard.



Olivia Hanlon 10:21

Not too hard at all.



Speaker 3 10:22

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