Swine Health Management Conference set for August 30 in New Hampton

NEW HAMPTON--The Iowa Pork Producers Association, in cooperation with the Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State University and ISU Extension and Outreach, have developed a conference for hog farmers and allied industry personnel address current swine health issues that are impacting the industry and provide a market outlook.

The IPPA Swine Health and Animal Well-being Committee will hold four “free” management conferences across the state later this month and in early September. The Northeast Iowa site will be held Friday, Aug. 30, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Chickasaw County Extension Office, New Hampton. The three additional sites include Sheldon, Carroll and Washington.

Dr. Rodney “Butch” Baker of the Iowa Pork Industry Center at Iowa State University will share what is currently known about the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea Virus (PEDV) that has proven deadly to piglets across the country this year. Baker will explain how producers can manage employees and visitors relative to PEDV, how hog farmers can protect their herd when most packing plants and trailers are testing positive for the virus, and what can be learned from Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) and the practices that should be effective against PEDV.

“Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS) has caused great economic harm to the industry for years and now we’re facing the devastating impact of PEDV,” said Dr. Craig Rowles, committee chairman and a pork producer from Carroll. “We’re offering these conferences to provide the latest information on these issues and try to help producers deal with or avoid these swine health concerns.”

ISU's Dr. James McKean will discuss how producers can avoid residues and a U.S. Food and Drug Administration inspection. His presentation will include changes in residue testing at packing plants, the impact of detected residues and practical steps to avoid chemical residues.

“FDA has introduced new residue limits and testing procedures and we want to make sure hog farmers are aware of these changes," Rowles said. “Also, the current and future economic impacts of the swine health issues are critical to producers’ success, so we feel it's important to include this discussion as well.”
Rounding out the list of presenters is Dr. Lee Schulz, ISU livestock economist. He will explain how pork farmers can survive with a short corn supply, prospects for continued hog demand and 2014 opportunities.

Producers will not be required to register to attend any of the conferences. Interested farmers simply need to attend the conference of their choice.

Questions may be directed to Cody McKinley, IPPA Public Policy Director at (800) 372-7675 or cmckinley@iowapork.org or Mark Storlie, ISUEO Swine Specialist at (563) 425-3331 or mstorlie@iastate.edu. For more from the Iowa Pork Industry Center, visit www.ipic.iastate.edu.

-30-