

Iowa State University Swine Teaching Farm - A Farrow to Finish Farm

A.S. Leaflet R1938

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Summary

The Swine Teaching Farm provides swine and facilities for teaching support of over 15 courses each year. Students learn the entire breadth of the swine industry from breed identification in introductory classes to enterprise management and swine production systems. The farm hosts annually an extensive number of tours for local grade schools classes, 4-H and FFA clubs, and international groups. Hogs from the farm are shown and sold successfully in major national events.

Teaching objectives of the Swine Farm

- To provide a setting for students in which to acquaint and to teach them about swine production and the swine industry.
- To provide animals with variation in performance and composition necessary to dramatize differences in a classroom situation.

Herd Composition (110 sows)

- 40 Berkshire
- 10 Duroc
- 5 Hampshire
- 10 Landrace
- 10 Yorkshire
- 35 Crossbred

Courses utilizing swine and the swine farm include:

AnS 114, AnS 214, AnS 250, AnS 270, AnS 305, AnS 336, VMed 340X, AnS 345, AnS 346X, AnS 370, AnS 425 (note, over 20 students in AnS 425 without previous swine production experience spent individually 2 to 3 hours with manager for extra credit), AnS 475A, AnS 475D.

The farm also supports research activities in meats for Dr. Joe Sebranek, reproductive physiology research for Dr. Lloyd Anderson, and Veterinary Medicine Research Institute research for Dr. James Roth.

Demonstrations Provided

- National Pork Producer – Pork 101 Course
- State 4-H Roundup
- State FFA Meats Contest
- State 4-H/FFA Evaluation Contest
- Regional Meats Contest
- ISU B.B. LNA Contest
- ISU B.B. Evaluation Contest

- NSIF Ultrasound Accreditation Clinic
- SWAP in house training (Extension staff)
- Hosted over 20 visiting judging teams during the year
- Session for Kent Feed, selection/preparation program
- Anthropology projects
- Restraint lab for ISU Vet students
- Photo shoots for NPB education material
- Photo shoot for Vet Med by T. Englehaupt
- Ultrasound Demos



Tours Given

- Chinese group
- Japan Tour and Demonstration
- Taiwan group
- Austrian group
- Japanese visitor
- Korean group
- Drake University class
- Boy Scout Troop – include anatomy demonstrations
- Preschool, elementary, FFA groups
- Many drop-in visitors (industry representatives, breeders, educators)

Accomplishments in 2003

- ✓ World Pork Expo – class winner, Grand Champion Female and Second top selling boar
- ✓ National Berkshire Type Conference – two class winners
- ✓ Iowa State Fair – two class winners, Grand Champion Female

- ✓ National Barrow Show – four class winners, Grand Champion Female, First place truckload, Reserve Champion Crossbred load, two first place Berkshire market hogs.
- ✓ Sale of 22 head Berkshire breeding stock to Korea
- ✓ Provided a learning environment for many people
- ✓ Painted and repaired older buildings
- ✓ Continued management of wild prairie and wild flower areas as well as the many flower beds and grass areas

Conclusion

Every effort has been made throughout the year to accommodate the needs of the department and our students. Our efforts in hosting tours and events have helped build rapport with those we serve. Excellent feedback has made me proud of our effort and gives me a sense of purpose.

It has been a rewarding year despite low hog prices and budget constraints