

2007 Review – ISU Lauren Christian Swine Research Center Madrid, Iowa

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Summary

The Lauren Christian Swine Research Center has a long history of significant contributions to swine research programs in the Animal Science Department at Iowa State University. Researchers in swine breeding and genetics, reproductive physiology, nutrient management, and meat science currently utilize animals housed at the farm. Additional animals are used in departmental teaching and extension activities.

Activities

Current long-term breeding projects at the farm include the following: 1) Selection for intramuscular fat using real-time ultrasound in a population of purebred Durocs led by Dr. Tom Baas; 2) Selection for residual feed intake in purebred Yorkshires led by Dr. Jack Dekkers; 3) Meat quality study in a Berkshire-Yorkshire crossbred population led by Dr. Max Rothschild. In addition to these projects, a small population of the Meishan Chinese breed is maintained at the farm.

The Lauren Christian Swine Research Center has had visitors from 4 foreign countries and many from within the United States. Sales of breeding animals have gone to several Iowa swine producers and have been exported to South Korea.

Seven papers have been published from research conducted at the Lauren Christian Swine Research Center.

Facilities

A significant change occurred on May 8, 2007 when a dedication ceremony for re-naming of the Lauren Christian Swine Research Center at the Bilsland location took place. There were 120 people in attendance. This was also a time for visitors to view the new Breeding and Gestation facility that was started in the fall of 2006. The waste products are separated into solid and liquid components inside the building by means of a shallow V scraper system. There is room for 33 boars in stalls along with 152 stalls for females and 96 females in 8 pens of 12. The Breeding and Gestation barn is the breeding facility with gestation in the building or in 2 hoop structures. Each hoop has 4 pens with 13 feeding stalls per pen.

Accomplishments

Accomplishments of 2007 include Champion light and heavy crossbred truckloads at the National Barrow Show (NBS) and Grand Champion overall truckload. The Center also had the Reserve Champion Duroc Gilt and top selling gilt at NBS. These accomplishments would not be possible without the efforts of our students and support from faculty and staff.



New sign at the Lauren Christian Swine Research Center welcomes students and visitors



Farrowing nursery



New gestation breeding barn with solid waste separation.



Hoop pen gestation