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SWINE

The Newsletter of Prairie Swine Centre Inc.



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Economic Impact of Research in the Pork Industry

Ken Engele, BSA and
Lee Whittington, B.Sc., MBA

Today's pork industry is global in nature, and pork producers find themselves always looking for areas of competitive advantage. One significant area of competitive advantage is through the early adoption of research results. Producers who are successful in identifying and implementing new technologies and management strategies create an advantage through lowering their cost of production, or increasing the amount of revenue generated. However, the perceived financial risks and rewards may limit technological action.

In order to provide more detail on the economic impact of research, Prairie Swine Centre in conjunction with the George Morris Centre developed an analytical tool to help provide a more detailed analysis of the economic benefit of research conducted at Prairie Swine Centre. This financial model has the ability to simulate the economic impact and change in cost and revenue structures, by applying Prairie Swine Centre research results to commercial farms of various sizes. Estimating the economic impact of research on the commercial farm is extremely important when adopting new technologies or management strategies.

To value the economic impact of research, a number of Prairie Swine Centre experiments between 1999-2004 were analyzed. In total 22 projects were selected for a detailed financial analysis, with the final result being the net benefit of



specific research projects. Research projects were then prioritized in terms of net benefit per hog marketed and ease of adoption.

Throughout the 1999-2004 time period, specific research projects generated a range of net financial benefit to pork producers from \$0.11 - \$8.84 per hog marketed. In addition, approximately 25% of the projects analyzed generated a net benefit of at least \$2.00 per hog marketed, while an additional 25% of research projects generated a return in excess of \$1.00 per hog marketed.

The overall objective of such an analytical tool is quite simply to assist pork producers in identifying ways to minimize costs and maximize revenues through: 1) Identifying those technologies that can be applied on their operation, and 2) Prioritize their implementation in terms of ease of adoption.

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Program funding provided by



Table 1. Economic Return for Selected Prairie Swine Centre Research Projects

Research Project	Effect on net income \$/Hog Marketed	Effect on net income \$/Hog Marketed
2004		
Response of Growing and Finishing Pigs to Dietary Energy Concentration	\$0.60 - \$8.84	\$4.92
Crowding Reduces Performance of Weanling Pigs		\$0.88
2003		
Soluble and Insoluble Non-Starch Polysaccharides on Digesta Passage Rate and Voluntary Feed Intake on Grower Pigs	\$1.89 - \$2.26	\$2.08
The Effect of Starter Feeding Regimen on Variability in Bodyweight and Performance in the Nursery	\$0.31 - \$2.61	\$1.22
Voluntary Feed Intake and Growth Performance between Grower Pigs Fed Diets Containing Mustard Meal or Canola meal		\$1.25
Electronic Sow Feeder: A Preliminary Report		\$3.38
2002		
Water Usage by Grower-Finisher Pigs Using Dry and Wet/Dry Feeders		\$0.70
Reducing Water Waste from Nipple Drinkers by Grower-Finisher Pigs	\$0.11 - \$0.17	\$0.14
Feed Processing and Nutritional Quality Among Wheat Classes Fed to Weaned Pigs	\$0.72 - \$1.44	\$1.08
Effects of Large Group Size on Productivity of Grower-Finisher Pigs*		\$0.38
Effect of Dietary Crude Protein and Phase Feeding on Performance of Urinary Nitrogen Excretion of Grower Pigs	\$0.94 - \$2.07	\$1.50
2001		
The Impact of Feeder Adjustment and Group Size/Density on Weanling Pig Performance	\$0.05 - \$2.01	\$0.69
Response to Dietary Energy Concentration and Stocking Density in Weaned Pigs	\$0.23 - \$0.90	\$0.47
Effect of Gender and Crowding on Variation in Days to Market	\$2.16 - \$2.16	\$2.16
The Effect of Ergot on the Performance of Weanlings	\$1.96 - \$11.50	\$6.23
Effects of Nipple Drinker Height and Flow Rate on Water Wastage in Grower and Finisher Pigs	\$0.09 - \$0.32	\$0.21
Nutritional Value of High-Oil Oat Groats		\$0.70
Replacement of Soybean Meal with Canola Meal in Weaned Pigs		\$0.27
2000		
Effect of Feed Presentation on the Feeding Behaviour of Grower-Finisher Pigs		\$2.55
1999		
Performance and Carcass Quality of Growing-Finishing Pigs Submitted to Reduced Nocturnal Temperatures		\$1.03
An Oil Sprinkling System for Dust Control in Pig Buildings		\$0.18
The DE Content of Hulless Barley		\$1.49

Continued from page 1

Research Results

In order to estimate the impact of research on different types of operations, 'default' farms of various size were developed based on industry data. It is very important to note there tends to be greater variability, in per hog costs and revenues, between similar sized operations than across different operation size. This is a function of different cost structures (example, related to age of facility), ability to adopt new technologies, and management styles.

Table 1 provides a detailed economic evaluation for each research project, summarizing the range and average value (from default) on net income.

"If only 10% of the benefit was to be adopted it would improve net return over \$3.00 per hog marketed."

Average net returns for all projects varied from \$0.14 to \$6.23 per hog marketed, while the minimum and maximum range in returns vary from \$0.05 to \$11.50 per hog marketed, depending on specific research criteria. Net benefit of each project was calculated independently; there was no attempt to look at the additive or competing effect of multiple projects implemented simultaneously.

Ease of Adoption

Pork producers in Canada are recognized as innovative, many could be classified as early adopters of new information. With this in mind, the 22 research projects were evaluated for their ease of adoption, as seen in Table 2. Ease of adoption is defined in terms of the time, labour and capital required to implement the new research information on the commercial farm. Three classifications were created: Easy, Moderate and Difficult. We further describe "Easy" projects as those which can be implemented within 1-3 months, require little labour and little or no capital; "Moderate" can be implemented within 3-12 months, but still require little labour or capital; and "Difficult" projects require greater than 12 months to implement, and is either labour and/or capital intensive. Evaluating this list on the basis of ease of adoption may help to focus efforts on these projects which can provide immediate payback.

Impact on the Industry

Using this three-level description we estimated the extent to which the industry would adopt the research results. Easy projects, such as switching between wheat classes for starter diets, or adjusting water nipples to reduce water wastage, were estimated to be adopted by 80% of the industry. Moderate adoption projects included changing energy levels in the diet, require the specialized services of a nutritionist and perhaps pen reconfiguration. These “Moderate” adoption projects were estimated to be adopted by 40% of the industry. There were very few projects deemed to be Difficult to adopt. For example novel ingredients like mustard meal can be difficult to obtain on a regular basis, or in the case of moving to large group sow housing systems, extensive barn renovation or rebuilding is required to adopt this technology. These “Difficult” adoption projects were estimated to be adopted by 10% of the industry.

Table 3 summarizes the combination of improvement in net returns (over default) as described in Table 1 with the assumed levels of adoption for each research project. This provides an estimate of the value of Prairie Swine Centre research to the western Canadian pork industry. For example, “Effect of Starter Feeding Regime on Variability in Body Weight and Performance in the Nursery”, is adopted on a Moderate basis (by 40% of the industry), and provides a net return benefit of \$1.22 per pig marketed, and assuming the annual marketings of 10 million hogs in western Canada, the benefit annually to the industry for this one project is \$4.88 million.

The Bottom Line

Research pays big dividends. Applied near market research conducted at Prairie Swine Centre for the pork industry has and continues to provide significant benefit to pork producers and the entire pork industry. All pork producers will not be able to adopt all research results, in addition not all research projects are completely additive. Pork producers would still realize a significant improvement to their bottom line through the incorporation of any number of research results. If only 10% of the benefit was to be adopted it would improve net return over \$3.00 per hog marketed.


Prairie Swine Centre would like to acknowledge Saskatchewan Agriculture and Food for their funding of this project. 

Table 2. Ease of adoption for various Prairie Swine Centre research projects

Research Project	Ease of Adoption*
2004	
Response of Growing and Finishing Pigs to Dietary Energy Concentration	Moderate
Crowding Reduces Performance of Weanling Pigs	Moderate
2003	
Soluble and Insoluble Non-Starch Polysaccharides on Digesta Passage Rate and Voluntary Feed Intake on Grower Pigs	Difficult
The Effect of Starter Feeding Regimen on Variability in Bodyweight and Performance in the Nursery	Moderate
Voluntary Feed Intake and Growth Performance between Grower Pigs Fed Diets Containing Mustard Meal or Canola meal	Difficult
Electronic Sow Feeder: A Preliminary Report	Difficult
2002	
Water Usage by Grower-Finisher Pigs Using Dry and Wet/Dry Feeders	Easy
Reducing Water Waste from Nipple Drinkers by Grower-Finisher Pigs	Easy
Feed Processing and Nutritional Quality Among Wheat Classes Fed to Weaned Pigs	Easy
Effects of Large Group Size on Productivity of Grower-Finisher Pigs	Moderate
Effect of Dietary Crude Protein and Phase Feeding on Performance of Urinary Nitrogen Excretion of Grower Pigs	Difficult
2001	
The Impact of Feeder Adjustment and Group Size/Density on Weanling Pig Performance	Easy
Response to Dietary Energy Concentration and Stocking Density in Weaned Pigs	Moderate
Effect of Gender and Crowding on Variation in Days to Market	Moderate
The Effect of Ergot on the Performance of Weanlings	Easy
Effects of Nipple Drinker Height and Flow Rate on Water Wastage in Grower and Finisher Pigs	Easy
Nutritional Value of High-Oil Oat Groats	Moderate
Replacement of Soybean Meal with Canola Meal in Weaned Pigs	Moderate
2000	
Effect of Feed Presentation on the Feeding Behaviour of Grower-Finisher Pigs	Easy
1999	
Performance and Carcass Quality of Growing-Finishing Pigs Submitted to Reduced Nocturnal Temperatures	Easy
An Oil Sprinkling System for Dust Control in Pig Buildings	Moderate
The DE Content of Hullless Barley	Moderate

Table 3. Total Annual Research Contribution to the Western Canadian Pork Industry*

Ease of Adoption	Total Contribution (\$000's)	Percent Contribution
Easy	\$101,091	63.2%
Moderate	\$50,737	31.7%
Difficult	\$8,208	5.1%
Total	\$160,037	100%

*Calculations based on average western Canadian hog marketings of 10 million annually.

Large Group Housing for Grow-Finish Pigs



Harold W. Gonyou, Ph.D., and
Lee Whittington, B.Sc., MBA

Interest in Large Groups

Conventional management of grow/finish pigs until recently has been to keep one or two litters in each pen in order to minimize aggression. In recent years we have moved to sorting pigs by sex (for split sex feeding) or weight (in an unsuccessful attempt to reduce variation at marketing). However we retained small group sizes, usually limited by the number of pigs that could be fed from a 2-4 hole feeder. With larger operations, or those that practice batch farrowing, we are now able to form groups of several hundred pigs of similar age and gender. Large groups of 100-1,000 pigs per pen are being tried on numerous farms throughout North America.

There have always been a few operations that have used large groups. These have generally been seasonal in nature using multi-purpose yards or open front buildings in the summer, or facilities that were inexpensive (hoop structures) or converted from previous use (old barns). In these cases the significant reduction in capital costs meant that productivity could be compromised but the system remain viable. The current interest in large groups relates to intensively managed facilities that require high levels of performance to succeed.

There are a number of reasons to consider large grow-finish groups. Less penning is used and the need for alleys within the room is eliminated, thus reducing some aspect of capital

cost. It has been suggested that less floor space per pig is required in large groups. More importantly, large groups allow us to apply new technology, particularly when it comes to sorting animals not only for market but also for phase feeding programs within each group. There is the potential for handling to be improved through the use of facilities designed for large groups, and anecdotal evidence would suggest that pigs from large groups handle and load better at marketing.

Of course, large groups for grow-finish pigs need to work if they are to be adopted by the industry. There were a number of reasons why large groups of pigs were discouraged in the past. Most if not all of these have proven to be invalid. However, a number of producers who have adopted large groups, particularly those using auto-sort technology, have experienced unsatisfactory results. This is common whenever new technology is tried, but solutions need to be found to the problems they are experiencing.

Fears From the Past

Most of the concerns about large group sizes in the past were related to the stability of the social structure within groups. Small groups of pigs have a very stable social structure. Every pig knows its position relative to every other pig in the pen. Once the social order is established there is no reason for further aggression. Increasing the size of the group made the social structure more complex, with more relationships to be established through aggression and to be remembered. As group size increased, social problems increased, and it was feared that

aggression, productivity, and general health of the pigs would deteriorate.

This was true to a certain point, but research in poultry, and now in pigs, indicates that the nature of the social structure among animals changes in very large groups. At some point the benefits of being dominant, or of keeping track of all relationships around you, becomes too costly to maintain and animals change their approach to living together. In our studies we have found that aggression following regrouping is similar, when expressed as minutes per pig, in conventional groups of 10-20 and large groups of over 100. We then examined how readily pigs could move into small and large groups. When pigs are added to a small group there is more fighting than when pigs are added to a large group. They are able to avoid fighting better, but it also appeared that the pigs in the large group were less interested in attacking the newcomers as well. We then conducted tests in small pens in which we placed four pigs from either two small groups or two large groups. In these uniform conditions it was clear that pigs from large groups were less interested in fighting. This has been termed 'tolerant' behaviour and is seen in animals living in large aggregations rather than well-defined societies.

A second concern for large groups is the potential for behavioural vices, such as tail-biting, to be socially 'facilitated', that is, increasing rapidly because of the stimulation derived by observing other animals perform the behaviour. Cattle feedlots experience the buller steer syndrome, in which one or more animals within a pen are ridden by several others. This problem increases in

frequency when cattle are kept in large groups. Social facilitation seems to be present for this behaviour. Not so for tail biting in pigs. Our experience has been that the level of tail-biting, as a proportion of the animals affected, is similar or reduced in large groups when compared to small.

We do see a reduction in performance in large groups, even in those that do not use auto-sorters. This reduction occurs during the first two weeks on the large pens, and thereafter the pigs grow as fast or faster than those in small groups. It does not appear to be directly related to aggression, as aggression levels and the severity of wounding is similar to small groups. We have seen a difference in eating behaviour whereby the pigs in large groups have more meals, but shorter ones. We attribute this to visiting several feeders during each eating period, but eating less. The net result, over the entire 14-16 week grow-finish period has been an extra 2 days to market. However this highlights the need for good design and management that ensures pigs have optimal access to feed when first placed in large groups.

Auto-Sort Technology

Large groups make the use of auto-sort technology affordable. In such a system pigs are required to pass through a scale that directs them into different areas based on their weight. The scales are usually set up so that pigs pass through them on the way to feed. The pigs can be sorted into groups for market, or directed to different diets according to their weight, or to specific feed additives such as Paylean during the appropriate period. Sorters may be programmed to provide management information such as the average weight of the pigs, the weight range, and the distribution of weights, which can be used in feeding and marketing decisions. Auto-sort technology has tremendous potential for managing grow-finish pigs.

Although pigs will generally go to great lengths to obtain food, getting pigs to learn that they need to pass through a scale to get to the feeder is not easy. Most problems associated with auto-sort systems involve pigs refusing to pass through the scale or reluctance to do it several times a day. Several management options have been suggested, tried, and modified. We need a combination of good management programs and dedicated producers who will learn to work the new system.

Two basic options in terms of pen design are the food vs water court concepts. Food courts include both feed and water, but water is generally available in the non-feeding area as well. Pigs must pass through the scale to enter the food court. Water court designs have separate food

and water areas, and pigs must pass through the scale to move between them. Animals must pass through the scale on a regular basis to obtain water. Comparative studies of food and water court designs have not been published, and different equipment manufactures recommend different systems. Whatever system is used, pigs must learn to pass through the scale.

There are two basic approaches to 'teaching' pigs to pass through the sorter. The first approach is to force them through (also known as managed sorting) to ensure that all animals have passed through the scale to the food court. This needs to be when the pigs first enter the system and will need to be repeated several times. Pigs learn best when they are not under stress, so move the animals carefully and begin the process before they have gone too long without feed. Gradually closing off the area in front of the scale, and allowing pigs to pass through on their own will reduce the stress involved.

"... the level of tail biting as a proportion of the animals affected is similar or reduced in large groups as compared to small."

The second approach involves 'shaping' the pigs behaviour, from that of eating in an open pen to being willing to walk through the scale to obtain feed. Initially the divider between the food court and loafing area is left very open. Pigs can enter and leave the food court at several points. The penning and gates between the food and loafing areas is then gradually closed off over a period of several days or weeks. Eventually the pigs must pass through the sorter or the area adjacent to the sorter to obtain food. Finally the sorter is the only way into the food court. Up to this point the sorter is typically left 'open' and pigs can walk through without waiting for a gate to open. The final step is to set the sorter to operate, closing entrance and exits gates as needed and directing pigs to different sides of the food court. Both training systems need monitoring and pigs that simply refuse to learn need to be pulled before their welfare is compromised. The number of pigs needing to be moved to a small pen seems to be between 2 and 5% (10-25 pigs per group of 500).

The critical issue to ensure good performance in the system is that getting to the feeder must be easy enough that intake is not depressed. We are still at an early stage in developing all of the management criteria for these systems, and so it is better to err on the side of the pig rather than


attempting to save on equipment and space. To this end it is recommended that more feeder space be provided (8-10 pigs/space rather than 12-14), that movement around the feeders be unrestricted (8 ft between feeders and walls, and frequent wide gaps in lines of feeders), and that sorters work quietly and quickly (3.5 'hits' per pig per day or more). Although many producers are operating sorters with groups of 500 pigs, it is not clear if this is the optimal number in terms of ease of management, animal welfare and productivity.

Other Options

Some producers allow their pigs to have ready access to the food court at all times with the exception of a weekly managed (or forced) sort. During this time the animals are gradually moved through the scale and sorted into appropriate weight groups for the following week. The pigs are never required to move through the sorter on their own.

One of the most frequently asked questions we receive is if large groups can be formed late in the finishing period. Producers would like to add a couple of large group rooms to their finishing barn and to move pigs from small pens into these rooms as they approach market weight. They want to use auto-sorters to facilitate marketing. Two points of caution on this approach. Moving pigs from small to large groups, at any stage, will result in an initial depression in growth. Secondly, it will take several days to train these animals, either by forced training or 'shaping', to use the sorter on their own. A managed sort on a weekly basis may be the best approach.

The Bottom Line

Managing grow-finish pigs in large groups has a great deal of potential, particularly if auto-sorters are used to manage a phase feeding program. Although many of the earlier concerns about large groups appear to be unfounded for groups of this size, there are a considerable number of management factors that are not fully understood, particularly in the use of auto-sorters. Producers choosing to go this route should demand a high level of service from their suppliers, and watch for the results of research in the producer press. 



Pork Interpretive Gallery Fundraising Auction a Huge Success

Lee Whittington, B.Sc., MBA and
Deb Ehmann

Going Once, Going Twice, Sold.... The familiar refrain of the auctioneer was an entertaining addition to this year's Pork Interpretive Gallery annual fundraising event. Each of the past three years a Silent Auction has been held in conjunction with the Saskatchewan Pork Industry Symposium banquet. This popular event has over 50 items donated each year by individuals and companies from across Canada for the purpose of raising money in support of the Pork Interpretive Gallery. This year, our fourth silent auction was complemented with a live auction in total raising over \$17,000 dollars, approximately twice the value of last year's event. The proceeds go towards tour guide honorariums, basic operating costs and refurbishing displays. Special thanks to auctioneer Tim Manz (Manz Auctions, Davidson, SK) for donating his time to conduct the auction, and bid takers Don Brooks (Hypor), Judy Ulrich (Ulrich Pork Farm), Roger Kostron



agriculture production to environmental science. The facility provides a bright and inviting look at a pork production facility, combined with static and interactive displays that allow visitors to see, hear, touch and even smell their way through the facility. The messages learned and the visitor's overall experience is evaluated by the tour guide through a questionnaire completed at the conclusion of each tour. The facility and guides have been

donations and purchases at this auction. The highlight of the evening was a lively bidding exchange between Paul Riese (Design Genetics) and Florian Possberg (Big Sky Farms) for the Log Cottage Get Away on Vancouver Island (provided by Jim Gowans). Congratulations Florian on the successful bid of \$5,750!

Thank you to all donors and buyers for making the evening a tremendous success. Special thank you to the following individuals who either donated or purchased an item worth over \$1,000.

The 2005 Silent Auction was the most successful to date, raising just over \$17,000

and Bryan Wingerter (Fast Pigs) for their lively encouragement.

The science centre-like facility provides free tours to groups wanting to know more about modern pork production. Just over half of our 2500 visitors in the past two years are primary and secondary students and their teachers looking for information on everything from

receiving top marks for their ability to provide the science and social studies of modern pork production in a fun, learning environment.

The pork industry has embraced the P.I.G. as a credible venue for speaking to the public about intensive livestock production. This support is seen in the frequent use of the facility by the industry and further evidenced by the generous

Donors over \$1000

Gowans Feed Consulting
Dr. Ernie Barber
Mitchell's Gourmet Foods/
Maple Leaf Pork
Shannon Laroche
- Callin to You
Western Hog Journal

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Don Kolla
- Cudworth Pork Investors
Gerjan van Alst
- Hypor



Why should I stay?

Mary Peterson,
Assiniboine Community College

A concern that continues to arise in the hog industry lies with some method to reduce staff turnover in barns. It is a concern that needs some analysis as the hog industry and the barn technician's roles have changed.

First, the barn technician is no longer a "hire hand," he is now a full-time employee that has a major role in hog production. The barn technician has to have physical abilities, a positive attitude toward hogs, the ability to work with other people and the desire to learn about hog production.

Second, managers are focusing on managing the business and ensuring a strong bottom line. They have an important job and must be knowledgeable about – production, facilities, record keeping and staff. It is easier to focus on these areas than to manage people.

Employees are hired to do a job; they get a pay cheque. What's their problem? Employers are often puzzled why employees leave. Managers should ask themselves - Why should an employee work here? Why are employees leaving?

First, let's examine why people are working. People work to have money to provide for their basic needs.

- Physical need - They require money to provide for themselves a place to live, food in their stomachs and clothing on their backs. They expect their salary to provide those needs first.
- Safety & Health - They expect a safe and healthy work environment so that they can continue to provide for their basic needs. The staff room talk can focus on health benefits with this group and their frustration regarding accidents and injuries to themselves or co-workers.
- Social – They are also looking toward a friendly atmosphere where they feel comfortable with their fellow employees. They will help each other to complete tasks, offer suggestions and have fun. Does your staff have fun?



- Esteem – Next, the employee begins to examine what he is capable of doing and where he is going. He will get to this point if he's had some on the job orientation and training. He begins to feel good about himself and his ability to do a good job. Education and training becomes a higher priority with him. He begins to look at his position as not just a job, but as a career. He begins to examine where he sees himself in 3 or 5 years. The manager, who is aware of this personal awareness in his employees, will encourage education and training.
- Self awareness – He has usually achieved a balance between work and his personal life. He knows what he can do well and will focus development on his weaknesses to evolve into a well-rounded individual. He is comfortable with himself and will examine the big picture in a logical fashion.

The above five points are often blended together and it is up to the manager to know what the employee is looking for.

Why are employees leaving?

A manager or employer should ask this question regularly. Place yourself in the position of the employees. Does the salary that you pay satisfy their needs? Can they support themselves and their families on that salary? Work in a hog barn is physically demanding and the hours are long. Does the salary you offer adequately match their workload?

Is your workplace safe? The federal and provincial governments have placed a priority for the employer to provide a place of employment that is safe and healthy for all employees. What are you doing to comply with the legislation regarding health and safety? Do you have an orientation for new employees? Statistics show that young and new employees have the most injuries.

Fun – Is that a word that easily flows among your staff? Are you having fun?


Education and training.

This is an area that the hog industry needs to examine. If no one shows a new employee how to do things, he will just figure it out for himself. He'll get the job done, but production may decline and he may get injured. Will a chewing out encourage him to do a better job? Do you know what training programs have been developed with industry input and where they are being delivered? Have you budgeted dollars to train your staff?

The time has come for the hog industry to re-focus their attention to their employees. Working in a hog barn should be a desirable place of employment.

Wouldn't it be nice to hear the following words? "Pigs smell and the work is hard, but the pay is great and I am valued as an employee. I think that I'll stay!"


Yes, the hog industry can make this happen!

Mary Petersen is an Instructor in the Agriculture & Environment Program at the Assiniboine Community College in Brandon, Manitoba. 

Marc Rivard

Marc Rivard from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan is the Feed Mill Manager at PSC Elstow Research Farm. He enjoyed spending the summers and all other holidays on the family farm located near the hamlet of St. Denis, Saskatchewan. Here they farmed grain, pulse, and oilseed crops as well as kept livestock including cows and pigs. The Rivard family moved to Saskatoon in 1990, however Marc was now very interested in the farm and with the aid of his license was able to spend more time working with and learning about agriculture. In May 2005 Marc received his Prairie Horticulture Certificate in Fruit and Vegetable Production from the University of Saskatchewan. Marc has worked with trades in construction, spending several years in Saskatchewan and Manitoba, working with Prairie Pit Crew, building hog barns for Premium Pork, Stomp Pork Farms, Heartland and Quadra Group. Marc brings a practical set of skills to this job having been involved in many aspects of construction from installing sewer lines right up to heat lamps.



Marc started with Prairie Swine in 2003 as part-time looking after the grounds and on weekends power washing and feeding sows. From there Marc was asked to work part-time with the Nutrition group headed by Dr. John Patience. In August of 2005 Marc was offered the position of Feed Mill Manager and always enjoying a challenge and the opportunity to learn more accepted. Marc is married to a lovely English belle named Melanie. They live in Saskatoon. 

Banff Pork Seminar

Banff, Alberta
January 17-20, 2006

Manitoba Swine Seminar

February 1-2, 2006
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Alberta Pork Congress

March 15-16, 2006
Red Deer, Alberta

Focus on the Future Conference

March 28-29, 2006
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan

Congratulations

Congratulations to Brandy Street who successfully defended her Masters Thesis. Brandy has accepted the position of Research Assistant to Dr. Harold Gonyou in the Applied Ethology Program. Projects she will be working on in the upcoming year include the use of auto-sorters in large groups.

Congratulations to Lee Whittington for being awarded the Animal Industries Award in Extension and Public Service by the Canadian Society of Animal Science.

Congratulations to Dr. John Patience for receiving the award for Nutrition and Meat Sciences by the Canadian Society for Animal Science.

Congratulations to Dr. Denise Beaulieu for being presented the 2005 Sask Pork Industry Stewardship Award for Excellence in Production Research.

WORKPLACE SAFETY & HEALTH MANUAL FOR THE SASKATCHEWAN PORK INDUSTRY

LOOK INSIDE FOR:

Safe animal handling practices

Facts about noise & hearing protection

Air Quality and Personal Protection

Sask Pork adapted the Occupational Health & Safety Manual from the Manitoba Pork Council version with technical and funding assistance from Saskatchewan Labour. Funding provided by Prairie Swine Centre and the Canadian Agricultural Safety Association for printing and



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