



# Prairie Swine Centre E-Zine

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## Research Profits Everyone

**W**hat would happen if you could realize \$4 return for every dollar invested? This is something that would seem very attractive for any business in any industry, and one that pork producers realize through their investment in Prairie Swine Centre. The Centre's research program has always maintained a near-market focus, delivering results that concentrate on enhancing competitiveness (through reducing costs or increasing profits) and sustainability (welfare and environmental), helping pork producers remain competitive in a global marketplace.

**I**n a recent analysis of (Prairie Swine Centre) research projects conducted between 1999 and 2011, the Centre's research program generated an average annual return of \$3.60 per market hog. Approximately 50% of these projects would be considered easy to adopt; projects that can be incorporated within 1 to 3 months and have a low labour and capital requirement. Assuming a rate of adoption of 80% (of easy to adopt projects) Prairie Swine Centre research would contribute more than \$13 million to the Canadian pork industry on an annual basis.

**E**arly adoption of research offers significant opportunities. Producers who successfully identify and incorporate new technologies, and management strategies, create a competitive advantage by reducing cost of production or increasing revenue. The trick is to identify which technologies have the best fit for individual operations when weighing time frame, costs and potential return. Adoption of new technology will always be weighed on a risk:reward basis.

**R**esearch conducted at the Centre results in many direct benefits to pork producers through lower costs, higher productivity, and improved end product. Direct economic return, improved work environment (health), environmental sustainability and improved equipment design and function are just a few of the benefits that producers receive for their investment in Prairie Swine Centre.

### Reducing Water Consumption in Swine Barns

<http://www.prairieswine.com/reducing-water-consumption-in-swine...> Evaluation of selected water conservation measures involving drinkers and cleaning procedures revealed that a 60% reduction in water wastage was achieved with a drinking trough, without adversely impacting pig performance, compared to a traditional nipple drinker.

**Net benefit \$1.86/pig**

### Evaluation of Water Conservation Strategies

<http://www.prairieswine.com/evaluation-of-water-use-and-potential-water...> Evaluation of water conservation strategies involving power washing indicates the proper choice of nozzle used for power washing and the elimination of sprinkling prior to washing (in partially slatted rooms) can provide cost savings for pork producers.

**Net benefit \$0.60/pig**

### Development of Diets for Low Birth Weight

<http://www.prairieswine.com/development-of-diets-for-low-birth-weight-piglets-to-improve...> Pigs that were lighter at birth, lost less body weight at weaning, and showed a greater positive response to a complex diet than heavier birth weight pigs. Phase 1 diets could be used more cost effectively by targeting it specifically to lighter weight pigs at weaning.

**Net benefit \$2.00/pig**



Take this opportunity to help influence the future research program at Prairie Swine Centre. We are conducting an industry survey seeking input in the setting research priorities. Surveys will be collected until July 31, 2012 and can be found at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PSCStrategicReview>