

Please register by phone, fax or email. **Due Dec. 7, 2007.** Call 712-225-6196, email dstender@iastate.edu, or FAX this form (fax number 712-225-3173).

Name _____ Phone _____ Address _____
Town _____ ZIP _____ Email _____

The registration fee is covered by grant funds. Enrollment to this records discussion group is limited to **20** operations.

Internet hookup is strongly recommended. The workshops will also be by phone, but visual access to the materials will be available at any high speed Internet site. If you do not have high speed internet access and a separate phone line available, county Extension offices can help you. Mark the box below or call (712) 225-6196 if you want to find a computer to watch from a county Extension Office.

- I will link up at home with my high speed Internet and call in on my phone
- Please arrange for me to hookup at an Extension Office
- I will look at the slides off the CD (will be mailed to you) on my computer and call the toll free number to connect from home.

Questions? Contact Dave Stender at 712-225-6196 (office) or 712-261-0225 (cell) or at dstender@iastate.edu



Sponsored by:



Iowa Pork Industry Center

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

University Extension



IOWA PORK PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

University of Nebraska Extension

Practical Farmers of Iowa

MEETING WEB SITE:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/niche>

Call in Times:

Thurs., Dec. 13th: noon-1:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 20th: noon-1:30 pm

Iowa State University Cooperative Extension educational programs abide with the non-discrimination policies of the Iowa State University and the United States Department of Agriculture

Increasing Niche Pork Profits Discussion Group



Learn at home on your computer or at your local Extension Office

Meet with other producers over the phone during December 2007

Sponsors

Iowa State University Extension
Iowa Pork Industry Center
Practical Farmers of Iowa
University of Nebraska Extension
Iowa Pork Producer Association

Funded by the National Research Initiative of the USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service (grant number 2005-55618-15791) and the Innovative Swine Industry Enhancement Grant Program of the Iowa Attorney General's Office

Why join this discussion group?

Participating will be a great way to conveniently connect with niche producers to discuss common issues and concerns focused on making the hog enterprise more financially successful.

There will also be opportunities to devise operation-specific solutions for your hog enterprise. Having the opportunity to establish a bond with others who share your interests and challenges will be rewarding.

What will be involved?

The group gatherings are designed to identify and address key areas to improve your operation. Participants will use a common set of materials sent ahead of time, including some homework assignments.

After you do the homework, you will have the opportunity to discuss the keys to financial success with your peers and with Jim Kliebenstein and Dave Stender.

Plan on picking up management tips, technologies and ideas from other producers. Even one new idea will be well worth your time and effort to participate.

Dates to mark on your calendar

Note: The subject matter for each of the calls will be different. All calls will be from noon to about 1:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 13th: noon-1:30 pm

Thurs., Dec. 20th: noon-1:30 pm

Do I need a computer?

Yes, but there are options:

1. **Access at home through your high speed internet connection (you will also**

need a separate phone line to participate in the discussion)

2. **Access at your Extension Office.**
3. **Run the presentation from a CD (mailed in advance) and call in on your phone.**

How do I hook up?

Option 1. If you have high speed internet access and a separate phone line, you will open the following web page:

<http://connect.extension.iastate.edu/niche>

Then you will type in your name, enter the meeting room, and follow the instructions, after which we will call you.

Option 2. Same as option one except at an Extension Office.

Option 3. Put the CD you are mailed in your computer to look at the slides, and you call a toll free number to join the discussion.

Note: option 3 will be less interactive.

Note: Please indicate on the registration form if you need a county office hookup.

What, homework?

Homework assignments will be mailed to group members. Completing these will be important so we can discuss results and target issues important to your farm. There will be at least 5 options to choose from. You will pick one or two to complete, which should take less than an hour. Assignments will be due Dec. 19th.

Questions?

Dave Stender @ 712-261-0225 (cell), 712-225-6196 (office), dstender@iastate.edu.

Gary Huber @ 515-232-5661 (x103) or gary@practicalfarmers.org.

Who are the Group Leaders

Dr. Jim Kliebenstein, Iowa State University Professor of Ag Economics

Dave Stender, Extension Swine Field Specialist, Iowa State University

Is enrollment in the group limited?

Yes. In order to have a "small group" feel and to ensure the phone bridge functions properly, enrollment is limited to 20 people.

General Information

This activity is designed for people who work in niche hog production that have some management records. Below is a partial list of topics we will potentially be discussing through homework:

- ✓ **Controlling non-feed cost by budget management**
- ✓ **Improving throughput to reduce cost** - Discussion on the importance of fully utilizing space in the operation
- ✓ **Benchmarking principals** - Learning how to read and understand records to set priority goals
- ✓ **Feed cost control** - Highlights of keeping feeding cost under control
- ✓ **Labor efficiency** –ways to produce more pork with less time
- ✓ **Production scheduling** – thinking about a farrowing schedule to increase the number of pigs while you have seasonally more labor available