

Please register by phone, fax or email. **Due Feb 6th, 2008.** Call 712-225-6196, email [dstender@iastate.edu](mailto: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 breeding 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](mailto: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:**

Tues., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: noon-1:30 pm – 1<sup>st</sup> call  
Tues., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>: noon-1:30 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> call  
Tues., Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>: noon-1:30 pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> call

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# Niche Sow Breeding & Gestation Discussion Group



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

Meet with other producers over the phone during February and March 2008

**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 getting sows bred successfully.

There will also be opportunities to devise operation-specific solutions to your breeding herd problems. 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 address specific questions about breeding problems you are experiencing on your farm. Participants will use a common set of materials sent ahead of time, including some homework assignments.

Plan on picking up useful tips on breeding and gestation topics, plus information on technologies and other ideas. 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.

**Tues., Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>:** noon-1:30 pm – 1<sup>st</sup> call  
**Tues., Feb. 26<sup>th</sup>:** noon-1:30 pm – 2<sup>nd</sup> call  
**Tues., Mar. 11<sup>th</sup>:** noon-1:30 pm - 3<sup>rd</sup> call

## 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 need to 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 9 options to choose from. You will pick one or two to complete, which should take less than an hour. Assignments will be due Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.

## Questions?

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

Gary Huber @ 515-232-5661 (x103) or [gary@practicalfarmers.org](mailto:gary@practicalfarmers.org).

## Who are the Group Leaders?

**Dr. Don Levis**, Extension Swine Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**Dr. Duane Reese**, Extension Swine Specialist, University of Nebraska-Lincoln  
**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 discussion group is designed for people who work in niche hog production and that pen breed sows. Below is a partial list of topics we will be discussing:

- ✓ **Pen mating fundamentals** – Including facility/equipment design characteristics.
- ✓ **Improving pen breeding output** - Discussion tips on making a pen breeding system more successful.
- ✓ **Gilt pool management** - Handling, managing, feeding, and scheduling gilt pool replacements
- ✓ **Introduction to hand mating and AI**
- ✓ **Sow condition** – Feeding the sow to the right condition for optimum performance
- ✓ **Production flow** – Scheduling to capture the value of extra pigs.

