Sponsored by:

Iowa Pork Industry Center

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
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MEETING WEB SITE:

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

Call in Times:

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

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**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. 12th: noon-1:30 pm – 1st call
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**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.

**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. 25th.

**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.

**Questions?**

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

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