



GEORGE MORRIS CENTRE

News Release

University of Alberta Program Well Focused on Swine Research Priorities

Guelph, ON (November 30, 2006) A recent report examines the current success and future direction of research being done through the Swine Reproduction and Development program at the University of Alberta. The program is comprised of two key research areas: swine nutrition, guided by Dr. Ron Ball, and swine reproduction and breeding herd management, directed by Dr. George Foxcroft. Results of their research have implications for the Alberta, Western Canadian, and international swine industries.

The report, *International Review of Swine R&D in Alberta*, was written by Kevin Grier, Senior Market Analyst; Al Mussell, Senior Research Associate; and Kate Stiefelmeyer, Research Associate at the George Morris Centre. Their intent was to assess the impact of the program's research to date, and to determine the most effective role for future Swine R&D programs in Western Canada, based on industry challenges and opportunities.

The study was commissioned by the Alberta Agricultural Research Institute (AARI) and the Alberta Livestock Industry Development Fund (ALIDF). Darcy Fitzgerald, General Manager of ALIDF, was quite pleased with the study results, and commended the U of A researchers on their work. "I believe the document sheds a very positive light on the value of the swine program at the University of Alberta and on the research that is being accomplished. There is a clear indication that the work being done by Drs. Ball and Foxcroft is global in its reach and that it provides value to a number of sectors within the supply chain."

According to Kevin Grier, the report shows that research priorities and resources of Alberta pork producers have been wisely allocated in the past. Moving to the future, as the industry enters one of the most challenging periods in recent memory, producers will be asking themselves whether swine research is a priority and if so, what type of swine research is needed. Grier says there are several very strong future swine research requirements, and he asserts that this study makes a case for the current programs at the University of Alberta deserving full consideration going forward.

The report is available on the George Morris Centre website:
www.georgemorris.org

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For more information please contact
Joanne Falk
Manager, External Relations
George Morris Centre
519-822-3929, ext. 218
joanne@georgemorris.org

The George Morris Centre is a national, not-for-profit think tank specializing in the Canadian Agri-food sector. The Centre provides perspective, critical information, strategic analysis, and planning, as well as education on issues affecting the sector.