

## Program Helps Position Ohio Pork Producers For The Future

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The pork industry is becoming driven by consumer demands for high quality, consistent, wholesome products. Creating a product that is just lean is not good enough any more, said Steve Moeller, Ohio State University Extension swine specialist.

"If producers want to fit into a value-added, niche market, they need quality," Moeller said. "People need a basic understanding of what goes on from the production level through the consumer level that influences quality as it relates to demand for product."

To help further the understanding of the changing pork industry, Ohio State University and pork industry collaborators are sponsoring Pork 509: Meeting the Need for High Quality, Consistent Pork Products in Ohio, Dec. 4-5, in the Animal Sciences Building on Ohio State University's Columbus campus.

The two-day program targets pork producers and people with an influence on the production of high quality pork. It is an opportunity for people to understand quality factors beyond lean meat, Moeller said. Pork 509 will address production at the farm, packing-plant and retail levels.

The objectives of the program

are:

- To improve the competitive position of Ohio pork producers through the marketing of high quality, consistent, wholesome pork products

- To explain carcass merit buying systems and factors influencing the price received for market hogs

- To provide an overview of pork muscle quality attributes affecting processing capability and consumer acceptability of pork, and discuss the management, environmental, nutritional and genetic factors that contribute to muscle quality deficiencies

- To provide an open forum where representatives of varied pork industry segments can discuss current and future issues that contribute to the quality, consistency and wholesomeness of pork

- To teach, through hands-on training, the differences in price and value at the farm, packing plant and retail levels.

Topics to be covered on Dec. 4 are live animal evaluation, ultrasound evaluation and demonstration, grid pricing, pork slaughter procedures, meat inspection, pork carcass fabrication, taste panel evaluation, and quality and the consumer. Areas scheduled for Dec. 5 are factors influencing muscle quality, measuring pork muscle quality, determining lean growth,

microbiology and food safety, targeting the consumer, and processing strategies.

"Participants completing Pork 509 will have a better understanding of the numerous links in the pork chain between the producer and the consumer,

and how the interaction of these links leads to profitability and competitiveness in the swine industry," Moeller said. "They will have the background and educational resources needed to make informed decisions, and the tools to help develop and share information among their peer groups."

A maximum of 30 people can sign up for the course. Spaces

are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration for Pork 509 is \$60 per participant and covers all meals, materials and parking arrangements. Registration is requested by Nov. 22.

For registration or additional information about Pork 509, contact Pat Rigby, Moeller or Henry Zerby through Ohio State University's Ohio Pork Industry Center at (800) 398-7675.

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## Manure Handling And Storage Facility Installation Under Way

SUNBURY (Northumberland Co.) — Construction is in progress for a waste handling and storage facility in East Chillisquaque Township, Northumberland County, for the Chester Soltys III dairy operation through the assistance of the Northumberland County Conservation District's (NCCD) Chesapeake Bay Program (CBP) and the USDA's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP).

The structure will store wastes from 180 days of production and will replace an inadequately sized, unlined earthen storage.

According to George Phillips, NCCD bay technician, the existing storage facility was inadequate because of potential risk of groundwater pollution, human and animal safety for lack of a safety fence, and it required more frequent hauling of the manure.

The new system, while reducing the risk of the environment, will result in better use of the

manure by allowing the manure to spread at times when the crop is able to use the nutrients from the manure.

Other best management practices (BMPs) being installed include barnyard regrading, paving, and curbing to control barnyard runoff; a reception pit with manure push-off for the collection of manure and runoff; and pumping to the storage structure. Roof gutters were installed to reduce the rainwater draining to the manure storage system.

Regional conservation district engineer Andrew Hibbs designed the system. Pam Richardson, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) soil conservation technician, and George Phillips have oversight of the project for NRCS and NCCD.

For more information on the CBP and EQIP programs, contact George Phillips at the Northumberland County Conservation District office, (570) 286-7114, ext. 4.

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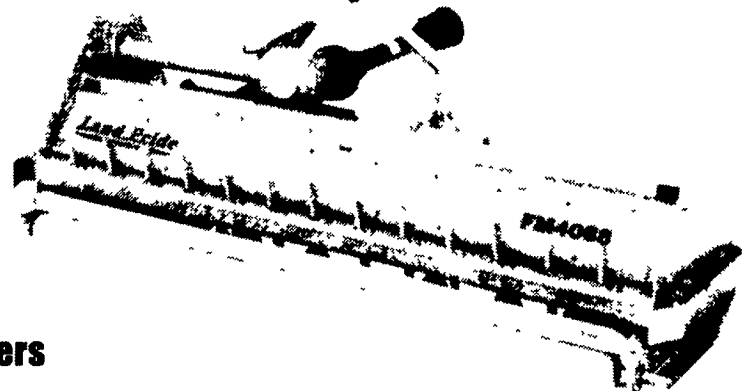
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