Pork producers have new tools for success

By ROD SMITH

NEW “tools” are now ready for pork producers to improve their productivity, profitability and professionalism, including revisions to the industry’s PQA Plus program and a new Housing Calculator.

The tools were introduced June 6 at the world Pork Expo in Des Moines, Iowa.

Pork customers and consumers are asking for better documentation of how pigs are grown, especially as production affects food safety and consumer wellbeing and as Conley Nelson, a pork producer from Algona, Iowa, and immediate past president of the National Pork Board.

PQA Plus, an industry program, is “a tangible way to measure producers’ success” in those critical responsibilities, Nelson (pictured) said in announcing revisions to PQA Plus that he noted the program is “a strong tool” for meeting customer and consumer expectations.

In one revision, producers, employees and customers involved in production must pass a test related to 10 good production practices. Online registration and efficient operations based on strategic production goals.

Regardless, the following steps should be followed:

1. The first step is to define the animals for which the ration is intended. This helps establish specific requirements for each feeding situation.

2. Then, obtain proper feed analyses to match the ingredient sources with the animals’ needs. Defined management practices help assess dry matter intake.

The actual formulation process starts with good carbohydrate and lipid balances, ensuring that the minerals and vitamins are correct. All ingredients are input to arrive at amino acid balancing.

One approach is to formulate a ration without constraining any amino acids. Save these rations, where possible, for just lysine and some for both options.

Finally, demonstrate the limitations and handles of amino acid balancing that have been outlined in these two articles, the increased knowledge of dairy cow biology and the incorporation of the best practices of nutritional modeling programs have advanced significantly over the years. As a result, the concepts and techniques of amino acid balancing are beneficial and offer significant production and economic benefits versus ignoring the opportunities presented by these technologies.

References


