



Livestock Focus Team

Training meets producer urgent need

Pork Quality Assurance (PQA) emphasizes good management practices, such as safe use of antibiotics, to assure consumers that pork products are safe and wholesome. In late September 2005, Central Livestock Association notified their Wisconsin pork producers that, as of Oct. 1, it would no longer accept any animals from operations that lacked PQA certification. This unexpected announcement meant that many producers would be unable to sell their animals.

Response

University of Wisconsin-Extension's Livestock Focus Team acted quickly to organize a series of PQA workshops in five locations over a three-day period. These trainings are required for the certification process. Central Livestock Association extended its deadline to Nov. 1 to allow producers to complete certification requirements.

Outcome

- Agents perceived a need and designed and delivered a program to meet that need in a very short period of time.
- More than 150 producers were certified for the first time or recertified to market hogs.
- More training sessions will be conducted statewide in the future and four Swine Producer Workshops will be held in the Western District in February 2006.

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