Swine Jobs School

Want to learn more about the animal agriculture industry? Want to find a job that will keep you close to home?
Swine Jobs School is a unique hands-on program that is training students to work in the swine industry. Jobs are available now to trained individuals. Through this program, the Michigan State University Pork Team will connect employers and students for an intensive training program and work relationships.

Read on to find out more.

About our staff
The Swine Jobs School will be taught by MSU Pork Team members. It is supported by MSU Extension, the National Pork Board, Circle K Family Farms, LLC, Lafayette Pork Production, LLC, the Gratiot Isabella RESD and Alma High School VocAg program. This pilot program has been funded through the North Central Risk Management Education Center.

About our students
During the first year, we will conduct two Swine Jobs School sessions, each with approximately 10 students.

Our focus will be on students who have completed high school and are looking for immediate employment. The program is designed to teach the daily skills needed to work with swine producers as well as teach job and interpersonal skills needed for employment.

Thanks to the support this program has received, participants will only be required to pay a small amount.

About the program
The first 10 sessions will be a combination of classroom instruction and on-farm supervised training. These first two weeks of the school will be held in Ithaca, Mich., and all participants will be expected to attend classes there. During this portion of the program, students will receive technical training and supervised work experience in breeding, farrowing, nursery and finishing phases of production and feed processing.

To reinforce the on-farm supervised training Swine Jobs School includes 12 weeks of on-farm work experience. During this portion of the program, students will work a minimum of 20 hours a week for 12 weeks on a swine farm in their community. Students will rotate through all phases of the farm, gaining experience in each area of production. Although alterations may occur, based on the producer's and student's needs, each student should spend a minimum of three weeks in farrowing, breeding, nursery/finishing and field service departments and optionally in feed processing.

The final phase of the program is comprised of further instruction in practical areas of pork production. The classroom sessions, conducted once a week during the 12 week on-farm work experience, will include sessions on feeding and nutrition, keeping and using production records, farm communication, swine disease and treating disease and ventilation and farm maintenance.

To find out more
For more information, or for program applications, contact Dale Rozeboom at rozeboom@msu.edu or 517.355.8398 or Jerry May at mayg@msu.edu or 989.875.5233. Check out our website at http://web1.msue.msu.edu/msue/aoe/swine/swineindex.html.

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