Agriculture

New SDSU Swine Unit opens with dedication

Facility marks new era for industry

By Michelle Book
Feton News Service
BROOKINGS, S.D. -- The new $74 million Swine Education and Research Facility at South Dakota State University will open a new era for the swine industry.

Pork producers, allied industries groups and researchers gathered Tuesday to dedicate the four-story, 155,000-square foot facility.

Pork farmers are required to pay a fee on each head of hogs to support the research projects at the facility. The facility will be used in part to research swine diseases.

John and Mary Ackermann of Alcester, S.D., were the largest single donors to the campaign and will be recognized during the dedication.

The Ackermanns have farmed 180 acres in Alcester for 37 years and are active with local commodity groups and SDSU Extension.

The facility is a state-of-the-art facility and will begin its annual open house events once a month featuring different topics of interest to swine producers and pork processors.

The beef ambassador program seeks to educate all producers on how checkoff dollars will be spent.

Dave Clemens, a beef ambassador for the University of Minnesota, shared with the audience his experiences learning about the cattle industry from the producers he visits.

He said that when he looks to the future, he sees the beef industry is growing exponentially.

He said that the beef ambassador program seeks to educate all producers on how checkoff dollars will be spent.

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Strong demand for pork led to $7.4 million Swine Education and Research Facility dedication at SDSU

Jackson County farmers tout cover crops

HERON LAKE — Jackson County farmer Randy Romerskog and Dave Christofferson continue to tout the benefits of cover crops that they plant in their corn rotation.

Raderskog and Christofferson have been experimenting with cover crops for several years and plant them after harvesting corn because of the cost savings involved.

Raderskog and Christofferson say cover crops also keep the soil from being exposed to environmental elements.

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