



Season 2, Episode 8: Conference Recaps from Dr. Noel Williams

Dr. Noel Williams, Iowa Select Farms, provides a summary of speakers and topics covered during the 2021 International Conference on Pig Survivability held in Omaha, Nebraska. Dr. Mike Tokach, Kansas State University, also summarizes important points from key conference presentations.

Changes and trends in the industry

Dr. Noel Williams wraps up the 2021 International Conference on Pig Survivability by recapping the key take away messages from speaker presentations. Dr. Jason Ross reviewed the evolution of the swine industry, since 1970 there has been a 200% increase in production. Dr. Ron Ketchem discussed key industry issues. Currently, 35% of pigs don't make it to market. Dr. Bill Christianson gave an overview of differences in the pork industry from one country to another. There are no perfect genetics, but we must do our best with selection, nutrition, and management practices to promote optimal performance.

Economics, technology, and regulatory

Dr. Lee Schulz discussed the economics of mortality. Dr. Gustavo Pizarro highlighted the many technologies available to producers today. It is important to prioritize which technology is implemented in your operation based on what will provide the greatest improvement and economic return. Cassie Edgar spoke about regulatory bodies and how the pork industry must be advocates for what the future will look like. All changes and investments producers make to facilities must have future regulatory requirements in mind. Dr. John Deen presented on the importance of collecting accurate data.

Facilities, biosecurity, and personnel

Dr. Chris Rademacher brought a valuable perspective on evaluating current production practices. When looking to improve wean to market mortality, 0.75-1.5% mortality can be saved if stocking density of your facility is on target. Dr. Karine Talbot has a passion for biosecurity and is working diligently to eradicate PED in Manitoba. Valerie Duttlinger provided insight as to the importance of finding the right person for the right job. Dr. Sara Probst-Miller stressed the importance of creating a positive culture among your team and preventing negativity. Dr. Larry Coleman discussed company culture and how it is critical for supervisors to remove obstacles for their team. Dr. Deb Murray discussed the downfalls of using too many antibiotics, as well as the importance of vaccination and biosecurity.

Sustainability, pre-weaning survivability, and sow reproductive health

Dr. Justin Ransom highlighted the importance of dispersing information on current sustainable practices in the swine industry. Research on reducing pre-weaning mortality was presented. Enrichment using different ropes to draw piglets away from the sow helped reduce mortality. Another showed piglets born to litters with more uniform body weights had lower mortality compared to litters with more variable birth weights. Piglets require at least 200 grams of colostrum after birth, Dr. Kara Stewart recommends 300 grams to every piglet. When essential fatty acids were fed to the sow this resulted in increased weaning weights.

Conference recordings: <https://piglivability.org/conference-recordings>

To Listen to this full podcast please visit: <https://globalaqaetwork.com/pigx/podcast/season-2-ep-8-conference-recaps-from-dr-noel-williams>

