

University of Minnesota Extension Swine Educator & Resources

Sarah Schieck Boelke is a swine Extension educator at the University of Minnesota, providing research-based information to pig farmers in Minnesota on swine production, management, health, and biosecurity. She is based in Willmar at the University of Minnesota Regional Extension Office.

Sarah's responsibilities include serving as a Pork Quality Assurance Plus (PQA+) Trainer and Transport Quality Assurance (TQA) Advisor to provide certification and education to pig farmers, transporters, and others working with pigs. She collaborates with 14 other state swine Extension programs to provide PorkBridge and SowBridge distant education programs. She also provides programming on the Common Swine Industry Audit and Secure Pork Supply. Sarah serves on the Minnesota Emergency Disease Management Committee for swine which connects the MN Board of Animal Health, Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine, and Mn pork industry to create a plan, preparing for a potential foreign animal disease outbreak.

Sarah is also currently co-coordinator of University of Minnesota Extension's Women in Ag Network, which provides educational opportunities and events that enhance leadership, management and production skills for women working in agriculture.

Sarah produces Minnesota's Swine and U podcasts and swine Extension newsletter. She also manages UMN's Extension swine YouTube channel and blog. Sarah often collaborates with colleague Diane DeWitte on Extension swine programming. Additional Extension swine programming can be found on University of Minnesota Extension's swine specific webpages at extension.umn.edu/swine. On those pages people can find links to our Facebook page, YouTube channel, Podcasts, blog and sign up to receive our e-newsletter.

Sarah grew up in rural Minnesota on a farrow-to-finish pig farm, which she took an active part in. She was actively involved in 4-H and FFA growing up. Sarah received both her B.S and M.S from the University of Minnesota in the area of animal science. Swine nutrition was the focus of her graduate work. Sarah has been with University of Minnesota Extension for seven years. Prior to her current position she was an instructor in Ridgewater College's Agriculture Department in Willmar, MN where she taught a variety of animal science related classes.