

that there were 45 current research projects involving 38 different lead researchers supported by graduate students, research technicians, post-doctoral fellows and research associates.

Dr. de Lange noted that cost-benefits of investments in pig and pork research have been estimated at a very high 22.4 to 1.

A 2004 study by Professor George L. Brinkman, Agricultural Economics and Business at the University of Guelph, said that agricultural research in Canada has provided very high returns on investment, with benefit-cost ratios typically 20 to 1 or more for individual commodities. Moreover, it said, such research represents one of the highest paybacks for the Canadian public sector and mainly benefits Canadian agricultural producers, who typically have received from 85 to 96 per cent of the gains.

OMAFRA swine extension veterinarian Tim Blackwell, speaking at the 2007 Centralia Swine Research Update in

Kirkton, said that the consistent commitment of swine producers to fund swine research has convinced a large number of scientists to focus their studies on this area.

"Active research programs catch the attention of other funding agencies and allow scientists to build on the foundations they created with their initial funding from pork producers," he said.

"Two of the three top-rated research projects selected by the University of Guelph for additional funding were swine-oriented," points out Blackwell. "The scientists capitalized on the large amount of research they had done over recent years funded by Ontario Pork. They used this research work as a foundation to create large, multidisciplinary research trials built on the projects originally funded by Ontario Pork producers.

"This infrastructure allows Ontario hog producers to continue to compete successfully in the international pork market," he says.

How the industry uses information



MARTIN SCHWALBE

Jay Squire

Jay Squire, a graduate of the University of Guelph with an M. Sc. in Animal Nutrition, encourages Ontario pork producers to continue to fund research because he believes it improves the competitive edge of Ontario's pork industry on the world market.

"Research provides valuable and applicable information to Ontario pork producers," Squire says, "But research projects also employ technicians and teach graduate students who are the industry's future representatives and extension personnel."

Now a swine nutritionist in Monkton, Ont., Jay completed his graduate work under the direction of Dr. Kees de Lange, a professor in the Department of Animal and Poultry Science, University of Guelph.

As part of his job, Jay, does research and new product development and meets frequently with pork producers.

He also maintains his connections with the University of Guelph where he is currently involved in a research project which aims to gain a better understanding of the nutritional

requirements of pigs, while maintaining an important focus on the cost and environmental impacts of pork production. Because of his connections at the University of Guelph, Jay says, "it is easier for me to stay in touch with other ongoing research projects at the university and relay some relevant and novel information to producers."

Jay was raised on a family farm outside Centralia, which led him to develop an interest in livestock production. He is particularly interested in swine liquid feeding and the use of co-products from the food and bio-fuel industry as pig feed ingredients. His master's research thesis dealt with the controlled fermentation of co-products as a means to enhance their feeding value for growing pigs.

As a feed industry representative, Jay is a director on the Swine Liquid Feeding Association board and has represented both the feed industry and pork producers in meetings at the University of Guelph to identify, discuss and prioritize future liquid feeding research projects.

While a student at Guelph, Jay was the recipient of the Animal Nutrition Association of Canada graduate student scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to recognize strong students who are involved in innovative animal nutrition research at a Canadian university and who are interested in employment in the Canadian feed industry.