



Impact

COOPERATIVE RESEARCH
AND EXTENSION

Sharing the difference CRE makes in people's lives

Backyard Pigs to Booming Business

Extension services in Micronesia are stepping up to the challenge, helping farmers overcome obstacles and significantly boost pork production, closing the gap between local supply and consumption.

Issue

The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) relies heavily on imported pork due to a decline in local production. Despite the cultural and economic significance of pigs, traditional small-scale rearing practices couldn't meet the growing demand. This created a gap between local supply and consumption, impacting food security and economic opportunities.

Extension's Response

The Swine Production Extension Program was launched to address this challenge. The program focused on empowering farmers with the knowledge and skills needed to improve their swine management practices. Through a comprehensive approach that included workshops, demonstrations, follow-up visits, and radio broadcasts, farmers learned essential skills like:

- ◆ Proper sanitation and breeding practices
- ◆ Effective disease management and feed preparation
- ◆ Castration techniques
- ◆ Medication administration
- ◆ Artificial insemination
- ◆ Butchering and packaging

The program's impact has been significant across FSM:



The Bottom Line

- ◆ The Swine Production Extension Program is transforming swine production in the FSM.
- ◆ By equipping farmers with knowledge and skills, the program is not only improving livelihoods but also strengthening food security and the local economy.

Public Value Statement

The Swine Production Extension Program goes beyond empowering individual farmers. It fosters a culture of responsible livestock management, strengthens food security, and contributes to the economic resilience of the islands. Public awareness campaigns have further amplified the program's impact by educating the broader community.

- ◆ **Increased Expertise:** Over 150 new farmers gained valuable knowledge, with many becoming proficient in specific practices like castration.
- ◆ **Enhanced Production:** 70% of participants in Yap County now raise 1-3 pigs per household, with 30% managing even larger herds.
- ◆ **Financial Gains:** Swine farmers in Yap County are seeing a substantial boost in their income from pig sales.
- ◆ **Improved Herd Health:** Training on medication and disease management contributed to healthier pigs.
- ◆ **Genetic Diversity:** Introduction of new breeds through artificial insemination practices.
- ◆ **Market Expansion:** Farmers are now equipped to tap into new markets through proper butchering and packaging techniques.



Artificial insemination



Swine vaccination

By the Numbers

- ◆ 555 Educational contacts
- ◆ 312 Education events
- ◆ 150+ New farmers gained experience in swine management
- ◆ 70% Participants in Yap County increased their herd size
- ◆ \$84,750 Earned by farmers through pig sales in 2023
- ◆ 319 Individuals certified in swine medication techniques

Funding: Smith-Lever Capacity Grant, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Program Year: 2023

The extension programs are available to all persons regardless of race, color, sex, national origin, age, disability, gender, religion, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. For questions, contact: Office of the Vice President, Cooperative Research and Extension, College of Micronesia-FSM at: (691) 350 2325.



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