

Swine nutritionist named university distinguished professor

BEST OF THE BEST

Passion, productivity, originality, and intensity make Mike Tokach one of the outstanding swine nutritionists in the world and earned him the title of university distinguished professor, a lifetime title that represents the highest honor Kansas State University can bestow on its faculty.

As a professor and extension state leader in the Department of Animal Sciences and Industry, Mike Tokach's position is 60 percent extension and 40 percent research. He conducts swine nutrition research with graduate students and the extension swine team and then disseminates results to swine producers across the country, industry, and to other stakeholders.

Tokach (MS '88 animal science) was nominated by a colleague. Following are a few highlights from the nomination:

Results of Tokach's research have been integrated and applied by swine producers, veterinarians, and allied industries around the world. He has received regional and national awards and was asked to present his vision on the future of extension and research as the keynote speaker at a national swine veterinary meeting.

In 2005, he was named one of the 50 most influential people in the



From left, Mike Tokach visits with Jason Woodworth, research associate professor, and Josh Flohr, doctoral student in swine nutrition, about managing research projects with partners in Minnesota.

swine industry by *National Hog Farmer* magazine, a trade journal serving the swine industry.

Tokach has mentored 63 graduate students and served as major professor for nine. These master's and doctoral students have been widely recruited by industry and academic institutions.

He strongly believes in using a team approach to solve problems facing the swine industry. He works closely with other members of the K-State swine team, which includes animal science graduates **Bob Goodband** (MS '86, PhD '89), **Jim Nelssen** (BS '78, MS '80), **Steve Dritz** (PhD '95), and **Joel DeRouchev** (MS '99, PhD '01).

About 20 years ago, Tokach pioneered a unique research alliance with a group of southwest Minnesota pork producers who built commercial research facilities that are managed by the K-State swine team. To date more than 200 projects have been

conducted at the site, and more than 20 such research facilities now exist in the United States.

His ideas for research, teaching, and extension programs have resulted in more than 200 refereed journal articles, six book chapters, 717 extension publications, seven patents, and \$4.1 million in research awards. Tokach also solicited \$3.5 million in donations to Kansas State University.

Most importantly, Tokach's findings have been widely applied and integrated in the swine industry, saving hundreds of millions of dollars for producers and consumers.

Tokach joins Ted Schroeder, agricultural economics; Charles Rice, agronomy; Xiuzhi "Susan" Sun, grain science and industry; and Bikram Gill, John Leslie, and Barbara Valent, plant pathology; as College of Agriculture university distinguished professors.