Bob Morrison’s Legacy
SHMP Team and University of Minnesota Swine Group

Throughout his distinguished professional career, Bob Morrison has been an integral part of the swine community as a practitioner, professor, swine producer, researcher, veterinarian, mentor, and valued colleague and friend to many. Bob received his DVM from the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Saskatchewan in 1976 followed by his PhD and MBA from the University of Minnesota. Bob received many awards during his career, including being named one of the Masters of the Pork Industry in 2016 by the National Hog Farmer. His work at the University of Minnesota has helped lead the industry in the control of important diseases of swine from pseudorabies to PRRS, PED and beyond. Bob’s drive and passion invigorated everyone he touched and were evident in all aspects of his life and work. He ably combined grace, sincerity, kindness, humor, and a great vitality. He had a boundless sense of curiosity, with which he guided us to seek out answers with him. He often mentioned that if there was an attribute he wanted to be remembered for, it was “integrity”. We surely will. Bob had a deep impact on all of us that worked with him.

Bob’s unique talent for creating relationships that advanced the swine industry culminated in the creation of the Swine Health Monitoring Project (SHMP), one of the initiatives that Bob carried with pride. The SHMP has led the swine community to share data to more effectively manage and control diseases, and provided a foundation to more ably address future challenges. From describing disease trends, setting up systems to evaluate disease outbreaks, responding to emerging diseases, and predicting disease dissemination, Bob always sought to do meaningful work that would yield value for producers, veterinarians, researchers, and consumers.

As it evolved, the SHMP changed names several times but many in the industry simply refer to it as “Bob’s project”. For that reason, and to give the just recognition he deserves, we have decided to rename the project to “Dr. Bob Morrison’s SHMP” (MHSMP).

Bob strongly believed in the importance of the MHSMP and its underlying mission to aid the swine community to improve animal health. He recognized the potential for cooperation among producers to provide new approaches to disease challenges. The MHSMP team and the University of Minnesota Swine Group are united and fully committed to continue Bob’s work and aspirations for the project. We intend to live up to his passion, attention to detail, and insatiable drive. We ask project participants to continue believing in this project as much as Bob did and we do, and to help us carrying Bob’s legacy, working with us as we strive for our common goals.