

## Leman 2017: A Tribute to Bob Morrison

Excerpted from the Leman website and written by Emily Geary



The Allen D. Leman Swine Conference is an annual educational event for the global swine industry. It is internationally acclaimed for bringing science-driven solutions to the complex challenges facing the industry. Each year hundreds of participants from over 20 countries attend the Leman Swine Conference held in Saint Paul, Minnesota. This conference for Minnesota practitioners began in a small lecture hall on the St. Paul Campus and has evolved into the multisession, international meeting it is today.

In 1974 Dr. Allen D. Leman, a new University of Minnesota Extension veterinarian, and Dr. Jim Hanson, director of the College of Veterinary Medicine's continuing education program, initiated this conference to present new information and discuss issues important to the swine industry. Al understood how a university could influence practitioners and empower them to be leaders for the swine industry.

Throughout his career, Al worked to define the link between swine disease and swine production. His unwavering dedication to the education of practicing veterinarians was manifested, at least in part, through his leadership of this conference. Al left the University of Minnesota in 1986. After his death in 1992, the conference was renamed in his honor. The swine faculty continues to provide the leadership in developing this program and remains committed to Al's vision of excellence.

During his time at the University of Minnesota, Dr. Bob Morrison was deeply involved in the Leman Conference, acting as a program chair to organize and promote the event, expanding it internationally in the form of Leman China. Like his mentor, Allen Leman, he was passionate about the role education, science driven solutions, and researchers could play in addressing the obstacles faced by swine producers and veterinarians. He continued Leman's legacy of facilitating this collaboration, and focused on how different groups could move toward improvement for the whole industry.

Through the conference, Bob sought to build a place that allowed for the creation of new ideas, strengthen relationships between industry and research, and the exploration of useful solutions. Bob was always advocating for young practitioners and researchers. He loved highlighting their work and was always seeking ways to incorporate them into meaningful efforts that moved the industry forward. This is manifested in the way the Leman conference integrates young professionals into presentations, poster sessions, and round table discussions.

This year's Leman Conference will be a Tribute to Bob and what he did during his career and his continuation of the goals upon which Al Leman first founded the conference. His drive for holistic improvement rather than individual aggrandizement can be seen reflected in session titles like, "Lesson's From Dr. Morrison: Focus on Work that Matters", and "Bob Morrison's Legacy: Applying a Collaborative Approach in a Competitive Industry".

Bob pushed himself and those around him to do "work that matters", display integrity, and focus on the industry as a whole. The Leman Conference is an actualization of these values.