



Carthage Corner

November, 2005 Quarterly Newsletter

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A note from:



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&

Elanco Products

Important Industry Dates:

Illinois Pork Expo
Peoria Civic Center
Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2006

World Pork Expo
Iowa State Fairgrounds
June 8-10, 2006

Carthage Veterinary
Service, Ltd. Annual
Swine Conference
August 29, 2006

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Biosecurity Audit

With winter approaching, it is a good time to conduct an audit of your on-farm biosecurity. A biosecurity audit is designed to keep diseases out of a herd. An audit of the biosecurity of any farm can be done by either a self-audit or a third-party audit.

Self-audits are less expensive and easier to do. However, they do have pitfalls that include ongoing practices that are often overlooked when someone is too involved with an operation to see little problems that occur every day.

Third-party individuals can objectively evaluate risk assessments for every aspect of the farm. They can ask the right questions: Are people getting screened before they come on the farm? Are the proper procedures being followed? They can verify that protocols are actually being followed, i.e. compliance.

Third-party individuals can also access information to help fix problems and offer suggestions on how to go about getting better compliance or different procedures to help improve that level of protection against disease introduction.

Several key areas need to be addressed when auditing the biosecurity program of any site.

1. Transportation

This includes livestock trailers, feed trucks, semen carriers, garbage disposal, supplies, etc. Great care must be taken to know how the deliveries are occurring. For instance, feed trucks may go to several different sites in any given week or day. We need to know where the truck has been prior to arrival, what procedures drivers are following when they are on site, and where they have access to.

2. Location

Several diseases can be airborne spread.

Location is everything to a pig farm, especially when we look at the multiplication level and protecting the health of the herd that feeds the system. Distance from other hog units is very important when locating a herd or assessing a risk to a current location where pigs are housed.

3. Pest Control

Baiting for rodents (mice and rats) outside and inside the buildings is a key point to control a common disease carrier. It also helps to maintain building quality as rodents can do a lot of damage to curtains and the building. The second pest control is insects. It is now known by Dr. Scott Dee's work that flies can be carriers of the PRRS virus for 48 hours. It is important to eliminate standing water or other common breeding grounds around the facilities.

4. Dead Removal

Sometimes this is often overlooked, but it is critical. Common methods currently used are incineration, composting, or rendering. Each method has its pros and cons. From a biosecurity standpoint, the highest risk to the farm is rendering transport, as they will have pickups from multiple farms.

5. People

This includes visitors to the farm, vendors, contractors, workers on the farm, and owners. Make sure to control the pattern of people traffic prior to entry to the farm.

6. Communication

To help integrate the program, all the people that affect a farm's production need to know the expectations and whether they can be achieved. The key is to routinely go through this with the employees on the farm. People need to relate the expectations of the biosecurity plan, what happens if it breaks down, and what the value is of a healthy herd to you and the swine industry.



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Training Toolboxes!



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7. Compliance.

The last and most important key area is compliance. The best biosecurity plans in the world do not work if not all people follow them.

Farm	Video Visits/Day	Logged-in Visits/Day	Compliance
A	5.5	0.4	7%
B	2.6	0.85	33%
C	1.0	0.49	49%

This table shows compliance on a turkey farm in North Carolina over a seven-day period. It compares actual people coming to the farm (video taped) versus the number that actually signed into the log-in book. Very poor compliance!!

Look at motivating people to follow the plans that are in place because the weakest individual will always be our biggest concern.

In summary, biosecurity audits should be routinely conducted every fall to prepare the farm for the highest health risk period. Audits should be followed with review and training to facilitate compliance. Disease breaks are costly to the farm and to the system it is involved with. Everything needs to be done to decrease the risk of health breaks and to have a better chance of profitability year after year.

References:

1. Compliance chart from research conducted by Jean-Pierre Vaillancourt, DVM, MSc, PhD of Poultry Health Management Team, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

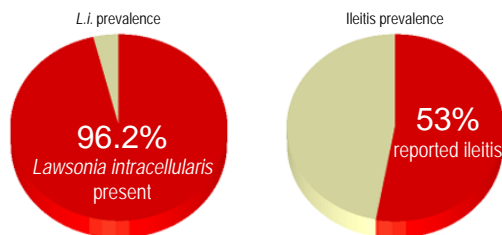
Warmest Regards,

Douglas D. Groth, DVM

Ileitis remains prevalent and costly. Tylan remains recommended treatment.

Ileitis remains a critical problem for the U.S. swine industry. A private study in 2003 found 100% of tested U.S. herds serologically positive for *Lawsonia intracellularis* (*L.i.*), the bacteria that causes ileitis.¹ This finding correlates with an earlier study of serum samples from the U.S. National Animal Health Monitoring System, which found 96.2% of tested herds positive for *L.i.*² (Figure 1). In a 2003 survey of pork producers, 53% reported ileitis on their operations³ (Figure 1).

Figure 1



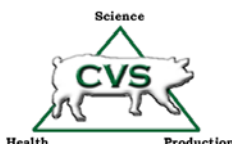
L.i. bacteria have been identified in blood samples from 96.2% of tested U.S. herds.² In a 2003 survey, 53% of pork producers reported ileitis on their operations.³

Pigs with ileitis typically show reduced gain, poor feed efficiency, increased weight variation and more lightweights. Economic analysis places the cost of subclinical ileitis as high as \$3.42/pig, with clinical disease costing up to \$22.19/pig when performance loss, mortality and culls are considered.⁴

Therapies that do not prevent infection may allow disease to spread through fecal shedding, so a prevention protocol makes sense. Tylan[®] Premix fed at 100g/ton for 21 days is still the only feed product FDA approved for ileitis prevention and control. For best results, begin feeding Tylan three weeks prior to seroconversion or anticipated disease outbreak.

References:

1. Elanco. Unpublished, 2003.
2. Bane, D., Norby, B., et al. Prevalence and management risk factors associated with *Lawsonia intracellularis* seropositivity in the U.S. swine herd. 1997.
3. Doane Marketing Research. Focusing on swine ileitis, April 2003.
4. Veenhuizen, M. et al. the potential economic impact of porcine proliferative enteropathy on the U.S. swine industry. Proc. 15th IPVS Congress, 1998.



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