



Carthage Corner

February, 2006 Quarterly Newsletter

Contents:

A note from:



Sarah Probst Miller
D.V.M.
Carthage Veterinary
Service, Ltd.

&

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

Carthage Veterinary
Service, Ltd.
PO Box 220
Carthage, IL 62321

217-357-2811
www.hogvet.com

Litter Boxes, January Christmas Trees, and Dishwashers

Everyone told us that the first year of marriage is going to be the hardest. I am not sure we believe them. As we gazed into each other's eyes on our wedding day, the last thing on our mind was household tasks, clearing dishes, cleaning up holiday decorations, or cleaning the litter box. Who knew that these little tasks that mean so much to the sanity of the household would give us reason to look at each other with something other than nuptial bliss? You might think I am stretching here, but the teamwork that needs to occur in our hog barns is much like a marriage. So, bear with me here as I draw a few parallels that I think illustrate the teamwork that needs to occur to get the "litter box" cleaned in our barns.

First of all, let me make it clear, I am not promoting cats in your barns. We don't want cats in the barns. We all know between toxoplasmosis, salmonella, and other diseases that cats are not our friends in the barn. We prefer the bait boxes to keep pestilence at bay. We want you to have bait boxes every 25-50 feet around your barns. But, every barn has its "litter box." My husband and I have established a routine, little routines that work well.

My husband is a horrible, horrible cook and I happen to enjoy cooking. So, for my own taste buds, I usually tackle the job of cooking and he usually tackles the job of cleaning up afterwards, loading and unloading the dishwasher, hence our harmony in the kitchen. We do this with other tasks as well. I don't mind dusting and he doesn't mind vacuuming. When it comes to the litter box, neither of us enjoys scooping out those stinky tootsie rolls, so we have a competition. We would see how stinky we could let the litter box get before one of us, in disgust (I'll admit, usually my husband) would take the whole thing and dump it out in the field. It wasn't until I started receiving emails from our cat, Mikey, discussing his unsanitary bathroom conditions that I realized it was my husband's humorous way of letting me know that he was at his rope's end with **always** having to clean the litter box. I know you have litter boxes too. I have seen them.

There are certain tasks in our barns that no one likes to do. If it is left undone, it creates quite the stink in your hog houses between interpersonal relationships and could be affecting the number of pigs that get put out the door. Common litter boxes in farrowing that have such a huge impact on pig production are power washing, scraping sows crates, and cleaning survivability boxes. These are tasks that are very, very important and if we are going to get them done correctly, they may need to be rotated amongst staff. We know that getting our farrowing rooms clean and spotless is essential to reducing baby pig scours, navel infections, and reducing diseases transmission between groups. As Mikey the cat inspects our litter box at home and sends me emails if his

litter box is not cleaned frequently enough; you need to have a "Mikey" on your farms. This is someone who is going into your farrowing rooms to inspect them post cleaning to make sure they are cleaned, disinfected, and, if possible, dried. In addition, the "Mikey" of your farrowing barns needs to get in and make sure that those crates are getting scraped first thing every morning. The "Mikey" in our house has figured out a way to remind us of tasks in a way that is effective but non-confrontational.

The number one sign that details necessary to good production are not getting done in the farrowing house which leaves sows farrowing into manure. Make sure this task of scraping crates is getting done! It is one of those litter box tasks and may need to be rotated amongst employees for the sake of interrelationship harmony. Or combine this task with synchronization of farrowings with oxytocin. Regardless, get the task assigned and get it done. Establish a morning and night checklist to make sure those crates are getting scraped where sows are farrowing.

I will admit our Christmas tree is still up. It is getting a little embarrassing. It is late January, all the decorations have been taken off and our Christmas tree is still up. It was a beautiful tree about 9' tall, long needled white pine. We are both cursing those needles right now as they scatter about our living room floor. Each night as we settle down and wind down in front of our television, this tree stares at us. It is not that we are fighting over who is going to take the tree down. We both know it needs to come down. It is just a matter of finding the time. We both have been running around with our heads cut off and this Christmas tree is just staring us in our face and is a constant reminder that we are very, very busy. Not only do your barns have litter boxes they have January Christmas trees.

The "Christmas tree" in farrowing for many farms is seasonal ventilation. It always seems we are late getting our barns winterized and we are also late getting the barns un-winterized. Ventilation is **so** important in keeping those baby pigs alive. We know that drafts are killing pigs. It is frustrating to walk into barns in the middle of January and see third stage fans not properly covered with drafts coming in and dropping on those in crates. Christmas trees!

In breeding and gestation, what seems like a common "Christmas tree" is getting sows feeders adjusted correctly. We need to get a system for feeding these sows correctly. It needs to be done religiously. It is not a task that can sit in your living room like a Christmas tree and can wait and wait and wait. It is something that needs to be scheduled every week to make sure we are getting those sow feeders adjusted so they are in condition by 30 days of gestation and maintaining them at their ideal body weight. Work with your nutritionist and veterinarian to establish a sow feeding program that



Carthage Corner

February, 2006 Quarterly Newsletter

Training Toolboxes!



Educational CD-ROM's designed to train swine producers on various aspects that go into successful swine production and management.

Available in English and Spanish!

www.hogvet.com/training

English/Spanish Swine Translator



This translator allows English and Spanish employees to communicate with each other which makes them more productive.

<http://www.hogvet.com/cvs/translator.asp>

Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd.
PO Box 220
Carthage, IL 62321

217-357-2811
www.hogvet.com

works for your farm. We are happy to do this and realize it is something when we are walking through barns that we too are not able to assess without doing some backfat measurements.

I cook, he cleans. It works out well. It is something we do day after day after day. Each morning when my husband gets up he is emptying the dishwasher. I love it, I absolutely love it that I don't have to deal with the dishes and I get to do the creative cooking things. In your nurseries and finishers there are jobs that need to get done day after day after day. We need to be getting in pens and giving pigs treatments. If I walk into a barn and do not see any marks on any pigs, it is a **huge** exclamation point. The "dishwasher" is not getting emptied. Clearly, there is a work situation that is not being balanced correctly. Or, if I walk into a barn and see not dust marks layered perfectly across all pens, obviously no one has walked in those pens for weeks. We need to get in pens and give treatments. Get all the pigs up, look at them and make sure they are doing alright. We know that early treatment is key to survival when an illness strikes pigs. You are not going to find the pigs that need treated from the aisle way. Get in the pens. In addition, we need to check the waterers each day. There is nothing more frustrating than finding a pen in a barn that is going through water deprivation because no one has been in that pen to make sure that water is coming through adequately. If you are not getting in each pen everyday, you are not optimizing production.

As pigs get larger in the finisher and you have healthier barns, you may be able to regulate your time in pens to two days a week. I still don't think that is quite enough, but at least you are getting it done. The key to this matter is to make it routine. Do it everyday. Empty the dishwasher.

One thing I have found to be helpful for finisher barns is a weekly checklist. For each of the 20 or so weeks the pigs are under your care in your wean-to-finish situation, you have a checklist per week. Obviously, included in this checklist are treatments for each day. I know, we have had employees that will take those checklists and fill them out, and of course, nothing is getting done. What it does do is remind you there are things that need to get done on a daily basis. Otherwise, you are not going to have as many dishes to eat on the next day.

Best Regards,

Sarah Probst Miller, DVM

The Simple Way To Get Your Pigs Started On Paylean®

Paylean pays in more ways than one. It is a feed ingredient that directs nutrients to increase the amount of quality meat in high-value cuts and improves production efficiency. When used properly, Paylean can net you up to \$2 to \$5 more per pig.¹

Dose

Virtually every operation can benefit from feeding Paylean, even if a large percentage of your pigs are already in the highest packer categories. When Paylean is fed at 4.5 g/ton, it provides improved ADG and feed efficiency as well as some improvement in carcass composition.

Paylean fed at 9 g/ton increases carcass weight, dressing percent and lean premiums even more. This dose may be the best choice for producers who are looking for better carcass value and improved live production benefits.

Duration²

Feeding Paylean to all pigs long enough is more important than dosage level in order to maximize profits. Regardless of packer payment scenario and barn space, all pigs—including the first cut—should be fed Paylean to maximize returns.²

Producers can achieve the most-profitable feeding program by targeting an average days on Paylean (ADP) of 28. The table above shows how to calculate average days on Paylean.

Example: Achieving 28 average days on Paylean (ADP)

Example	Number of pigs	Days on Paylean	Paylean Days
1st cut	A 200	B 14	C 2,800
2nd cut	A 100	B 21	C 2,100
3rd cut	A 300	B 28	C 8,400
4th cut	A 300	B 35	C 10,500
5th cut	A 100	B 42	C 4,200
Totals	D 1,000		E 28,000

ADP (Total Paylean Days/#pigs) = F 28.00

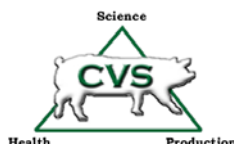
This producer starts Paylean 14 days before marketing the first cut of pigs. To achieve maximum profitability with 28 ADP, all pigs receive Paylean—fastest-growing pigs for 14 days and slowest-growing pigs for 42 days.

The label contains complete use information including cautions and warnings. Always read, understand, and follow the label and use directions.

¹ Estimated derived benefit based on applying Paylean research results to average market prices.

² Li, N., Schinckel, A. et al. Using a stochastic model to evaluate swine production management with Paylean. Purdue University, 2003.

Always read and follow label directions for proper mixing and handling. Approved only for use in swine from 150-240 lbs.



Brought to you by Elanco Animal Health and Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd.

