



CARTHAGE CORNER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Biosecurity"



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IMPORTANT INDUSTRY DATES

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Biosecurity

Happy New Year!

I hope this installment of Carthage Corner finds you all well. I want to talk briefly about biosecurity. We all know it is important, but here's how important. According to Dr. Scott Dee, PRRS costs the US pork industry over \$560 million per year which breaks down to about \$12 per pig per year in lost revenue.

One of the ways to capture some of those lost dollars is by doing a biosecurity audit and following a set of biosecurity principles. It has been shown farms that follow a defined set of biosecurity principles generally benefit from increased health in their herd and on average have a net benefit of over five dollars per pig versus farms that do not follow defined biosecurity measures.

There are a few key areas of biosecurity I would like to touch on. They are: pigs, people, transport, and sanitation. With regards to people, it pays to know who is coming and going around your herd. All visitors should follow the required down time procedures. If you have visitors from a foreign country visiting your operation, increase the down time significantly to reduce the risk of introducing foreign animal disease into your herd. Keep a visitor log of who has been to your site, including feed delivery drivers, weaned pig and market hog drivers, pest control personnel, and dead animal disposal pickup. If a vendor does not have the proper amount of downtime, they should not be allowed to enter the farm.

It has been well documented that pigs can be easily infected by PRRS virus in transport. When a new group of animals is delivered to the farm, be vigilant in looking for clinical signs of disease within the first week post arrival. If there are multiple groups on a site, take extra precautions when moving between groups. Separating people is generally an effective way of dealing with a high risk group of animals until that group can be released from isolation.

When selling market animals, make sure each truck has been cleaned and disinfected prior to entering the farm. Clean/dirty lines need to be established to show where the inside of the barn ends and the outside, less biosecure area begins. A bright orange line is ideal to create a visible reminder to all personnel involved in the operation. Clean areas would include any area that could potentially come into contact with a group of pigs. The dirty sides are areas outside the hog barn or showers.

It is important to establish one way pig flow when either receiving or sending out pigs. If a pig crosses the threshold of the clean dirty line, the pig should not come back. There should be no crossover traffic between the truck driver and the herdsman when loading or unloading pigs. If a pig escapes when pigs are being unloaded into a clean barn, the pig should not be allowed to come into the barn. This is not neces-



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Biosecurity Continued

sarily a PRRS risk, but other diseases can be carried into a group of pigs if that one pig is allowed in. Salmonella, TGE, and swine dysentery are just a few of these diseases. In addition, establish good rodent baiting practices both outside and inside the swine barn. Keep a written log of the baiting, and rotate rodenticides periodically to maximize rodent control around the facility.

Finally, focus on sanitation. Please make sure that feed spills are cleaned up outside the facility in a timely manner to reduce the risk of attracting rodents and birds to the facility. Allow adequate time for cleaning, disinfection AND drying to reduce pathogen load to the next incoming group of pigs. Biosecurity is a key component to sustained profitability in your swine operation. Putting some key principles into place will pay big dividends down the road. Implement a solid biosecurity plan into your operations and enjoy success!

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1. Antinolfi, E., Steen, J. et al. 2007. "Incidence of Lesions Associated with Seroconversion in Growing Pigs." *Prevalence*, June 2007 to July 2008. *Proc. AAEP* 331-331.
2. Santos, R. 2004. Update on epidemiology and diagnosis of porcine proliferative enteropathy. *J. Swine Health Prod* 12:3.
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