



CARTHAGE CORNER

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Winter's Disease Challenges"



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IMPORTANT INDUSTRY DATES

Iowa Pork Congress
Jan. 27-28, 2010
Des Moines, IA

Illinois Pork Expo
Feb. 2-3, 2010
Peoria, IL

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Winter's Disease Challenges

Fall is quickly turning to Winter. Winter time presents a variety of disease challenges. Take this opportunity to review with your team basic biosecurity measures to prevent disease entry. It can also be a great opportunity to improve or implement your biosecurity measures. Disease outbreaks reduce profitability; treatment cost increase, morbidity increase, and mortality increase, resulting in less pigs to market.

PRRS season is upon us. PRRS risks peak during the winter because the virus is viable frozen and routine cleaning, disinfecting and drying of trailers is more difficult. Our target is to have no PRRS breaks this winter. PRRS signs include sows/pigs off feed, increased rectal temperatures, sow abortions, increased stillborns, mummies, weak pigs at birth, increased pre-wean and post weaning mortality rates, decrease rate of gain, and possibly coughing in finishing.

PRRS is not the only disease to consider about during the winter months. For the same reasons we see an increase in PRRS activity during the winter swine flu viruses (SIV) also are more likely in the winter. Signs of SIV include loud, barking coughs, nasal discharge, sows/ pigs off feed, high rectal temperatures 103+, Breeding herds may experience an increase sows aborting, decreased conception rates, increased morbidity and mortality. Finishing herds may also see increased mortality and morbidity, decreased rates of gain. All stages of production may see an increase in secondary infections adding to the morbidity and mortality rates. Flu combined with PRRS co-infections is especially devastating. This year the discovery of Novel H1N1 has increased awareness of flu like symptoms in swine herds. Regardless of the type seasonal or Novel H1N1, employees with the flu should stay home until 24 hours **after** their fever has resolved, in accordance with CDC recommendations.

Transmissible Gastroenteritis (TGE) is also more prevalent during the winter months. TGE is highly contagious virus in pigs. Clinical signs are vomiting, severe diarrhea, high mortality in piglets under 2 weeks of age. Although still sus-

ceptible, the mortality in pigs over 5 weeks of age is relatively low. Feces from TGE infected herds can be carried on fomites (boots, vehicles, clothing, feeds) to other herds and serve as a point of infection. Starlings looking for food and warm place to nest can spread TGE from barn to barn. Limiting visitors, insisting on clean boots/coveralls and preventing bird entry into the facility are all critical biosecurity control measures in preventing a TGE outbreak.

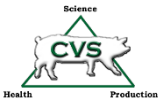
Please increase your awareness of potential means to PRRS, SIV, and TGE introduction into production herds, and work to correct any problems or areas of risk. Inform your veterinarian if anything suspicious occurs.

Modes of Disease Introduction:

1. Infected pigs
2. Contaminated transport vehicles (slaughter, cull, transfers, deads, UPS, LP gas, etc.)
3. Dirty loadouts (contaminated by transport or other vectors, such as birds)
4. Fomites – shoes/boots, clothing, supplies, rodents, birds, flies, etc.

Tips on Disease Prevention:

1. Isolate any incoming breeding stock.
2. The person taking care of the isolation population showers through and showers back out.
3. Bleed a statistical sampling of incoming breeding stock while in isolation.
4. Only allow cleaned, disinfected, and dried trucks to enter the. – Know your transport.
5. Clean, disinfect, Synergize and dry loadouts prior to animal movement into or out of the farm.
6. Loading chute door is closed immediately after a load is complete.
7. No pigs are allowed back off of the trailers.
8. Dead animal removal is done so that there is a well-established clean and dirty line.



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9. All trash is dropped across the clean and dirty line.
10. Fog all incoming supplies, equipment, etc with Synergize.
11. Prevent entry of Pest such as Birds and Rodents.
12. Keep bird netting repaired and rodent stations filled.
13. Remove Coats and shoes in the entry way prior to entering shower dirty area.
14. Use showers when available – use soap and shampoo.
15. When showers are not available wash hands, change boots and coveralls at entry into each barn (Danish model).
16. Restrict visitors. Be sure people have not been exposed to pigs and be sure showers are taken or hands washed and clean coveralls and boots worn.
17. If you are sick with the Flu stay home until 24 hours after the fever has resolved.

Maintaining biosecurity is important to the herd health all year round. However, as winter approaches it is always good to review, improve, and enforce biosecurity plans. The three pathogens discussed here PRRS, SIV, and TGE are all viruses and can survive in the cold, frozen conditions of winter. The best biosecurity plan on paper will not work if it is not enforced.

On behalf of Carthage Veterinary Service, Ltd and Professional Swine Management, LLC I would like to wish everyone a safe harvest and Happy Thanksgiving!

Protect your investment



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