



Professional Nutrition & Management Services

HOG-UPDATE

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Bio-Security

By Guy Morden

We all know the problems PRRSV and PCV2 caused in the pig industry in Ontario. Now the season in which TGE rears its head is here. Perhaps it's time to think about bio-security. Many of you have excellent bio-security protocols in place but it is always a good idea to review and improve your protocols if needed. A review can be made easier if you ask yourself a few simple questions. So let's ask ourselves the questions.

What are "THE" bio-security risks?

This is a very general question. To answer it requires looking at all possible risks; typically a vector which carries the pathogen into your barn. These vectors include air, birds, rodents, flies and mosquitoes, pets such as dogs or cats, any service person who enters your barn, stock that enters your barn such as replacement gilts, semen for your AI program, feed and its packaging. Vehicles that travel between farms are also a concern, especially if trucking livestock, market hogs, weaners and cull pigs. While this is not a complete list, it should give you an idea of the range of vectors involved. Some pathogens are airborne, not requiring a vector to enter your barn, but only the correct environmental conditions.

What are "MY" bio-security risks?

A producer needs to look at "their" operation and figure out which risks apply to them.

What steps can I take to reduce these risks?

Knowing that everything outside that barn wall is a "contaminated area", the most effective protocols begin at the barn door. A producer should examine his barn and operating procedures thoroughly. If you have answered the second question then you know what to look for. Do you purchase replacement gilts? If so an acclimatization area is a necessity. Can you switch to an all in all out system rather than continuous flow? These are major steps in reducing your risks but there are many small but important things to look at also. Do you have a hospital or "sick" pen with a solid divider to separate infected pigs? With PMWS it is very important to get an affected pig out of the general population immediately and these pens will make this possible. Secured points of entry, rodent control (traps), restricted access, and changes of clothes and boots for each barn are some examples of protocols that can reduce these risks. A protocol should be adopted for every risk you have identified for 'your protection'.

How can I implement these protocols?

Once you have identified the risks and know the steps you want to take to reduce these risks, implementing them is a matter of making everyone involved with your operation aware of them. Contacting any company that delivers to your farm, such as semen, feed and ingredient suppliers and letting them know will be important. Discussing your new protocols with employees and your family will also be required. A good first step is to use Do Not Enter signs which are available from BSC.

How can I maintain my new bio-security protocols?

Once you have established your new bio-security protocols, maintaining them is important. Communication is key. Think about who comes to your farm. Contact all of them and make them aware of your protocols. This will be an ongoing process. Any new employees, suppliers and salesmen will need to be informed. But above all "YOU" must follow your own bio-security measures to the letter. Lead by example. Others will follow your lead on the farm. If they see you run into the barn without changing your boots they will think it's okay to do so themselves. Constant vigilance is required. At first things may seem to be a burden but you will find it will quickly become routine.

While this in no way covers all examples of the risk involved in pig production, my aim is to provoke some thought about bio-security on the farm. A regular review of your own protocols is a good idea and next time you do, try to ask yourself these questions or give us a call and we will review them with you. Good Luck.

NOTICE:

Elanco has announced that Paylean will be available to us on Monday, May 8, 2006.

Paylean should be fed on average for the last 28 days of finishing and should be fed until the animals reach market weight. There is no withdrawal.

Elanco figures the cost of Paylean per animal will be \$1.50 - \$1.60 and will vary depending on consumption and duration of feeding. Elanco estimates that feeding Paylean at the 5ppm level for 28 days should return on average \$2.00 per pig. Naturally this may differ from barn to barn based on differing management and environmental factors.

For more info or to discuss a strategy to implement a Paylean program please contact your BSC rep.

HOG UPDATE is published in the interest of helping hog producers become more profitable. We welcome your comments.

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WESTERN FAIR FARM SHOW

Thanks to all those who stopped by to see us at our booth.

It was great to see such a huge turnout at this year's farm show.

Congratulations to the winner of the BSC vest:

Brad Bakker
LaSalette, ON

NEW!!

We now carry TREADER disposable boots – the elasticized disposable boot with a long wearing textured bottom for improved traction and safety.

Please call the office if you are interested in trying them.