

LITTER LETTER

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Holiday Hours:

Thursday, November 23rd Closed

Friday, November 24th Closed

Monday December 25th Closed

Monday January 1st Closed

NOTE: This will be our last newsletter that we will individually mail, unless you receive a statement that month. If you would like an email copy, please be sure we have your current email on file. You can email Shannon at sschimmel@amvcms.com. The most current newsletter is always available on our website AMVCMS.com. Just click on the link to Swine Health Services of Indiana.

Reminder: If you call the office on line 1 (765-659-4482) and we are on the phone, you are able to leave message. You can try us on our fax line (765-659-4202) but cannot leave a message there.

New Product: Ketchum Ink Remover:

Ideal product to remove ink from tattoo characters. Mix with warm water and let slapper head with characters sit overnight. In the morning, just rinse with water and characters are clean! This comes in a 1 liter bottle. Cost is \$12.25 plus shipping.

Product Update: PG-600 is on indefinite backorder. The problem is manufacturing of one of the ingredients has slowed. PG-600 is one of the last products to receive PMSG as this is also used in some other species products. We will keep clients informed as any product becomes available. Thus figuring out ways to get by without PG-600 will be necessary over the next several months as this supply problem does not appear to be short term. If you have some PG-600 remaining use it sparingly only on animals that will not come into heat instead

of treating every weaned sow or gilt. Give them time to come into heat and then use the PG-600 that you have for those that do not come into heat by 10 days post wean. There are no substitute products for sows. Feed intake in lactation and from wean to service interval are important factors to help in return to estrus. Moving, penning or remixing may be of some help in simulating estrus instead of using PG-600.

CRISPR Technology in Pigs May Help People:

Pigs have long been researched as a source of organs or tissue for possible transplant into humans. Now a technology known as "CRISPR" is being studied as a way to remove some viral DNA from pigs, which would help to pave the way for using pig organs for transplantation into humans. This technology can edit out the genes from viruses known as retroviruses that are present in the pig genome. This work is being done by researchers in Cambridge, Massachusetts with a biotechnology company called eGenesis. Interestingly the CRISPR technology, (also known as gene editing) also has been used to produce pigs resistant to PRRS. As with the PRRS resistant pigs this company will need to demonstrate that they can reproduce gene edited pigs where the "edit" is consistently replicated. The company claims that it is well on its way to doing this. The next step for the process of xenotransplantation would be to develop pigs with organs that are not rejected by humans.

Biosecurity!

Although biosecurity is important year round, the risk for spread of many of the viral agents increases in the cooler months due to the ability of viruses to survive in cold temperatures and because of the increased difficulty in cleaning and disinfecting in cold temperatures. Proper disinfection of trucks and

chutes is critical to avoid carrying agents into sites. In addition, review guidelines for truck drivers (both feed and transport) to minimize risks. Extra efforts should be taken on rodent and bird control in both barns and feed processing areas. Equipment taken into facilities should be disinfected and have at least 8 hours of drying time. If areas are not able to be heated propylene glycol should be added to the disinfection solution to allow adequate contact time before freezing. If you need these guidelines, please contact our office. We have had recent positive diagnoses of the coronaviruses, (PED and Delta coronaviruses) so we know that these viruses are still active on some sites and most likely at collection points.

SHIC Swine Health Information Center:

A new center was funded by the National Pork Board after the PED outbreak with the primary goal of trying to identify potential new or emerging disease threats in the United States swine industry. A swine disease matrix has been established to attempt to identify the diseases of the highest concern or risk. Foot and mouth disease is the number 1 ranked disease in the matrix. SHIC would be involved in responding and coordinating responses to a new emerging disease with industry, regulatory, and government agencies. One new initiative for the center has been the establishment of a "rapid response" core. (RRC) This core will be comprised of veterinarians that have received training in conducting an epidemiologic investigation. These investigations would be done rapidly after a pathogen has been identified and in a standardized format. This information would hopefully aid in the control of the pathogen affecting the swine industry. Dr. Rodibaugh has completed the training for the RRC.

Pit Gnat Control:

Pit gnats (dark-eyed fruit flies) are a problem in many swine barns. These insects don't appear to affect animal health. However, they are a nuisance for all the employees in the barn and tend to affect quality of worker performance. These flies breed in spoiled feed and cracks between slats. Control of these flies is possible while pigs are in the barn by fogging with natural pyrethrins. Some products available are Stryker or Evergreen. These products

are natural based and labeled safe to use while animals are present. The lifecycle of the pit gnat is approximately 3 weeks so spraying weekly to knock down adults for 3 consecutive weeks will prevent new eggs being laid and thus reduce the number of adult flies that develop. Once the initial 3 week period has been completed, then an every other week knock down spray should be adequate. Also spraying the breeding areas with a larvacide can help to continue reducing the multiplication of pit gnats. Another problem that occurs with the high numbers of insects indoors is that spiders have a food source and thus farms with lots of indoor insects have lots of cobwebs. Controlling the pit gnats and house flies will help to reduce the number of spiders as there are fewer insects for spiders to feed on.

Rodent Control:

As winter months approach, rodents move from outdoors to indoors thus adequate baiting of with an effective rodenticide is necessary. One product we are seeing good results with are soft baits. These are more like a gel pack that is appealing to rodents unlike the bars or pellets. This is a jelly like product that does not freeze and this is available containing multiple active ingredients so you can use a rotation of active ingredients with the similar type of presentation or rotate the soft bait with the bars or pellets to provide a different presentation to eliminate bait refusal.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Nathan Davis of Davis Ag Farm, on the birth of their daughter.

Congratulations to Alan Bainbridge of TC Bache Farm, on his recent marriage.

Congratulations to Angie and Zach Skiles on their recent marriage.

Congratulations to Alex and Samantha Green of Barton Farms, on their recent marriage.