

# LITTER LETTER

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## **SHIC-Funded Study Demonstrates Transfer of Livestock Trailer Contamination to Barns [An.H.]**

May 15, 2019 - Paul Sundberg

The Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) funded a pilot study to determine if a fluorescent powder could be used to study the transfer of contamination from livestock trailers to barns during marketing events. Conducted by staff from Iowa State University (ISU) in collaboration with Iowa Select Farms, the study addresses concerns that livestock trailers are frequently contaminated with PRRSV, PEDV, and other pathogens at swine slaughter plants in the US. Results of this pilot study demonstrated fluorescent powder can be used to track contamination between livestock trailers and barns, offering a needed tool for evaluation and subsequent improvement in transport biosecurity. Complete study results are available at [swinehealth.org](http://swinehealth.org)

## **New Research Recommendations on Feed Ingredients:**

One of the ways to reduce the risk of introduction of African Swine Fever to the US is to hold feed ingredients from the time of manufacture to the time of use to allow viral degradation. The time that products need to be held is different for different feed ingredients and temperatures. The longest recommended holding times are at cooler temperatures. For Vitamin D the current recommended holding time at 37 degrees Fahrenheit is 39 days and for lysine at the same temperature, the recommended holding time is 78 days. This "holding time" can start at the day of shipment and include shipping time plus holding time prior to reaching the farm and could include

holding time on the farm. It is important to discuss these holding times with your source of feed ingredients.

## **Pork Products Detected in International Arrivals:**

Because African Swine Fever virus can survive for an extended time in processed meats, there has been a heightened concern related to the risk of pork products entering the United States. In the June 2019 National Hog Farmer a customs inspector was featured reporting the detection of pork products coming into Chicago, O'Hare's International airport. During fiscal 2018 the Chicago customs field office reported that there were 13,173 agricultural passenger inspections associated with swine products. More than 28,903 kilograms of swine products were intercepted. Many of these products are recovered by beagles trained to detect certain scents. In the entire U.S. during the same fiscal year (2018), customs and border protection reported the recovery of over 300,000 kilograms (660,000 lbs.) of pork products coming into the United States! The National Pork Board and other groups have been working closely with customs and border to encourage additional beagle dogs at airports identified as higher risk for introduction of pork products.

## **Study to Determine Effects of PRRS MLV Mass Vaccinations:**

A common practice to try and establish as much immunity as possible against PRRS is to mass vaccinate breeding herds with modified live vaccine (MLV). However, attenuated viruses could negatively impact farm productivity and producers occasionally report clinical changes following mass vaccination that they suspect are related to this

procedure. Because of this, a study was conducted at Iowa State to objectively evaluate the effects of mass vaccination with PRRS MLV in 65 herds that were stable to PRRS virus at the time of vaccinations. Parameters assessed included abortions, pre-weaning mortality, neonatal losses, wean-to-service interval and total pigs weaned. A period 6 weeks prior to mass vaccination was compared to 6 weeks post vaccination. Under the conditions of the study, individual PRRS stable sow farms experienced transient and numerically small changes in productivity following PRRS MLV vaccination (increase in abortions 6.1% of the herds, increased neonatal losses 7.7% of the herds, pre-weaning mortality increase 3% of the herds and wean-to-service increase 3% of the herds. However, statistical analysis showed no evidence of significant production impact for abortion rate, neonatal losses, pigs weaned per sow and weaned to first service interval.

### Great example of a load-out chute

Below is a newly constructed load-out that is well-made, wide, has a gentle slope and concrete entrance. Plans are to enclose the chute also. It will be good for pigs AND people. Thanks to the farm for allowing us to share this picture!



Congratulations to Mike Elsea – Legan Livestock & Grain for winning the National Champion Bass Fishing Tournament in Louisiana.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. Adam Salsbery, Salsbery Pork Producers on the adoption of their twins.

Congratulations to Mr. & Mrs. James Douglas, D&L Farms on the birth of their daughter.

### Reminder about Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (CVI – Health papers)

All swine are required to have a CVI for crossing state lines regardless of reason. Sales or shows are treated the same under the rules of CVI's. With the increased threat of foreign animal disease being introduced into the U.S. more scrutiny is being placed on health certificates. Thus, we need to make sure that all rules are being followed. If you have pigs that need a health certificate for interstate movement, please let our office know as soon as you know so that a doctor can be scheduled for a visit. All health certificates require a inspection within 30 days of animal movement, which is plenty of time if we are notified that you need these with plenty of lead time. Helpful tip: if you are going to a show, when you send in your registration money for the show – give us a call at the office and we will add your name to the list of those needing CVI for the specific show. We can look up the requirements for that state and that specific show and help to make sure that you are eligible to get your pigs in to the show. Identification of show animals is most easily accomplished by 840 ear tags. If these are 4-H animals the tags issued by 4-H are perfect. Also, if you want a different name on the CVI than the owner of the farm, please let us know. Electronic health certificates cannot be edited once signed. As always, if you have questions feel free to call the office or one of the vets and they can help you with your questions.

**A new vet is on the way!** Dr. Joe Thomas has been hired to work at AMVC Swine Health Services and will be starting here later this summer. He most recently served our country in the Army Veterinary Corps. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Thomas to Indiana and AMVC Swine Health Services.