

Vets cautioned on DMSO sales

HARRISBURG — The sale and use of dimethyl sulfoxide often for self medication purposes, has increased dramatically despite warnings by the FDA that there may be risks involved in using the industrial grade product,

reports the Pa Veterinary Medical Association.

The recent upsurge in interest in the so-called "wonder drug" has brought pressure on veterinarians to sell DMSO animal products for uses other than veterinary medicine.

However, veterinarians should be aware that the penalty for illegally selling veterinary drugs is up to a year in prison and a \$1,000 fine on each count for a first offense.

DMSO began to attract attention as a therapeutic

agent in 1961 when it was discovered that the drug could penetrate the skin rapidly and carry other drugs into the blood.

Since then, DMSO has been said by some to be an effective treatment for conditions ranging from arthritis to mental retardation in humans.

Recent television reports showing people who claim to have benefited from the drug have also boosted the interest in DMSO.

The FDA is concerned about the risks that may result in using industrial grade DMSO (which is of unknown purity and quality) and in using any DMSO in high concentrations, large amounts or for unapproved uses. The drug has been approved for only a limited number of medicinal uses.

A 50 percent solution is approved for the treatment of interstitial cystitis in humans and a 90 percent solution is approved for topical treatment of horses and dogs to reduce acute swelling due to trauma. Other claims for the drug's use have not been substantiated.

Veterinarians are advised to refrain from selling DMSO and should use it with caution in their practice. The drug should not be used on animals intended for food or for breeding because of potential embryonic malformations.

Feeder pig mgt. tips for profit

NEWARK, Del. — What can a hog producer do to give feeder pigs a better chance for profit-making?

Richard Fowler, Extension livestock specialist for the University of Delaware, provides the following tips:

Isolate animals in your starting facility from other pigs either by using another building or by using a solid dividing wall between pens. The facility should be dry and draft-free, with a temperature of 75 degrees. It should also be clean and disinfected.

Check animals carefully when they arrive at your farm. If you bought them through a graded sale, record and file the name of the seller, ear tag numbers, and date and weight of pigs when purchased.

Let pigs rest, feed and drink fresh water for 8 to 12 hours. Add medication to the water after this adjustment period.

Size pigs and place 25-50 to a pen. Remove all sick animals to a hospital pen and treat them promptly. Don't overcrowd. Allow four square feet for 30-50 pound pigs and five square feet for 50-80 pounders. Provide one waterer for each 25 pigs.

Medicate the water the first week. Water medications of the sulfa

group with electrolytes added are effective for starting medication and restoring body fluids on stressed groups. Normally a 40-pound pig drinks a half gallon of water daily. Use a flavor enhancer such as fruit-flavored drink or dessert mix to encourage water intake.

If possible use a special starting ration. Feeder space should allow four pigs for each uncovered feeder hole. Tie up feeder lids for the first few days.

Pigs do better on feeds containing 12-14 percent protein, extra fiber and a high level of vitamins and minerals. Formulations are available from your local Extension office.

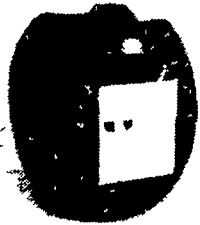
Deworm pigs and treat for external parasites. If any signs of disease occur, treat at once.

If you bought quality stock, hogs should reach market weight according to the following schedule: 40-pound pig in 110 days; 50-pound pig in 105 days; 70-pound pig in 90 days; 100-pound pig in 70 days.

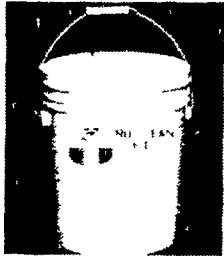
Your profit will depend on how much you paid for the pigs, how much it costs you to finish them, and the price being paid for pork when you're ready to sell.

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Soybean growers to meet

ST LOUIS, Mo. — Production management innovations to help soybean producers increase profits in the 80s is the theme of the American Soybean Association sponsored Innovations 80s Conference to be held February 19 and 20 at the Holiday Inn Rivermont in Memphis.

The two-day conference is open to all soybean producers whether or not they are members of the American Soybean Association. Conference speakers include farmers, soybean researchers and company representatives who will discuss application of innovative management practices for doublecropping, solid seeding, water management, weed and

insect control, variety selection and new tillage practices.

The conference opens at 1 p.m. Thursday, February 19 and will conclude by noon on Friday February 20.

The \$20 registration fee (\$25 for non-members) includes a copy of the 80-page program proceedings, a banquet dinner and entertainment on Thursday evening and

participation in all conference activities.

Producers are invited to bring their wives for an additional \$10 registration fee.

Special activities for women include an introduction to Memphis, demonstrations of mountain music and folk instruments, a discussion of modern blues music and a program on self protection for women.

Elanco farmers to talk tobacco

BLUE BALL — The Eastern Lancaster County School District, Adult Farmer Program will sponsor a Tobacco

Management Meeting on Wednesday evening, February 4.

Key items to be discussed will be the use of the newer insecticides, herbicides, and fungicides that are labeled for use on tobacco. A Blue Mold up-date including the use of Ridomil will also be part of the program.

Also to be included will be a discussion of a new variety of tobacco grown by several farmers in the New Holland area in the anticipation that the variety will soon be released by Penn State.

Speakers for the evening will include Carl Buchholz and John Beideman from Ciba-Geige, Steve Fisher from FMC and Wayne Marz from Stauffer Chemical Co.

All interested tobacco growers are invited to attend. The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday evening, February 4th at the Union Grove School. The School is located two miles north of Route 23 on route 625 between Blue Ball and Bowmansville.

For further information contact Bob Anderson at 717-354-9604 evenings, or 215-445-5441 during the day

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