



What You Should Know About Swine Health

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(Editor's note - This is the third article in a series on swine health)

The selection of new herd boars should begin far enough before the start of breeding to allow for proper isolation and retesting of new boars as well as fenceline contact with the sow herd, reports Matthew J. Parsons, Penn State Extension swine specialist.

Prior to selection of a boar or group of boars, herds with adequate health standards must be identified as potential sources. Sources of boars can be divided into three risk categories based on health programs.

Validated (brucellosis free), qualified (pseudorabies free) closed herds are generally the lowest disease risk. These herds may be completely closed and only bring in new genetic material through artificial insemination, or a modified closed herd that brings in only a few animals and follows strict isolation and retesting procedures. These are low risk herds because of the care taken in introducing new animals that may carry a disease problem and because of the quarterly testing for pseudorabies and brucellosis.

Herds that follow a poorly defined isolation procedure and test only sale animals are a higher disease risk. The purchaser of boars may not know the disease status of this type of herd upon selection of a boar. High risk sources include breeders with on health or isolation program, breeders that allow boar buyers into the boar pens and stockyards. Boars that have been exposed to other pigs of questionable disease status (such as at the stockyards) or organisms from other pigs (such as from a boar buyer being in the pen) have a higher risk of carrying some disease problem.

In purchasing boars, the buyer should make a selection from a herd with a sound herd health program. Most producers seek boars from the low to medium risk

categories. The herd selected should be free of pseudorabies, brucellosis, swine dysentery and haemophilus pneumonia. It is highly desirable if the herd has not had TGE in the last year, too.

Once the herd or herds for purchasing boars from has been identified, then a timetable can be developed. This timetable must include adequate time for testing (if needed), isolation, retesting and fenceline contact of new boars. If proper isolation and testing procedures are followed to minimize the risk of importing disease problems into a herd, approximately sixty days will be needed from the time one sets out to purchase a new boar until the boar starts to breed.

Newly purchased boars should be isolated by penning them in a separate pen that is physically separated by some distance from other hog pens. There should be as little traffic as possible from the isolation pen to other hogs; preferably, a separate set of boots and coveralls should be kept at the isolation area to be used when caring for the isolated pig or pigs. Precautions should be taken to minimize pet and wild animal traffic through the isolation area.

At the end of a 15 to 30 day isolation period, a blood sample for a pseudorabies test should be obtained. Pigs that were negative for pseudorabies before isolation may become positive during the isolation period. This indicates that the pig had been exposed to pseudorabies, but that not enough time had elapsed by the start of the isolation period for the pig to develop any signs of the disease.

Pigs having a positive pseudorabies test at the end of the isolation period should be shipped to slaughter. If the boar has a negative pseudorabies test he can then be removed from isolation and exposed to fenceline contact with gilts or sows.

BOAR BUYER TIMETABLE

Day Prebreeding	Activity
0	Start Breeding
14	Expose to Fenceline Contact or Cross-contaminate with fecal material
21	Retest for Pseudorabies
21-51	Isolate boar
58	Test boar for Pseudorabies and Brucellosis (not necessary if the boar is from a Qualified, Validated herd)
60	Select boar to be purchased

MAES researchers get broiler grant

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Two research scientists for the Maryland Agricultural Experiment Station are the recipients of a \$6,600 grant from the Delmarva Poultry Industry Inc. to study feed and environmental requirements of broiler breeding stock.

The two researchers — both members of the faculty of the Department of Poultry Science at the University of Maryland, College Park — are Mary Ann Ottinger, assistant professor of physiology, and Joseph H. Soares Jr., professor of nutrition.

The study is an extension of an earlier project funded by DPI and will continue Ottinger's and

Soares' examination of the effect of feed intake and social environment on reproduction, behavior and the endocrine status of the broiler breeder.

"A limited amount of information is available regarding the physiological and metabolic state required for optimal reproduction in meat-producing strains of chickens," say the researchers. "Broiler production in the Delmarva peninsula has continually increased, putting increasing demand on the reproductive capability of the broiler breeder."

Also participating in funding of this research is MSD Agvet, a division of Merck & Co.



DVC Albi Polka EX 90 is the cornerstone of 21,146 pounds of milk and 799 pounds of fat the Ayrshire herd. This top cow produced this past year.

DVC dairy herd

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351 days - 21128M - 997F. One of the top Ayrshire individuals is DVC Flashy Jubilee, VG89, with a production record at 5.4 years - 365 days - 23930M - 951F.

Thirty percent of the milk produced by the dairy herds is pasteurized on the premises and consumed by those of the 1375 full-time students that take meals on campus. The remainder of the milk is sold to Quaker Maid.

The Holstein herd was just reclassified Dec. 1981 with 4-EX, 15-VG, 18-G+, 6-G and is pending a new Breeding Analysis Average of 104.1.

The Brown Swiss herd was classified in Oct. 1980 with 5-VG, 4-G+ and an average herd score of 84.8. The Ayrshires which are now all DVC bred were last classified in

July 1981 with 1-EX, 6-VG, 2-G+ for a herd average classification score of 83.

DVC attends a limited number of shows. They exhibit at the county fair (Middletown Grange Fair) where they consistently place well. They show a few Holsteins in tough competition at the Holstein Eastern Pa. Championship Show held at Kutztown and sent 4 from each of the three breeds to the 1981 Farm Show where their Ayrshire aged cow, DVC Albi Polka E 90 placed second with first mammary in her class. Four year old Brown Swiss, DVC Delegate Lyric placed first in her class and DVC won the Brown Swiss Premier Breeder's Trophy.

DVC presently has 4 Holstein bulls in sire services, all in waiting. Two are at Carnation

Genetics and two are at Atlantic.

Harner says his aims for the future of the DVC herds are to continue to use the top TPI (Type Production Index) bulls in the country. He plans to continue improvement of good functional type particularly in feet and legs and improved excellence in mammary conformation. He is striving to increase depth of pedigree and to continue to increase in milk production.

These goals are an essential part of teaching of the students as the varied classes use the dairy facilities, to learn sound, progressive but practical dairy science management.



★ A Christmas Message ★ REMEMBER REAL AMERICA?

YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH to remember the real America if you remember when you never dreamed our country could ever lose. When you left the front door open. When you went to church and found spiritual consolation. When people know what the Fourth of July stood for. When you took it for granted that women and the elderly and the clergy to be respected. When a girl was considered daring if she smoked in public. When a girl was a girl. When a boy was a boy. When they liked each other. When you didn't feel embarrassed to say that this is the best country in the world. When socialist was a dirty word. When liberal wasn't. When a nickel was worth five cents and could buy you a magazine, or a good cigar, or a 12-ounce soda pop, or a big ice cream cone with chocolate sprinkles. When two nickles got you into the movies on Saturday afternoon, and you saw three pictures. When taxes were only a nuisance.

When the poor were too proud to take charity. When you weren't afraid to go out at night. When Protestants and Catholics thought enough of their beliefs to argue about them. When ghettos were neighborhoods. When you knew that the law meant justice, and you felt a little shiver of awe at the sight of a policeman. When young fellows tried to join the army or the navy. When songs had a tune. When you wrote love notes. When criminals went to jail. When you could get away from it for a while. When you bragged about your state and your home town. When politicians proclaimed their patriotism. When clerks and repairmen tried to please you, or else. When a Sunday drive was an adventure, not an ordeal. When you had to be brave to fly. When you could always find someone willing and able, whenever you wanted something done. When riots were unthinkable. When the clergy talked about religion. When you took it for granted that the law would be enforced, and your safety protected. *When Christmas was merry, and Christ was kept in it.*

When the flag was a sacred symbol. When our government stood up for America, anywhere in the world. When a man who went wrong was blamed, not his mother's nursing habits or his father's income.

When everyone knew the difference between right and wrong, even Harvard professors. When things weren't perfect, but you never expected them to be. When you weren't made to feel guilty for enjoying dialect comedy. When people still had the capacity for indignation. When you considered yourself lucky to have a good job. When you were proud to have one. When sick meant you weren't feeling well. When a complaint could accomplish something. When people expected less, and valued what they had more. When everybody wasn't entitled to a college education. When college kids swallowed goldfish, not acid.

When America was the land of the free, the home of the brave — and rightly so!

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Jesus Christ, the Virgin born son of God, is the hope of the world and that there is no other name under heaven whereby we must be saved.

If you believe in saving America, say so; not everyone does!