

Don't short-cut swine isolation programs

ST. LOUIS, Mo. — Introducing new swine breeding stock into a herd always presents the risk of infecting an otherwise healthy operation. However, an isolation program that allows a 60-day period for testing, detection and control of problems reduces this risk, according to Dr. Bruce McClain, Director of Veterinary Services for Kleen Leen, Inc., a subsidiary of Ralston Purina Company.

"This program is designed to limit interaction between new animals and the existing herd," McClain explains, "which allows acclimation to any disease that may already be present in the operation, and helps the producer identify any medical problems the new stock may have."

Although receiving programs are a long standing practice in many operations, pork producers sometimes rush the isolation period, or use inadequate testing and facilities, McClain notes. "But, this only increases the chance of introducing disease into the herd."

To reduce this threat of disease and get optimum benefit from the new breeding stock, producers should set up an isolation program in consultation with their own veterinarian, McClain advises. "This could prevent economically devastating problems later on," he says. "The 60-day isolation program we've developed for producers purchasing Kleen Leen breeding stock, for instance, is one

such proven precaution against these problems."

Separate facility

The isolation facility is perhaps the most critical component of a successful receiving program, according to the swine expert. It should be at least 100 feet from other animals in the operation, and should have the same rodent and pest control protection as other buildings on the farm.

There should also be adequate space in an isolation unit. "No more than two boars should occupy a pen, with each pen being no smaller than 16 x 18 feet, or a total of 64 square feet per boar," McClain advises. "In addition, sleeping areas should be provided away from feeding and watering location," he notes.

"Fifteen days after arrival, breeding stock should be tested for and vaccinated against disease," McClain says. "Producers should work with their local veterinarians at this time to ensure that the new breeding stock is vaccinated against leptospirosis and erysipelas. Vaccinations against parvovirus and other diseases like infectious atrophic rhinitis are optional, depending on local veterinarians' recommendations," he adds.

Whatever vaccinations and tests are used, however, producers should keep detailed records of all injections and tests, McClain emphasizes.

Retesting important

But a single round of testing and

vaccinations may not provide sufficient protection against such economically devastating diseases as pseudorabies, McClain cautions. "For this reason, we recommend producers observe their new stock closely during this critical period, and retest for pseudorabies with a blood test 30 days after the new breeding stock arrives," he says.

"This procedure is also recommended to producers purchasing Kleen Leen breeding stock, even though all our animals are either individually tested or come from herds qualified pseudorabies free," he continues.

At this time, producers should have their veterinarian evaluate the new stock, McClain advises. "This is just one more precaution that producers can take to protect their valuable assets.

"Besides blood testing for pseudorabies, there are a number of other diseases that could pose a threat to a hog operation," McClain points out. Some, such as infectious atrophic rhinitis and mycoplasma pneumonia, may best be detected through observation, he says. "This just underscores the need for producers to take enough time to observe their new stock, and to choose breeding stock from herds like Kleen Leen's that routinely perform slaughter examinations," McClain declares. "These slaughter examinations let us look inside a sample of the animals of a herd to evaluate that herd's health," he says.

Approximately 45 days after arrival, when all testing is complete and results are back, fecal matter from the isolation area should be brought into the pens of open sows and gilts, the veterinarian recommends. In addition, fecal matter from the herd should be scattered in the boars' pen. "This is the safest and simplest procedure available for exposing the old and new animals to each other," he says. "It helps build resistance to swine health problems such as SMEDI or parvovirus, which can cause small litters and infertility. In fact, non-pregnant females exposed to SMEDI or parvovirus in this manner build up immunity to the viruses."

Once gradual exposure is complete at 60 days, the new

breeding stock should be introduced into the herd, McClain says. By this time the producer should have identified any animals with problems and removed them, he points out. "These steps can help ensure that healthy, working breeding stock are ready to become part of the herd."

The testing and vaccinations conducted during this critical, 60-day period help to identify and prevent problems that could potentially cripple a producer's operation, McClain insists. "Kleen Leen recommends that producers allow adequate time for this period, complete with rounds of vaccinations and testing for disease. These guidelines," he says, "will help to keep the producer's herd healthy, and prevent economically devastating health problems."

Dow hiking Telone production

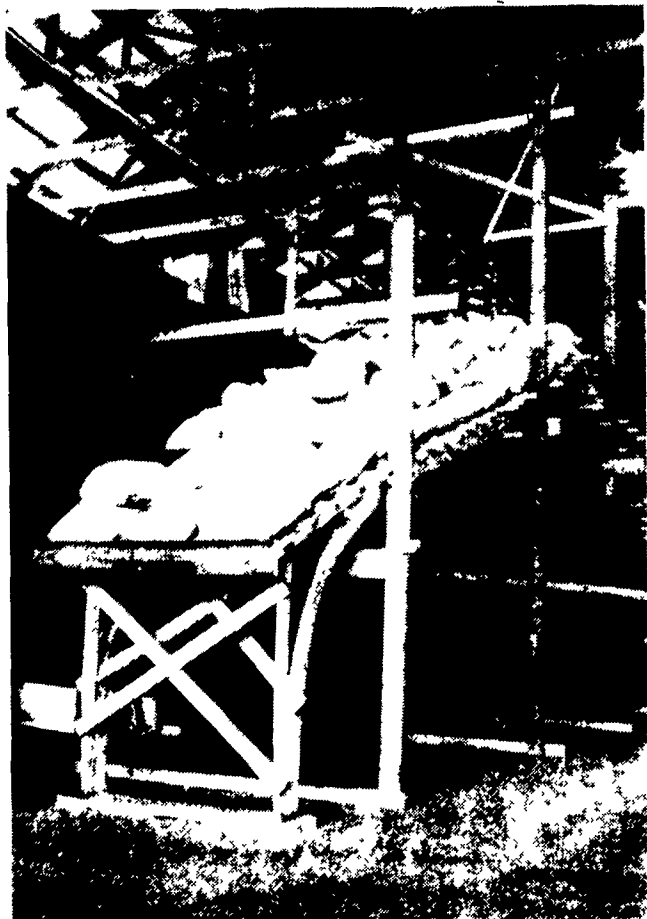
MIDLAND, Mich. — The Dow Chemical Company has committed additional resources to Telone brand soil fumigants in an effort to ensure the continued supply of these products. The increased demand for Telone soil fumigants is the result of recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency action on ethylene dibromide (EDB) and a Shell Chemical Company decision to withdraw their dichloropropene/dichloropropane mixture (D-D) from the market.

"We are investing more than \$1 million in capital to further improve the quality and the quantity of Telone brand products available" said Bob Flannery, Dow's business manager for insecticides and fumigants. "This investment will increase U.S. production of Telone brand products by more than 75 percent to meet forecasted product demands," Flannery added. Similar commitments have been made at the other Dow plants in Europe as well.

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