

Lincomycin can be used for swine MPS, dysentery

KALAMAZOO, MI — Two of the most serious — and costly — diseases faced by swine producers today can be effectively and economically handled with one antibiotic, a company veterinarian stated recently before a gathering of swine practitioners.

According to Dr. Terry Cowan, technical services veterinarian for The Upjohn Company, the proper use of lincomycin can significantly reduce the severity of cases of mycoplasmal pneumonia in swine (MPS), as well as treat and control swine dysentery.

Dr. Cowan discussed the use of lincomycin in treating swine dysentery and mycoplasmal pneumonia at a swine seminar held recently at Upjohn's Brook Lodge Conference Center in Augusta, Michigan. The seminar was attended by key swine veterinarians from across the United States.

Dr. Cowan, whose responsibilities include offering veterinary advice and troubleshooting expertise to producers and practitioners in the field, reviewed his own experiences with lincomycin. "I'm convinced of the efficacy of lincomycin in the field," Dr. Cowan said. "I was convinced it worked even before I started working for Upjohn. Now, I am able to see the results of lincomycin treatment first-hand and I know it's effective as well as economical for treating mycoplasmal pneumonia and controlling swine dysentery in the long run."

Dr. Cowan recommends treating

mycoplasmal pneumonia, a chronic respiratory disease that makes a pig susceptible to secondary infections, at an approved level of 200 grams of lincomycin per ton. Swine dysentery, an infectious disease of the large intestine, also called bloody scours, can be treated with a 100-gram level of lincomycin per ton of feed for at least three weeks, and controlled by a 40-gram per ton level thereafter.

"My experience indicates that it's very economical to treat mycoplasmal pneumonia with a lincomycin feed additive in the starter ration," Dr. Cowan explained. "As far as the transmission of mycoplasmal pneumonia goes, the period when pigs are weaned and grouped can be one of the most stressful times in their life, thus making them more susceptible to infection. This program is cost-effective when you consider the average feed consumption of a pig that is weaned at three weeks of age." Dr. Cowan estimates that such a treatment program would cost the producer an average of \$1 or less per pig and potentially pay for itself in reduced days to market.

The 200-gram level of lincomycin, according to the veterinarian, will reduce the number of infected lobes, and the size and severity of lesions in pigs infected by *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, the organism that causes mycoplasmal pneumonia.

Dr. Cowan also stressed that lincomycin can be equally cost-effective in both treating and

controlling swine dysentery. "I observed field trials in units with histories of swine dysentery," he explained. "These units commingled feeder pigs that had been purchased at sale barns — just the sort of pigs that are going to have a lot of disease problems." Dr. Cowan discovered that the performance of such pigs given lincomycin easily outdistanced that of pigs under the same conditions given different medications.

"The mortality rate varied from 29 percent for a group on one product, down to 4 percent for the group on lincomycin," Dr. Cowan said. "And although the efficacy of the drug shouldn't be evaluated on total performance, I believe overall performance is a reflection of the success of disease control and management. The pigs fed lincomycin certainly showed that in terms of average daily gain and feed efficiency."

In comparing the economics of lincomycin with other products, Dr. Cowan also discovered that the medication was as cost-effective as other treatment programs. "I used current retail prices and manufacturers' recommended dosages to compute the average treatment cost per pig given a standard level of infection," Dr. Cowan explained. "Lincomycin was comparable with its competitors at \$3.77 per pig for swine dysentery treatment and control. Some of the programs averaged in the \$5 and \$6 range per pig," he added.

"Lincomycin is a proven medication," Dr. Cowan con-

cluded. "It's been in the field — and working well in the field — for over ten years. It doesn't pay to take shortcuts with swine diseases. The most expensive treatment program for the producer is going

to be the one that doesn't work. Swine dysentery and mycoplasmal pneumonia need to be treated effectively and consistently to enable the producer to make the most out of his investment."

Pennwalt names president of agrichemicals division

PHILADELPHIA, PA — Pennwalt Corporation has named Dr. Aris Karayannidis president of its Agrichemicals Division. The Division manufactures and markets worldwide a broad line of pre- and post-harvest pesticides and computerized electronic sizing and sorting equipment for fresh fruit and vegetable packing houses.

Karayannidis began his career with Pennwalt in 1974 in Paris as assistant to the managing director of Pennwalt France, part of the Corporation's International Chemicals Division. Since then he has held several management positions in the European Chemical Specialties in West Germany and assistant to the managing director of European Chemical Specialties.

Karayannidis also served as manager of the Agchem Decco Division in France and deputy managing director of Pennwalt France-Chemicals. His most recent assignment has been managing director of the Agrichemicals Division in Europe.

Karayannidis received his



Aris Karayannidis

masters degree in electronics engineering from the University of West Berlin and a masters degree in business administration from the University of Munich. He earned a doctor of philosophy degree in computer science from the University of West Berlin.

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