

Avian Flu Monitor

Maryland Extension issues poultry movement guidelines

COLLEGE PARK, Md. — Avian influenza nearly wiped out the poultry industry in Pennsylvania two years ago, and threatened poultry producers in the Delmarva region of Maryland and Delaware.

Although researchers, veterinarians, and state officials were able to curb the spread of the disease, experts say the local poultry industry is not yet out of danger.

"The problem is still out there, and the potential exists for the disease to remain undetected and spread to commercial, specialty or backyard flocks," says Dr. Edward T. Mallinson of the University of Maryland's Cooperative Extension Service.

For at least the next 30 days, says Mallinson, producers are being asked to stop any business transaction with live birds that would involve their transport from one farm or region to another.

"We're asking producers to sit tight for a little while. This situation may resolve itself in fewer than 30 days, but we don't want to take any chances," Mallinson says.

Apparently, the movement of live birds which may be recovered carriers of the disease is the most common way avian influenza spreads, he says. The disease also may be spread by unsanitary poultry trucks and crates that contain virus-contaminated droppings or other debris.

In the meantime, he says, producers large and small should follow these guidelines to weather the storm:

***Restrict traffic to your farm.** That applies especially to other growers and shippers of live birds, and it includes family and friends who handle live birds.

***Don't visit other farms.**

***Don't borrow or lend equipment or machinery.**

***Shower and shampoo immediately after coming in contact with others who are involved in the poultry industry and before you enter your poultry house**

***Don't allow anyone to enter your poultry house or egg room unless they are wearing sanitized coveralls and boots. Change your clothing when you leave your poultry house. And keep a pair of boots to be used only for your poultry house or egg room.**

***Only bring on the farm, or take from the farm, those articles that can be cleaned or disinfected.**

***Avoid contact with all wild birds and waterfowl.**

***Notify state agriculture officials if you have a noticeable rise in disease or deaths in your flock. Excellent and free diagnostic services are available.**

Juniata-Perry swine seminar scheduled

NEW BLOOMFIELD — The Second Annual Swine Management Seminar sponsored by the Tuscarora Pork Producers and the Juniata-Perry Cooperative Extension Services will be held on Tuesday, Mar. 4, according to John P. Harris.

The all-day meeting will be held at the Blain Fire Company Building, Blain Picnic Grounds, Blain, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Subjects to be discussed will be "Making a Profit in the Hog Business Today" by Virgil Crowley, PSU Farm Management Extension; "What Kind of Hog Meets Today's Market Demand" by Doug Clemens, Hatfield Packing Co.; "Using the Services of the Diagnostic Laboratory" by Dr. Tom Drake, Veterinarian, Penn State; "A Practical Vac-

ination Program for Swine" by Dr. Larry Hutchinson, Extension Vet, Penn State.

In addition numerous commercial exhibits will be on display.

This educational event will require advance registration. A

registration fee of \$6.50 covers the noon meal and use of the building. Checks should be made payable to the "Tuscarora Pork Producers and mailed to the Perry County Extension Service, Courthouse, New Bloomfield, no later than February 24, 1986.

Livestock dealer ordered to pay civil penalty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Agriculture has ordered Richard D. Baumert, of Rt. 1, Herndon, Pa., to pay a \$1,500 civil penalty and placed him under a cease and desist order.

A USDA official said the penalties were ordered in default when Baumert failed to answer federal administrative charges of doing business as a livestock dealer without a bond.

Baumert buys cattle at auction markets in central Pennsylvania, Maryland, the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, and in West Virginia.

B. H. (Bill) Jones, head of USDA's Packers and Stockyards Administration, said Baumert has since filed a \$30,000 letter of credit which satisfies the bonding requirement.

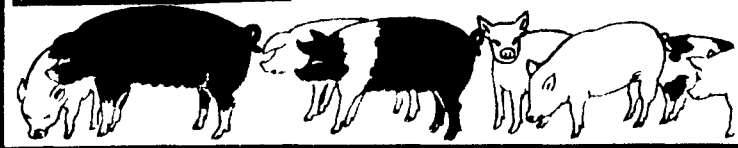
The cease and desist order, similar to an injunction, was issued to insure future compliance with the Packers and Stockyards (P&S) Act



Pork Prose

by
Kenneth B. Kephart

Ration Formulation



Formulating a swine ration is more than just meeting nutrient requirements. Your real goal is to produce hogs as cheap as you practically can. That doesn't mean you'll always be feeding for maximum performance. Instead you should be feeding for economical performance.

So how do you decide what ingredients to use? You might compare costs per bushel. But that gets you into trouble since grains have different bushel weights. You could, instead, compare costs per pound. That's a better method. But it's still not perfect since your feed will include many other ingredients besides the 2 or 3 you're comparing in cost.

Probably the simplest and most foolproof method is one that involves a few simple steps. First, formulate the new ration and calculate its cost. Compare that cost to your standard ration. Then decide whether the difference in cost will outweigh any changes in performance. This method works for energy ingredients. It works for protein ingredients. You can even use it for deciding on a feed additive.

Let's say your standard ration is the corn-soy mixture shown below.

Ingredient	Amount	Cost
Corn	1660 lbs	\$ 74.41
Soybean Meal	290 lbs	\$ 29.00
Vit Min	50 lbs	\$ 15.00
	2000 lbs	\$118.11

This ration contains 14% crude protein and 65% lysine and is based on corn at \$2.50/bu., soybean meal at \$200/ton and vitamin-mineral premix at \$15/50 lbs.

Now suppose you'd like to make a switch to barley. Barley has more protein and lysine than corn. Unfortunately, the lysine in barley is not as digestible as it is in corn. So to be safe, substitute on a pound-for-pound basis. If barley is selling for \$2.00/bu, the same ration (using barley instead of corn) will cost \$113.16/ton.

Now you have to make a decision. The barley ration is cheaper. But the feed conversion won't be as good on barley. So which is the better buy? Divide the cost of the corn ration into the cost of the barley ration. You get about 96% (\$106.86/\$118.11=96%). The two feeds are within 4% in cost. Hog performance won't be that close, so you're better off with corn at these prices. To be competitive,

the barley ration should be 90% of the cost of the corn ration or less.

What about wheat? Performance is very similar to that of corn. But the extra lysine in wheat will save you about 35 pounds of soybean meal per ton. So the wheat ration will look like this (wheat at \$2.80/bu):

Ingredient	Amount	Cost
Wheat	1695	\$ 79.10
Soybean Meal	255	\$ 25.50
Vit Min	50	\$ 15.00
	2000	\$119.60

So even though wheat saves some soybean meal, the final ration is still more expensive than your standard. So at these prices you're still better off with corn.

What about sorghum? The final ration cost should be no more than 90 to 95% of the cost of a corn ration to be competitive.

You can do the same thing with protein ingredients. For example corn distillers solubles may seem like a good buy at \$140/ton. But they're very low in lysine (9% vs 3.18% for soybean meal). Because of the low lysine, you might suggest putting in only 100 lbs per ton. Look what happens.

Ingredient	Amount	Cost
Corn	1590	\$ 70.98
Soybean Meal	260	\$ 26.00
Soluble	100	\$ 7.00
Vit Min	50	\$ 15.00
	2000	\$118.98

This ration will have a .65% lysine, but it took a lot of soybean meal. So the overall cost is still higher than your corn ration even though you're using a protein source that doesn't cost much per ton.

What about feed additives? For example Lincomycin might add \$28/ton to your feed cost. If your standard ration costs \$118.11/ton, the new ration will be \$146.11/ton. The new ration is about 24% more expensive (\$146.11/\$118.11=124%). Will this antibiotic increase performance by 24%? If you've got a problem with dysentery, it probably will. But if your pigs are reasonably healthy and you're feeding the antibiotics for growth and feed efficiency, it's very unlikely that you'd get your money back.

So the bottom line in making any change from your normal ration is to figure the total cost of your new ration. Compare that cost to your standard cost. Then decide whether the expected change in performance will outweigh the cost.

Penn State offers swine AI course

UNIVERSITY PARK — Pork producers interested in learning how artificial insemination can fit into their program should register for an artificial insemination short course being offered by Penn State University.

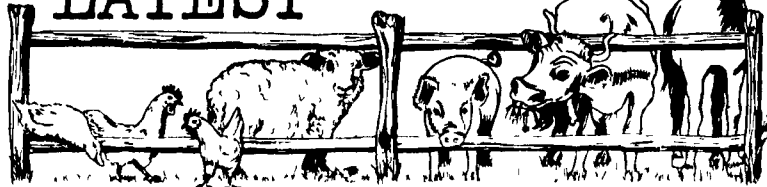
Scheduled for Mar. 4 and 5, the course will feature presentations by Extension Swine Specialist Ken Kephart, Dairy and Animal Science professor Daniel Hagen and assistant swine herdsman David Hesterman. Also on the program will be semen handling expert Mary Pavelko of Eldora, Iowa.

Participants looking for some hands-on training will be able to try their hand at insemination during Wednesday morning's practice session.

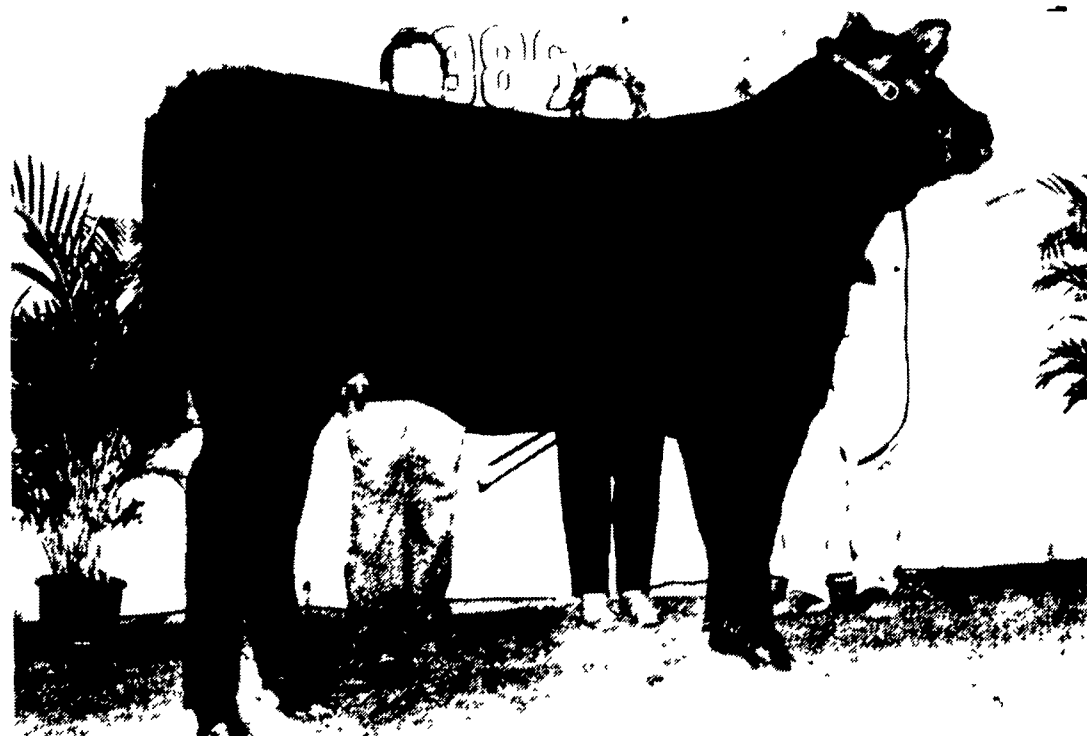
Though artificial insemination has been slow to catch on in the swine industry, Ken Kephart notes that the technique can be justified on a limited basis in virtually any size herd. "The biggest advantage is being able to shut the doors completely to any live animal coming in," says the Extension specialist. Farmers using fresh semen will find that startup costs for equipment are minimal, he says.

With registration for the course due no later than Monday, Kephart urges interested producers to call 814-865-8301 for details.

LIVESTOCK LATEST



Pennsylvania champ 'a way down South'



Judge Larry Gotton slapped Primrose Charm for grand and intermediate champion female honors at the 1986 Dixie National Livestock Show, Jackson, Miss. Her owners are Genetics Unlimited, West Grove, Pa.; Riverside Farms, Hamilton, TX; and I&N Angus, Greenfield, Ind. (American Angus Assoc. photo)