

Biosecurity Vital To Controlling Swine Disease

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NEW HOLLAND (Lancaster Co.) — Pork producers should understand the three rules of biosecurity in controlling swine disease: "isolation, isolation, isolation," according to Dr. Warren Wilson, veterinarian with Miles Animal Health.

Wilson spoke to 150 pork producers and agribusiness representatives at the first annual Pork Production Forum at Yoder's Restaurant on Wednesday.

According to the Miles veterinary technical services veterinarian, two areas pose special problems in controlling swine disease: the area of load-out and how dead animals are handled.

What producers should concentrate on in limiting disease transmission and outbreak on the farm are the location of facilities and "people management." And disease should be handled, not only because it can be extremely costly, but because of the "frustration factor" for the business.

"The frustration factor of disease on people is really demoralizing," Wilson said.

Following are procedures that producers use to successfully control disease:

- Provide shower-in, shower-out facilities for workers. Monitor those who enter the hog facility. Make sure they follow the cleanliness procedures before entering any hog facility.
- Provide an office or lounge area for personnel to change into unit clothing.
- Ensure that workers don't exit the facility with unit clothing.
- Make sure the facility is bird- and rodent-proofed, totally enclosed on concrete.
- Keep monthly pest control procedures on schedule. Monitor and control rodents.



Scott Augsburger, Reynolds, is one of the new LanChester directors of the LanChester Pork Producers.

Slaughter trucks should be monitored intensively. "Slaughter trucks are one of the most likely ways for the farm to get contaminated," said Wilson. "It is extremely critical you make sure you know where the truck has been."

Also, producers should be careful when "sharing equipment," because that's another potentially dangerous source of disease.

Feed trucks are another potential source. In Wisconsin, all feed truck companies carefully clean and disinfect the trucks on a regular basis. Also, monitor corn quality for mycotoxins and other source of pathogens. Feed spills also provide a tremendous source of bacteria and viruses that can be transmitted to swine by birds and rodents.

Wilson challenged the producers to employ the technique known as MBWA — Management By Walking Around — by taking a look at all areas of the operation and fixing up those that put swine health at risk.

"Pig production is basically people management," he said. "The best swine producers keep careful details with records. Detail people are very good with swine producers."

Also, the vet can also be a potential source of disease introduction into the farm. It is important that the vet also employ good biosecurity on the farm — making use of sterilized equipment and supplies.

Wilson emphasized the importance of proper animal disposal (using enclosed incinerators in a separate building or some way of adequate disposal that doesn't threaten farm biosecurity) and load out (using one-way gates and doors and using all-in-, all-out procedures that don't mix potentially disease-carrying hogs).

For maximum production and maximum profit, Wilson indicated the producer should be concerned about the swine environment. "If we can have a 90 percent farrowing rate and 10-11 pigs born alive and bring all to farrow that are bred, we'd have no problem," he said.

Unfortunately, that's not the case with many producers.

Producers should look into what may cause prolonged weaning-to-estrus intervals (excessively hot or cold environment?), make sure estrus is detected on time (is this a management or social problem?), low farrowing rates (under 50 percent is critical and needs to be looked at closely), and dealing with pseudopregnancy (is it caused by disease, environmental, or feed?)

Ultimately, the facility has "a



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tremendous influence on reproduction," said Wilson. Producers should follow the "50-80-50" rule — swine breathing should not exceed 50 respirations per minute, the house temperature should never rise above 80 degrees F., and the humidity should never exceed 50 percent in the house.

Wilson indicated that producers should work closely with their feed provider and veterinarian to employ methods of controlling

disease on the farm.

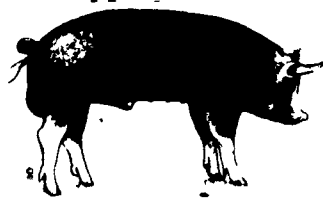
Abe Fisher, Pennsylvania Pork Producers, told the producers that the pseudorabies virus (PRV) Eradication Program is continuing to improve the PRV status in the state. At this time last year, he said, there were 118 quarantined herds. As of Wednesday, there were 78. Of the 78, 72 had herd plans, and 13 were testing off. However, there are six herds that still must begin a successful eradication program.

Fisher said that Pennsylvania is still only at the Pork Quality Assurance Level II, while many other states are at level III and beyond. Delaware is at Level IV, New Jersey at III, and Ohio at III. If the number of herds under quarantine in Pennsylvania drops to 75, the state is eligible to go to Level III.

Plans are important to protect the other producers who have brought PRV under control. Those that haven't developed and implemented a herd plan could face depopulation in the future, Fisher indicated.

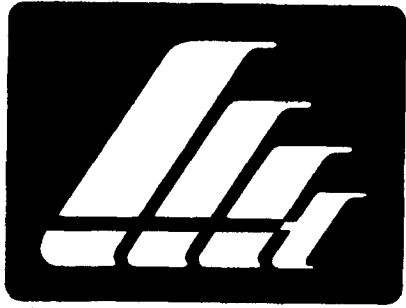
Also, review of Level II and III programs and certification were provided during two concurrent seminars at the meeting.

The Pork Production Forum replaces the annual LanChester Pork Producers Annual Banquet, normally scheduled for January. At the meeting this week; new directors were elected. They are Ronald Butt, Lincoln University, Chester County; Scott Augsburger, Reynolds, Lancaster; and Robert Hess, Mount Joy, Lancaster.



"She shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call him Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:21

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