

Aeration Key

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dependently on other sow farms and finishing operations with mixed results. Some farmers have noticed a reduction of odors with the bacteria alone however, according to Frame, "We get a bigger bang for our buck when we do it (addition of bacteria) in conjunction with this aeration system."

"Our focus of why we are really doing this," said Jennifer Reed, nutrient compliance director for Country View Family Farms, "is we wanted to address the community's concerns of odor from the lagoons and odor from land application. That's where we have been getting the majority of complaints. That's why we chose this system, because it targets those issues."

This system has also been replicated at the Sullivan Township pig farm in Tioga County, to address odor concerns at that facility. The Sullivan farm is almost identical in size and scale to the Pine Hill facility.

The group of decision makers settled on this type of aeration system after reviewing many other methods.

"When you have a poly lined lagoon, you've got to be careful because of your liner. There is another type of aeration that is a floating unit where it's sup-



A sign greets visitors to the Pine Hill Sow Farm.

posed to force air down in, however, our evaluation indicates that this is more effective. We've got the air starting at the bottom and coming up," said Frame.

At the Pine Hill Farm, 2,800 sows are housed in a farrow-to-wean barn.

Each sow has about 11 piglets per litter. The piglets remain on the farm until they weigh about 14 pounds. At that point they are trucked to a nursery farm, where they are kept until they weigh between 45 and 50 pounds. From there, the piglets are

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