



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### GROWTH PROMOTANTS GOING, GOING, GONE

By Ken Palen

Yes folks! In the next year or so the use of low level growth promotants in water and feed are gone. Canadian pharmaceutical companies are voluntarily pulling these product claims to help meet the general public and the government concerns, but also to better match the U.S. regulations. Also, many drugs that are now available over the counter for feed, water or injectable may require a vet script to even purchase. This is a big change from where we are today especially with feed mills where often the bin of feed runs empty at times when veterinary service is not readily available to provide the script. There will be many articles in the press describing the who, what, when, where and why of the change so keep an eye out for this information. But let's not wait for the curtain to come crashing down before we get the applause. Let's do some experimenting on our farms to get ready. Many of you are already in great shape and only use medication required for treatment for short periods of time (2 to 4 weeks) in the finishing barns, often no medication is used in the sow ration at all. Nursery feeds are the major users and rightfully so. These little babies are still building up their immune systems until they are 5 to 8 weeks old, therefore are more susceptible to disease pressure. So in my estimation the industry is quite able to accept this change without a lot of headaches.

Many factors that impact livestock immune systems can still be improved to make it less likely to need drug treatments on pigs. If it is necessary then livestock producers and the care people of the livestock must have the right and the availability of medication to save these animal's lives if possible. The veterinarians can help guide us but when an animal needs treatment it is impractical to have a veterinarian come to the farm to do the actual treatment. Improvements can be made as follows:



#### Nutrition

Feed optimum levels of protein (amino acids), energy, fat, vitamins and minerals to each class of livestock. Lactating sows, dry sows, three or four nursery feeds and up to three grower finisher feeds.

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Inside this Issue:

#### Growth Promotants Going, Going, Gone

By: Ken Palen



*Get your piglets off to the right  
start with firstSTART® P piglet  
milk replacer.*



**A mildly acidified milk replacer  
designed to supplement or  
replace nutrition for young  
piglets.**

**Helps to increase weaning  
weights and prevent growth  
reduction at weaning with:**

- Dairy products of the highest quality
- A high concentration of protein
- Easily digestible fat
- Essential amino acids
- Minerals and vitamins

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69819 London Road, RR #1, Centralia, Ontario, Canada, N0M 1K0

Tel: (519) 228-6444 or 1-800-265-2904 • Fax (519) 228-6560 • Email [kpalen@kenpal.on.ca](mailto:kpalen@kenpal.on.ca) • [www.kenpal.on.ca](http://www.kenpal.on.ca)



### Fresh and ready feed

Ray McNichol of Blyth roasts all of the soybeans required for his farrow-to-finish rations. He has observed definite benefits from weekly versus monthly roasting.

"We get better performance by keeping feed fresh," he explains. "KenPal has worked with me to provide premixes as I need them to make up feed."

"Thanks to the KenPal program, I'll wean more pigs per sow this year than ever before," adds McNichol. "Pigs in our starter area have never looked so good. And while the inclusion rate per tonne of complete feed is higher with KenPal premixes, I find their programs to be more economical than the competition's." ■

Source: Feeder's Digest, Mid 1980's

## The McNichol Family - Then and Now

For the McNichol's, the swine business is a family business. Brian McNichol grew up carefully watching his father, Ray McNichol (left) on his farrow-to-finish operation. Brian now owns and operates RMB Farms in Blyth, Ontario, with his father, brother Mike and the help of his three sons Tyler, Kal and Louis. Brian has been a customer of Kenpal since he began farming and Ray started with the company in the mid 1980s.

Brian and his family have recently taken on a new farm, new pigs and a new challenge with Kenpal at their side. This past October, they expanded from a 300 sow farrow-to-finish operation to 800 sows and are finishing about a third of the pigs on their own. They are currently using a variety of Kenpal and STARTline® products including drySTART®, farrowSTART®, firstSTART®P, leanSTART®, and Lacta Fat® along with a full line of Kenpal premixes for all of their feeds. They also make all of their own feed right on farm.

Excellence in farm management, in combination with quality feed products, create exceptional results and the proof is in their records (right).

Kenpal looks forward to working with the McNichol family at their new location and with the generations to come.

### RMB FARMS PERFORMANCE DATA

March 15/15 - May 24/15

#### FARROWING

Farrowings	322
Average parity farrowed	1.0
Total born per farrow	15.4
Liveborn per farrow	14.4
Farrowing rate	96.3

#### WEANING

Pigs weaned per female	12.9
Average weaning age	19.7
Weaned/mated female/year	32.5



**Brian McNichol & Sons**  
RMB Farms  
Blyth, ON

June 2015

Kenpal Farm Products Inc., 69819 London Rd, RR #1 Centralia, ON, N0M 1K0

Tel: 519-228-6444 • Toll Free: 1-800-265-2904 • Fax: 519-228-6560

kpalen@kenpal.on.ca • www.kenpal.on.ca

Evaluate non-drug additives to help boost immune systems. New options of enzymes, herbs, spices and essential oils have shown great promise in some applications.

### Environment

Matching body weight to space allotment for animals, less crowding means less competition so better immune systems.

Mix pigs as little as possible to reduce competition for pen allotments.

Ventilation – Proper exchange rates of air, clean fans, and clean buildings to reduce dust pressure all lead to good ventilation. Many producers are more experts at this than the experts but maybe once have a ventilation person come through and check things out.

### Health/Hygiene

Overall health of the herd can be maintained with the use of proper vaccination schedules and proper applications of such. Getting the veterinarian to do a full audit of vaccines and other medication on the farm can really pay off. The fridge check including application methods is important.

### Overall

It looks like we are going to have some good corn quality this year so it is a perfect time to do some trials with nutrition (extra ration, or bump it up). Environment (more space, clean fans, expert audit), Health Hygiene (more washing, use of drying agents and Veterinarian audits of applications, needle size, water flow rates, chlorine in water and impact on drugs).

In summary there are always lots of ways to improve somewhere on a farm. Maybe this new approach to antibiotic use on farms will benefit us in the end. Be safe at harvest and enjoy the great fall we are having.

Thank you.

## VITAMIN/MINERAL PREMIXES & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS FOR SWINE

the **START** line.

**farrowSTART.**

To help prepare for the increased nutrient demands due to farrowing

**litterSTART.**

Extra nutrition fed from weaning to breeding

**sowSTART.**

To help boost nutrient intake during lactation

**firstSTART. P**

A high quality milk replacer for young piglets

**drySTART.**

A drying agent for all stages of pork production

## **WE TAKE BIOSECURITY SERIOUSLY**

At Kenpal we take all the precautions into consideration when it comes to biosecurity. For the benefit of our customers, we make sure our equipment is as clean as possible.

- We wash our trucks everyday in our onsite washbay, which was built in 2001.
- Drivers wear clean disposable boots whenever appropriate.



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS**

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