



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



Late Summer Tune Up

By Ken Palen

What another great summer in the Ontario hog business. Good quality corn, good health, good prices and good weather for growing hogs overall. But talking about weather; it has been hot, hot and some crops got very little rain. In fact, there are some really poor crops in some areas. Our thoughts go out to the farms dealing with the dry spots. So what do we need to tune up?

Selling Hogs

Most sow herds have produced the most pigs weaned ever in their history this year. The size of the market hog has skyrocketed up 275 lbs to 300 lbs (125-135 kgs) and guess what? The barn did not get bigger. We did not reduce the number of sows farrowing. Health got better, so not as many hogs died.

The barns are backed up and pigs do not grow very fast in packed barns in August. They slow right down. This year, it even happened in July with the heat. Time to tune up the pig flow, waiting for cool weather may not work. The pig price has been going down, not up, so selling lighter hogs at a packer discount maybe your best move. Planning for next year maybe a good plan to tune up as well. Farrowing less sows, building a bigger barn, shipping to a lighter hog market or selling feeder pigs are all options.

Finding Corn or Wheat for Feed

I hope I am wrong, but some of the corn fields may look better from the road than in the field. But there are some very good stands and some very poor stands. This year told us how good corn raises hogs. There is a big crop of wheat bulging out the bins, which is a good option for feed as well. Maybe a good time to look around Ontario for good quality corn and what elevators are in the area. Tuning up our feed supply to match production may be in order.

Cleaning up the Barns

Cleaning the barn floors, cobwebs, walls, fans etc. is a good job to get done before it gets cold.

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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:

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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

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Just remember cobwebs stop or reduce air flow and hurts performance in the summer and winter. Fixing pens, hose leaks, pull plugs, etc. is also good to get done before crops come off. Tuning up the facility will pay off with better air movement and health in the end. Don't forget to tune up the feed making machinery as well. Fixing leaks and holes in augers discourages rodents and helps reduce feed losses.

Barn Tours

Everything is warm and dry now so barn tours with veterinarians, nutrition advisers, plumbers, electricians, insurance companies, etc. could get done now. There is always less disease pressure in warm dry weather and it is easier to clean and dry entrance areas. Tuning up your health, nutrition and facility repair maybe good to do now.

Looking Back

For those of you that are training sons and daughters, or other future swine producers, on how you feel things should be done on the farm let's look back to the changes that have occurred in the past 30 or 40 years. This will maybe help us realize what may happen in the next 30 to 40 years and how they may have to farm totally different than what you did. For one thing the amount of paperwork that has been created by the powers to be has been mind boggling and has NO IMPACT on a true stockman or stockwoman's ability to raise hogs. In fact there could be a detriment with less time to spend with the animals we are raising trying to satisfy the demands of what the rule makers and consumer advocates say they require. Their goal really is to have the paper trail so the blame game can be followed back if a problem occurs in the food chain. Many producers have told me that there should be mandatory courses for future rule makers of working on a farm and proving you can make a living in an animal friendly way before you get to make the rules. If I remember that is how most of us started out. We did not learn the theory of raising livestock on a computer and then tell others how to do it.

Looking back most of the work on the farm was done with family members committed to the livestock's well-being. Pigs weaned were about 8 – 8.5 pigs and 16 pigs/sow/year marketed at 220 lbs (100 kg) live weight. Consumers loved and respected farmers as most had some connection in their past to the farm. One of the biggest rules I remember when I was 13 years old was do not drive the farm truck off the backroad onto the main highways until you are 16 years old and get a license. Our local municipal office was a very few miles away and the councilors knew everyone and you knew them as well. Many were farmers who knew the land, drains, history of the township, etc. My future father-in-law, with the help of his trained staff, made the decisions as road superintendent to open or close roads and one winter took the grader himself in a snow storm to get the ambulance to a lady on the 6th concession having a baby.

So have patience with the few people (less than 1% of the population) that still have the want and desire to work with livestock. They have a tough future trying to feed the new marketplace. Oh, if anyone is ever able to start this pig training farm for rule makers, please let me work for FREE to help train them. I want to work in the pig room without the computer. Thanks for your time.

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 APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

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