



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



WINTER TUNE UP TIME

By Ken Palen

With the festive season behind us what a perfect time to tune up the barn, biosecurity procedures, production records and review if any of the new technologies coming down the pipe will affect your business.

Starting with the whole barn, the following list could be used:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|----------------------|
| Ventilation service | Heater service | Water supply service |
| Feed delivery service | Barn washing | Biosecurity |

Ventilation

Cleaning all fans can help the consistent movement of air in the barn. Servicing the air intake louvers and testing the minimum air intake patterns (i.e. smoke test) can help identify poor manure patterns and why pigs pile or lay against walls showing an uncomfortable environment. This testing can also identify if air is dropping into the pit and bringing up pit air if moving too fast at drop points. Servicing and setting ventilation controllers is a job not everyone is trained to do. Getting in the manufacturer's ventilation servicing expert to help this time of year can reap big rewards on some farms. Adjusting and fine tuning ventilation is a process completed after everything is cleaned and serviced. It may take a couple of weeks to get it set to your liking and will change by the seasons.



Heater Service

Extending the ventilation clean up to the heater clean up and service

cont.>>

Inside this Issue:

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A ready-to-use drying powder for use in all stages of pork production. Easy to use and handle.

Use drySTART® in all stages of pork production from farrowing and nursery barns right through to finishing.



drySTART® helps to absorb moisture. Use drySTART® as part of your livestock facility management program to help maintain a dry environment between bedding and/or washing.

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is suggested. Like any heating appliance it can pay to get the manufacturer's service man or propane/gas supplier to help service the heater. New regulations also may require some engineering to ensure the suggested rate of turnover of air where heaters vent into the building not directly outside.

Water Supply

Checking the inside of your water lines can tell you a lot about your water supply and quality. Cutting open a line and seeing what is inside can show buildup of slime, iron and other stuff. Depending on what you find, taking a water nutrient test may be helpful in determining what treatment action is required or if just flushing the lines periodically may be enough to help reduce the work load of plugged nipples and other water devices. I have noticed the poultry industry has moved forward generally chlorinating the barn's water supply or using hydrogen peroxide or other cleaning and flushing agents, where needed, to reduce bacteria growth in the buildup in the water lines that could lead to possible health issues.

Feed Delivery Service

Starting at the mixer, then the auger and the feed ingredient bins, everything should be checked for feed and mould build up and a thorough cleaning around the equipment would be helpful in reducing rodents, possibly carrying disease. Flushing the complete system with whole corn can help rattle everything, clean and reduce the buildup if there is any in there. Hopefully you do not have a buildup of cob webs in your lines caused by some kind of moth. I have never done this but I hear you have to take apart every line etc., to clean. Feed is still about 70% of your cost of production so it pays to calibrate feeders and mixers and clean to ensure accuracy of this big investment.

Barn Washing

Reviewing these procedures yearly is always good to ensure we are not washing manure back up from the pit, just putting manure into the pit. Keeping hallways, shipping areas and production rooms clean and dry can be done this time of year with heaters going in the barn. Disinfectant products and procedures should also be reviewed yearly with the product manufacturers rep and veterinarians.

Biosecurity

This can be real simple or real complicated. Keeping it simple works best on most farms. Always consider the outside of buildings contaminated with birds, rodents, skunks, raccoons, trucks, people, etc. Therefore, always protect going into your barn by changing boots, coveralls or clothes and wash your hands before entering the barn. Showering in and out is practical on



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some farms but remember trying to clean the outside of the barn (i.e. gravel, grass, pavement, etc.) is impossible so focus your efforts on what you can control like entering the barns.

Production Records and New Technologies

Yearly accounting pays on financial and production records. Reviewing with the experts is necessary for most people. It is hard to be an expert at everything.

New technologies can be reviewed on cold snowy days as well. I like cutting out articles and throwing them into a drawer when I am busy and pulling out and reviewing when I have time.

Facial Recognition in Weighing Pigs

A new technology coming that can change the weighing of pigs is facial recognition. The equipment that people have is about 97% accurate now as described to my staff on a recent trip to Europe. Bottom line is they can tell the weight of the pig by the face. Amazing!

This is like the guy at the fall fairs that used to guess my weight by just looking at me. I don't think they were 97% accurate but if they were over 50% accurate they still made money.

Thank you for your time.

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