



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### CHECK CORN FOR MYCOTOXINS

By Ken Palen



Variation in rain fall and actual drought conditions in some areas have stressed Ontario's corn crop. Not all cobs were filled out to the end, leaving pockets for moisture to set in. Hot humid weather in September produced favourable conditions for pink mold to grow. Usually pink mold, a fusarium fungus also called Gibberella ear rot, in corn may produce mycotoxins. Recent dry weather has helped open up husks and dry down corn making it harder for the pink mold to grow.

Mycotoxins produced in corn in Ontario are usually Vomitoxin (DON or Deoxynivalenol) and Zearalenone (ZEN) with vomitoxin by far the most prevalent. Zearalenone can also grow further in storage so keeping corn clean and dry going into and while in storage is the best prevention from this happening. Other mycotoxins produced in corn are Fumonisin, T-2 Toxin, Ochratoxin A (OA) and in wheat and barley Ergot (not typically found in corn). So let's review what actions can be considered to deal with this threat.

#### Before and During Harvest

- Check all storage bins for damage or leaks were moisture can help further the growth of mold.
- When combining try to blow out small and bird damaged kernels back into the field.
- Use a cleaner when unloading corn into bins or silos to clean out red dog, bits of cob etc. that can create hot (moisture) spots in storage.
- Test field corn right away to target the best corn to the sows and nursery pigs and the other corn to older grower finisher hogs.

#### Feed Corn Right Away to Test

- Try feeding some corn to immature gilts (female pigs) to see if swelling occurs in vulvas.
- Feed some corn to nursery pigs and finisher pigs to see if feed intake is reduced right away or within two or three days or not at all.
- Test corn again coming out of storage for mycotoxins, usually

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Inside this Issue:

#### Check Corn for Mycotoxins

By: Ken Palen



*An easy-to-use nutritional top dress for sows and gilts to help improve reproductive performance.*



#### FEATURES

- Safe to handle
- Easy to use - just top dress on feed.
- Contains specialty ingredients essential to the reproductive functions such as Omega 3 fatty acids and sugars.
- A significant source of energy.
- Contains organic trace minerals.

#### POTENTIAL BENEFITS

- Decrease in weaning-to-estrus intervals.
- Improved conception rates.
- Maximized litter size.
- Increased farrowing rate.
- Superior reproductive performance.

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# KENPAL PREMIX + THE STARTLINE® = THE RIGHT COMBINATION TO HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY SOW HERD

## PRODUCER JOHN VAN DORP PULLS OUT ALL THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY SOWS, USING A COMBINATION OF KENPAL PREMIX & THE STARTline® SPECIALTY PRODUCTS



John and Karen Van Dorp and sons operate a 180 sow farrow-to-finish operation near Woodstock, ON. They started feeding with Kenpal in 2006, and quickly began to notice some major improvements.

John started with Kenpal by feeding Kenpal's Sow Premix. Previously they were experiencing some breeding problems, but once they started feeding the Sow Premix, with the first group in only 10 days they noticed a big change in the sows in breeding. Weaning-to-ostetrus interval (days) within each group quickly improved, in addition to bigger litter sizes as well.

Because the Van Dorp's had such great results with Kenpal premixes they decided to try some of the STARTline® swine specialty products, once again John was happy with the results. These products include:

### **firstSTART®P – Piglet Milk Replacer**

John first started using this for the simple reasons, helping to feed large litter sizes and the runts of the litters. It was soon after when John realized the benefits to feeding firstSTART®P to every litter, no matter the size. The Van Dorp's are seeing a consistent average of 5 lbs gain before weaning at 28 days. Also, when certain challenges arise they are able start feeding it at 2 days of age to assist the sow in keeping its condition.

### **sowSTART® – Sow Supplement**

This is another product John uses on a daily basis on his farm. "With a big litter size you need to help the sows maintain body condition while nursing. sowSTART® helps for that specific cause as well as resulting in a timely rebreed back time in the sows."

### **farrowSTART® – Farrowing Sow Top Dress Supplement**

farrowSTART is a product that John only uses when certain situations arise. He says "It's a good tool to have in your tool box when you need it; it works well to get the job done when you know there is an issue."

"I look forward to maintaining the great results I get when using Kenpal products, the relationship I have with my salesmen Andy, and the friendly delivery team. It makes your day when you work with happy and friendly people like the Kenpal crew!"



John Van Dorp  
Woodstock, ON  
May 10, 2012



vomitoxin and zearalenone.

### **Vomitoxin (DON) Effects**

- Reduced feed intake and/or vomiting pigs.
- More aggression and tail or flank biting.
- Lower immune systems resulting in more disease and poorer response to vaccines and treatments.

### **Zearalenone (ZEN)**

- Swollen vulvas in growing female pigs
- Abortions in sows, false pregnancies, poorer breeding
- Slower farrowing, more stillborns, more prolapses
- Reduced immune system and vaccine treatment response

### **Action if Mycotoxins are Present**

The best approach is to dilute corn with 100 kg to 250 kg of clean wheat or clean corn per tonne of finished feed depending on the severity of the toxin load or add a mycotoxin binder to the ration. There is lots of clean wheat in Ontario this year. Talk to your feed supplier about this option. In summary, we have been through this before, the secret is to not sit back but to take action quickly to minimize the financial impact. Good luck with the harvest and please be careful out there.

Thank you.

## **VITAMIN/MINERAL PREMIXES & SPECIALTY PRODUCTS FOR SWINE**

**the STARTline.**

**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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