

THE PIG ISSUE



Garth
Partnership

INTRODUCTION

As you will all be perfectly well aware the last few weeks news headlines have been dominated by the incorrectly named Swine Flu. We sent you a separate mailing on this giving some straightforward facts about H1N1 Influenza. Cynics have suggested that it came as a useful diversion for embattled governments worldwide. Reality has shown little impact on the general population with its rate of infection way below 'normal' seasonal influenza. However MP's have now captured the headlines back with their expenses fun and games so hopefully the influenza association with the pig population will go back where it belongs.

FEEDING YOUR SOWS



Remember that sow nutrition is vitally important in late pregnancy. It is in the last 3 weeks before farrowing that the piglets in the uterus gain 50% of their birthweight. Increasing feeding in the last 3 weeks will lead to higher birth weights and better viability piglets.

Some people are having great success in actually changing onto a lactation diet towards the end of the dry period – 14-21 days before farrowing. This leads to better birth weights and also means that the sow's digestive tract has adapted to the new diet before she enters the farrowing crate.

In turn this reduces inappetance and constipation around farrowing and may lead to higher intakes in the period post farrowing ensuring good milk production, and improved weaning weights.

Of course dry sows should have their food reduced in the few days before farrowing to prevent MMA – that is engorged, swollen udders with poor milk letdown, often the sow can be quite ill. Reduce feed by around 0.5kg per day for the 3-5days pre farrowing.



Please contact the practice to discuss your dry sow feeding with one of the vets.

SURVEY RESULTS

As part of the BPEX PCV2 Voucher Scheme farms had to provide records so that improvements from PCV2 vaccine use could be recorded and analysed. These results are now available and will be presented at a series of regional NPA AIG meetings in June (please see attached sheet). We would urge you to attend where possible to see for yourself how the commercially available vaccines performed.

TWENTY ONE TODAY!

A new product for the control of flies has become available. It contains the active ingredient azamethiphos (which was the active ingredient found in Alfacron Plus) coupled with fly attractants. It can be sprayed or painted resulting in a quick and effective end to flies and lasts up to 10 weeks if applied correctly.

If you require further details on pack sizes and cost please contact Jan or Elaine at the practice on 01262 488724.

BAYCOX PIGLET FORMULATION

Baycox 2.5% is a well-known product but one which we have only had available in a formulation designed for chickens. We needed to dilute it down before use with Propylene Glycol to make it palatable enough for oral use in piglets otherwise it was so strongly alkaline it could cause vomiting or even ulceration of the mouth.

Now a licensed pig product – Baycox 5% is available. It is twice the strength so users need to be aware they will only need to give half as much to the piglets.

Baycox is used on farms where coccidiosis scour is a problem which usually manifests itself at 10-17 days of age as a grey scour causing some loss of growth and bloom but not usually death.

Bayer have agreed to sponsor samples to be sent to the SAC laboratory from farms that suspect they have a problem with coccidiosis so that it can be confirmed.

Generally speaking farms with confirmed coccidiosis use Baycox at 4 days of age giving a single preventive dose to each pig by mouth. A single dose at this age stops the multiplication of the parasite and so the level of infection should never get high enough to cause clinical disease.

The dose in a pig of this age is 0.4ml of Baycox 5% orally.

Bayer supply variable dosing equipment for giving the product orally.



WORK PLACEMENTS REQUIRED

Two students from Reaseheath Agricultural College, Cheshire are looking for full employment positions on pig units as part of their HND Agriculture course.

Start would be July 2009 with employment for one year. Ideally accommodation would be provided.

Please contact Angela Boon on 01270 613271 to discuss further.

FOR SALE

- Six transition feeders for piglets
- Slats and supports for 24 farrowing crates

For further details please contact Mr A Foxton on 01377 217647