THE PIG ISSUE
April 2017
Garth Pig Practice Ltd

Biosecurity – By whatever name you call it we will keep on going on about it.

Biosecurity is defined as the combination of all measures taken to reduce the risk of introduction and spread of diseases on herd, region or country. It can be divided between two types, **External Biosecurity** and **Internal Biosecurity**. External biosecurity is the one we use to prevent/reduce the introduction of disease on our farms, while internal biosecurity is the measure used to reduce the spread of disease within the farm.

The importance of being strict and consistent when carrying out all the tasks and follow the procedures stated in our own biosecurity plan lies in the basic principle of "Better Biosecurity, Less Disease". This implies better production results and an improvement in reproduction, growth, feed conversion, uniformity and it will make your daily work easier. Potentially it will lead to a reduction in the use of antibiotics!!

It is important to understand how certain diseases can enter your unit and what measures you can implement to ensure that you are free of these diseases. These are the most common ways disease can enter your unit:

- Entry of pigs
- Entry of semen
- Windborne
- Via faeces and fomites (this can be transported by visitors, equipment, hauliers, dead stock wagon, feed wagon...)
- Birds, rodents, flies...
- Straw

External Biosecurity measures.

- In the case of windborne entry, there is very little that can be done and it will depend of the pig density in your area and the prevailing winds.
- Visitors: It is important to avoid the presence of unnecessary visitors and always provide protective clothing to the people who are going to be allowed in the unit. Ensure that a visitors book is available and that everybody signs it and respect the pig-freedom periods. Never forget that even if electricians, builders, etc are not in direct contact with the pigs there is still a potential risk if they are inside the unit and their tools and equipment could be a risk for transmission as well.
- Good perimeter fencing keeps out uninvited visitors.
- Livestock: Always check the health status of the source where the animals come from and perform the isolation and acclimatisation protocols discussed with your vet.
- Equipment: Always try to use dedicated farm machinery and if it goes offsite then a thorough cleaning and disinfection protocol needs to be applied.
- Loading ramp: Demarcate clearly the dirty and clean areas and do not allow drivers to enter the "unit area" of the ramp. Also when the ramp is cleaned ensure the dirty water does not run into the farm. Boots should be provided to the drivers and if that is not possible then dips with disinfectants must be used.
- Feed deliveries: Ideally feed deliveries should be done through a fence so that lorries do not need to enter the unit. Also owning your own farm pipes will reduce the risk. Other vehicles should also be kept as far away as possible from the livestock.
- Water: If water does not come from the mains, it is necessary to perform routine checks to assess the concentration of bacterias and contaminants.
- Dead stock wagon: The dead stock bin should be placed outside the perimeter of the unit for collection. Obviously the lorry has been at other farms and the potential risk of the spread of disease is very high due to what it transports. Ensure that the bin is washed before returning it to the unit.
- Straw: It is important not to use straw from land where pig slurry from other sources has been spread.
- Staff: Ensure that the staff know the rules regarding being in contact with pigs from other units.
- Vermin and birds: A strict vermin and bird control policy is essential, such as: covering hoppers needs to avoid the risk of contamination, clearing up all food spills and keeping the farm tidy to eliminate areas they could hide and breed.

Resorb²

A liquid electrolyte source, specially blended to simultaneously provide additional energy and with palatability in mind for maximum intake. Supplied in a 10L nut in box for ease of use and storage.

Diarrhoea incidence pre & post-weaning and the subsequent increases in piglet morbidity and mortality give rise to slow finishing growth and increased economic losses.

Colostrum intake allows the transfer of maternal antibodies to the piglets, it also contains vital growth factors which promote development of the gut and intake is considered to be one of the major determinants of piglet survival. Piglets born with a low vigour and/or low birth weight take longer to consume colostrum, consume less colostrum and are more susceptible to chilling and crushing by the sow due to low energy reserves at birth. Providing piglets with a readily available energy source and buffer substances can help support limited body reserves.

Diarrhoea in the neonatal piglet is a result of intestinal malfunction, normally, absorption and secretion of water and electrolytes occur throughout the intestine. Incidence of diarrhoea reduces net absorption or increases net secretion and causes an increased volume of fluid to enter the large intestine. As a result, the body loses fluids and electrolytes rapidly and these must be replaced to prevent dehydration. Electrolytes are essential in keeping piglets hydrated and in making up for many lost nutrients.

Resorb² is a liquid electrolyte, blended with energy sources and formulated with palatability in mind to encourage intake. It can be used in conjunction with other management strategies and veterinary advice to provide energy to weak piglets at birth and support piglets recovering from digestive issues in farrowing rooms. Recommended dosage is 40ml/1 litre of water in supplementary troughs the farrowing room and 1 or 2% solution in drinking water at weaning. As the product is supplied in liquid form and in a nut in box, measuring and mixing quantities is incredibly easy and straightforward.

New members to the Garth Team

This month we welcome three new members to the Garth team:

Nicola Bowers - technician

Nicola has a MSC from Edinburgh University in Applied Animal Behaviour and Welfare, and worked at Newcastle University as a research technician with particular emphasis on conventional and alternate farrowing systems and also has teaching experience.

Over the next few months we will be in contact to roll out the additional services we hope to offer with Nicolas assistance.

Joseph Lunt - intern

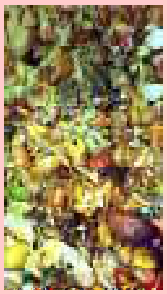
Joe Graduated from Liverpool in 2016 and has always wanted to work in production animal. He enjoys all aspects of Production work, though his major interest is in global farming practice, mainly through his involvement in 6 veterinary congresses on 4 continents, during his time at vet school.

Joe grew up with his house backing onto dairy farms in Cheshire. In his spare time he enjoys travelling to see colleagues abroad, skiing, reading and sea swimming

Sharon Darlington – dispensary assistant

Sharon has recently joined the company in the dispensary. This is a complete career change, having most recently worked in the care sector.

Sharon's hobbies include fell walking, growing organic veg on her allotment and chicken keeping, she also supports Dalmatian welfare and has rehomed a Dalmatian – Lottie.



Topical Talk - Catering Waste

It remains illegal to feed catering waste, kitchen scraps, meat or meat products to farmed animals. This is to prevent the introduction and spread of potentially devastating notifiable animal diseases, such as African and Classical Swine Fever, and Foot and Mouth disease. Please follow this link for the full News release:

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/apha-warns-not-to-feed-kitchen-scraps-to-farm-animals-because-of-disease-risk