



COVID-19: Garth Update

This situation is changing rapidly and whilst there may be some movement towards the lessening of lockdown, we must, as Boris urges, “stay alert”. Garth is taking every precaution to ensure that our staff and you are as safe as possible.



Though classified an essential industry, we have made arrangements for as many of our staff as possible to work from home. Likewise, non-essential visitors and contractors are not permitted on site at the moment.

Please continue to phone in your orders as early as you can so that we can effectively manage stock and distribution. If you need to visit the practice, then the system remains the same; please phone in advance and notify us of your arrival. Our team will dispense from the window or bring out supplies to you in the car park.

Red Tractor stipulates that all farms must still receive a quarterly visit. However, you now have the choice between a “normal” visit, whereby your vet comes onto your farm as usual, or a “remote” visit, which will involve a telephone call between you and your vet to discuss health, welfare and production. Remote visits will still require your vet to view your records and production data. When your quarterly visit is due, someone from the practice will phone you to discuss which is the best and safest option for you, and they will also advise you of the information your vet will require if you do opt for a “remote” consultation.

If you have any concerns or questions, do not hesitate to get in touch. Stay safe everyone!

Rotavirus in Pigs

Rotavirus scour is an increasingly common issue. Rotaviruses as a group affect many different species including cattle, poultry and people, and these strains are generally species specific.

Rotavirus in pigs is most commonly seen as scour around day 3 – 4 but can also occur post weaning. Whilst rotavirus can occur as early as day 1 that is unusual. To be infective one of the proteins on the virus surface has to be split by a pig gut enzyme (trypsin). Young pigs have trypsin inhibitors to prevent colostrum antibody being broken down in the first 24 hours, hence, in theory, limiting attachment of the virus.

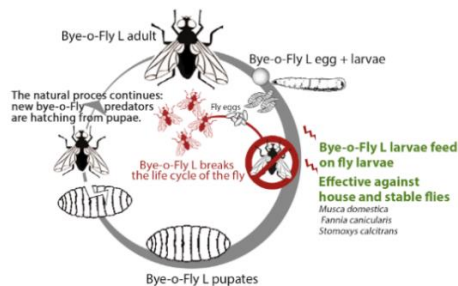
The virus destroys gut cells and also potentiates Chloride secretion into the gut and inhibits glucose absorption – hence messing up the body’s electrolytes. It may also affect the local gut activity and reduce peristalsis (hence the flaccid dilated guts at post mortem). This all makes the gut more susceptible to secondary bacterial invasion. This damage takes considerable time to repair - so pigs affected at 3 – 4 days of age may still not be recovered at weaning and thus have less gut enzyme and absorption capacity to deal with solid feed!

Unfortunately, it’s a very resistant virus. We find some success with Bi-oo-cyst (Biolink) and similar products designed to kill coccidial oocysts.

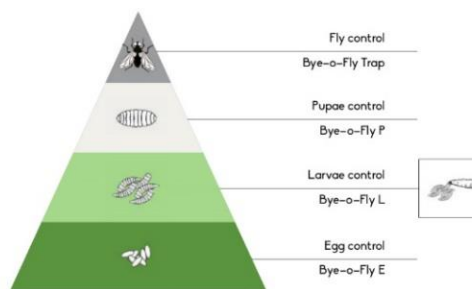
As much of the disease comes from disruption to electrolyte balance, treatment revolves around good nursing and supply of plentiful clean electrolytes. We find Resorb particularly palatable. In problem herds vaccination particularly of gilts can be useful.

Biocontrol of Flies within Pig Units

Pest flies are a common problem within commercial pig units which often impact upon animal welfare, cause undue stress to farm workers, and reduce growth of livestock. Whether your pigs are on a bedded floor or on slats, APPI Biotech Ltd are able to provide an effective and economical solution. APPI utilises a program of natural predatory insects to control pest fly populations. One of the major benefits of biological fly control is that it prevents flies from becoming a problem by addressing the juvenile stages such as the fly eggs, larvae, and pupae. These insects do not interact with livestock or humans, are completely safe to use and unlike chemical treatments, are impervious to resistance. The products are reared in laboratory conditions and are free from pathogens. APPI supplies 4 products, covering a solution for all life stages of the fly:



- **Bye-o-Fly E** – A predatory mite which targets and consumes fly eggs
- **Bye-o-Fly L** – A predatory fly whose larval stage consumes fly larvae
- **Bye-o-Fly P** – A parasitic wasp which parasitizes on fly pupae
- **Bye-o-Fly Bucket Trap** – An innovative baited trap for outdoor use which catches flies



The go-to product for pig units with slats and tanks is the **Bye-o-Fly L** fly larvae predators (*Ophyra aenescens*), previously called AppiFly. The start-up of a beneficial population in pig units requires 4 releases over the course of 2 months and the recommendation for maintenance is to top-up the population every 3 months with a single release. For situations where there is a severe or existing fly problem, we highly recommend introducing one or two releases of **Bye-o-Fly P** as well.

The Bye-o-Fly L fly larvae predators tend to form sustainable populations within farms and can therefore provide long lasting suppression of fly populations. Another benefit is the aeration of the

top layer of the slurry by this beneficial insect. A well implemented Bye-o-Fly control program reduces nuisance flies, and their impact upon pig growth, to a minimal level. The products are extremely simple to use and can save farmers both time and money in comparison to chemical treatments. For a free quotation, please contact the practice.

Meet the Team

Introducing to you our very own **Zoe Foreman**.



Zoe is Yorkshire born and bred, growing up on the family farm not far from the practice. She joined Garth in July 2005 working in the PA's office and has risen through the ranks and is now team leader. In her spare time, she enjoys running and going to the gym, getting dressed up and a good party -but not at the moment!!

New Member of the Team

Finally, we would like to introduce you to the newest member of the team **Stefan Andrei Rusu**



Stefan graduated from the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine "Ion Ionescu de la Brad" Iasi, Romania in 2011. Stefan has worked in mixed practice as well as spending 2 years in Scotland carrying out OV work in abattoirs. Importantly, Stefan has spent 4 years working in pig production in Denmark, gaining valuable experience in all aspects of indoor farming. This practical experience combined with his veterinary skills will bring valuable insight and knowledge to the team. Stefan is particularly interested in outdoor pig production and disease control.

COVID-19: How to download your movements for Red Tractor Remote Assessments. Useful guidance link:

<https://www.eaml2.org.uk/eblock/services/resources.ashx/001/235/999/Movement Archive Download COVID-19 RT remote assessments.pdf>