



# Curly Tales



Edition 19, April 2004

## Industry Information

### APIQ Changes

(Courtesy of APL)

During 18 months in 2002-03, APIQ went through an extensive review. This involved wide stakeholder consultation including supply chain, APIQ facilitators and auditors and APIQ accredited members.

The review resulted in a number of changes to the AIQ accreditation requirements for producers. The changes need to be complied with by January 1, 2005 unless otherwise stated.

The main changes can be summarised:

1. Producers are now provided with the opportunity to have a more simplified HACCP component by putting more responsibility onto the APIQ facilitator in developing and maintaining the HACCP plan.

Instead of having a full understanding of HACCP, producers can concentrate on the implementation of the HACCP outcomes.

2. Improved product traceability through ensuring clear branding of pigs and vendor declarations for incoming stock and feed.
3. A new biosecurity component that is based on the key outcomes of the pork industry's biosecurity code of practice.
4. A strengthened animal welfare component that requires compliance with the Model Code of Practice for the Welfare of Animals – Pigs (SCARM Report 66).

A list of the changes can be downloaded from the APL web site: [www.australianpork.com.au](http://www.australianpork.com.au)

If you need an audit conducted or assistance with these changes please contact Chris Richards and Associates.

## Health Topics

### Erysipelas

A disease caused by *Erysipelas rhusiopathiae*, Erysipelas is widespread within the pig industry. The main carrier is the pig itself with up to 50% of a group of pigs being infected without developing clinical signs.

### Pathogenesis and Clinical Signs

Infection is spread by contamination of feed, drinking water and pens by oral and nasal secretions. The dung of infected pigs can also spread the disease. Pigs are most susceptible to the disease between 3 months and 3 years of age. Resistance in suckers and weaners will depend greatly on the sow's immunity. Outbreaks can follow periods of stress like changes in nutrition or temperature.

The acute form of the disease has a sudden onset where some pigs may die while others will go off their feed, have breathing problems and develop red blotching of the skin, especially the ears. Diamond shaped red plaques developing on the skin within 24-48 hours are a definite sign of erysipelas. Pregnant sows may abort and neck swelling and vomiting can occur.

Chronic erysipelas may follow the acute form and in this case,

skin lesions will slough off and the tips of the ears may be lost. Lameness and enlarged joints causing stiffness are further signs.

### Diagnosis

Erysipelas should be considered whenever pigs die or suddenly get sick. A high fever (over 40°C), skin discolouration, a reluctance to move and eat or those with progressive lameness are signs to watch for. Diamond-shaped red spots and a rapid response to penicillin help confirm the diagnosis. For a vet to help in the diagnosis, fresh kidney and liver or spleen and heart blood are needed for laboratory testing.



### Treatment and Control

Injections of penicillin should be given except in the case of pregnant sows. In pregnant sows, amoxicillin can be used. In feed or in water medication can also be used to bring an outbreak of acute or chronic erysipelas under control.

## Prevention and Control

Vaccinate previously unvaccinated gilts and sows twice, three weeks apart. For sows that have been previously vaccinated, give one dose of vaccine. Sows need to be given a booster every 6 months. As the bacteria are excreted in faeces, good pen hygiene needs to be ensured.

Note: If a boar becomes affected, i.e. feverish, then he is likely to become infertile for four weeks.

## Partnership Program Product of the Month



## Noromectin



Sarcoptic mange is a common disease in pigs and causes a substantial reduction in the growth rates and feed efficiency of affected pigs. The disease is caused by the mite *Sarcoptic scabies* var. *suis* which burrows into the pigs skin to lay its eggs.

Noromectin (Ivermectin) premix in the feed at the recommended dose level of 100 mg/kg live weight daily for 7 days is indicated for the treatment and control of gastrointestinal roundworms, kidney worms, lungworms, lice and mange mites in pigs.

To summarise Noromectin:

- Broad spectrum of efficacy
- Controls adult and important immature stages of worms
- Effective mange control
- Rapid penetration and persistent activity
- High safety margin
- Can be used in all ages of pigs including breeding sows and young piglets
- Can be used in pregnant sows prior to farrowing to reduce parasite transmission to piglets.

(Taken from Norbrook, Noromectin brochure and information sheet).

**Chris Richards and Associates  
Partnership Program  
Conference 2004 Proceedings**

The proceedings are almost completed from this year's conference that was held in Brisbane last month. You can get these by accessing the member's only section on the Partnership Program page at:

**[www.chrisrichards.com.au](http://www.chrisrichards.com.au)**

If you have joined the Partnership Program and haven't yet received your username and password, please contact Jacinta at the office.

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If only it was this easy to find piggery workers!!



**Footy Tipping Ladder –  
Round 5  
Top Ten Tippers**

Peter Murray	(30)
Phil Helmore	(29)
L.D Powell & Sons	(28)
Brian Auld	(28)
Mal Gett	(27)
Paul Fiegert	(27)
Greg Timble	(27)
Matt Lahm	(27)
Sue Goettler	(27)
Ian Connaughton	(27)
Dale Collin	(27)

**Don't forget to check your  
footy tipping results on our  
website:**



**[www.chrisrichards.com.au](http://www.chrisrichards.com.au)**



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