



# Curly Tales



**Edition 10, June 2003**

## **Company Information**

Welcome to winter!! The cold weather we have been experiencing the last couple of weeks reminds us that we need to be particularly vigilant in and around the piggery to ensure pig comfort and wellbeing.

We farewell Amanda Tenace this month after 14 months of service. Amanda was the voice on the other end of the phone and kept the footy tipping scores up to date! We wish Amanda every success in her future endeavours. For any footy tipping enquiries please contact Adelle.

A reminder that we are still running the **Great Footy Give-Away** where if you purchase two **Terminator** 20L drums per order at RRP of \$315 plus GST per drum, a "Country Vet" Sherrin football worth \$120 is your's free!! This offer is valid for orders placed up until 31/7/03. Other current quantity discounts still apply.

## **Footy Tipping 2003**

We are half way through the competition and your selections for the next 11 rounds have now been received. The current leaders after 11 rounds are:

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Score</b></u>
Marlene Kenny	61
Glynis King	60
Ricky Sheahan	59
Brett Dye	59
Clare Cappy	59

Congratulations to Marlene Kenny who has won the tickets to see Western Bulldogs V Richmond at the Telstra Dome on July 26. Chris Richards and Associates thank Alpharma Animal Health for the tickets.

## **Upcoming Seminars**

Chris Richards and Associates (CRA) will be conducting two seminars in July.

## **Victorian Seminar Speakers**

Mike Stephens – Mike Stephens and Associates Rural Development Consultants  
Mike will be discussing employment and retention of piggery staff.

Dr Hugo Dunlop - CRA

Hugo will be discussing systems management

Dr Domenic Dell'Osa – Pfizer Animal Health

Domenic will introduce some new technologies for respiratory disease control.

Dr Chris Richards – CRA

Chris will introduce the Partnership Program – an integrated approach to pig health and production.

## **South Australian Seminar Speakers**

This will be a similar program to Bendigo except in place of Dr Domenic Dell'Osa will be Dr John Walters from Fort Dodge who will talk on septicaemia in pigs. He will also discuss the latest information on treatments for Glassers, Streptococcus suis and Erysipelas.

## **Health Topics**

### **Water Medication**

With the change in season we are experiencing at present comes an increased risk of disease outbreaks. One way to combat these problems in the piggery is the use of water medication.

### **Main uses of Water Medication**

Water medication has a number of uses in the piggery and can be used as a treatment or control. The main uses of water medication are:

### **Preventative and pulse medication**

Medicated water can be provided to pigs in a regular dose or pulsed through their drinkers to keep disease in check. It can also prove cost effective compared with in-feed medication due to the provision of providing it 'as required' rather than the continual supply in feed. Other advantages of pulsing include less antibiotic used, lower cost and less build up of resistance.

### **Treating disease**

If an outbreak of a disease occurs, the appropriate treatment can be given immediately through the water. If a pig becomes sick, it's appetite will

be reduced. Even though water consumption of sick pigs may reduce, it won't be as much as feed intake. The use of water medication in this instance would prove more beneficial than using in feed medication. Giving water medication allows for specific pens of pigs to be targeted.

### **Other uses**

Water medication systems can be used to provide electrolytes, acidifiers and probiotics. Water cleaning agents such as hydrogen peroxide or chlorine can be added through these systems to help control bacteria and other water contaminants in the piggery.

### **Different Types of Medication and Solubility**

Medication can come in the liquid, powder or more recently, dissolvable sachet form.

It is important that the medication being used is fully dissolved in water before use. Some medications are hard to dissolve, particularly in cold, hard water. Using warm water can assist the dissolution. Using additives such as bicarb soda, urea or acids can also be beneficial for specific medications.

### **Types of Water Medication Systems**

The two methods available to deliver water medication are overhead tanks or proportioners (Chemiliser or Dositron).

Overhead tanks are simple and effective once installed. The advantage of using proportioners however is their ability to be moved from shed to shed as required. The Chemiliser allows for further versatility as it can run on lower pressure than the Dositron. It can also enable the dilution rate to be adjusted for example from 2:100 for weaner pigs to 1:100 for grower/finisher pigs.

### **Types of Drinkers and Wastage Factors**

When using water medication the minimum drinker allowance of 1 nipple drinker per 10 pigs or 1 bowl drinker per 25 pigs needs to be maintained. When determining the amount of medication required, the following wastage factors should be considered:

Push nipples – 50%  
Bite nipples – 35%  
Aqua globes – 15%  
Cup drinkers – 10%  
Wet/dry feeders – nil wastage

## Cost Effectiveness of Water Vs In Feed Medication

As an example, compare medicating finisher pigs with Tylosin in feed versus water on 100 pigs at 100 kg live weight eating 3 kg/day. On average the cost of Tylosin in feed for seven days is \$210 (pigs receiving 1.5 mg/kg) whereas it costs \$83 for one day in water (pigs receiving 5 mg/kg). Both treatment programs may give similar disease control.

For a copy of the full report or to discuss water medication options with the vets, contact the office.

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This month's cartoon relates to news that Castle Bacon is looking to get export accreditation so amongst other things it can market it's offal overseas.



### Diary Dates

#### July 8

Victorian Clients Seminar  
- Bendigo  
Golden Square Football Club  
Rooms

#### July 16

South Australian Clients Seminar  
- Clare  
Clare Golf and Country Club

**November 13** – Chris Richards and Associates and Country Vet Wholesaling Bendigo Cup Day

**March 16-17, 2004** – Chris Richards and Associates Annual Conference, Brisbane

**Footnote:** Round 11 was included by mistake on the most recent footy tipping list. Your tips for round 11 will be taken from the first list you completed.



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