



Curly Tales

Edition 2, June 2002



Company Information

After some positive feedback from our inaugural newsletter, we are planning to continue producing Curly Tales on a monthly basis. If there is any information you would like to receive via the newsletter, please feel free to contact us with your suggestions.

In our haste of getting last months Curly Tales out with the statements, a typographical error was missed in the proofing. (Thank-you to one of our vigilant readers who picked up the typo in our fax number.) The correct fax number is (03) 5443 3829. (It was actually pleasing to know that the newsletter was read and retained for the contact numbers.) We also have a second fax number, (03) 5442 6119.

Footy Tipping 2002

At the end of Round 9, the CSL Footy Tipping leaders are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
Ray Dyke	53
Aeger Kingma	51
Bryce Allison	51
Clare Cappy	50
Darren Anset	50
Fiona Monteath	50
Jamie Mullane	50
Jo Frost	50
Liz Brett	50
Mark Kingma	50

Pig Points

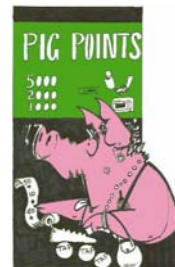
As most of you should be aware from the letter we sent out in May, some of the April Pig Points statements were incorrect. Thanks to our reliance on computers in this day and

age, a computer error on my laptop caused a minor glitch in some of the statements. This has now been rectified, and the May statement will now have your accurate Pig Points total.

The conference in Queenstown, as the major reward of the Pig Points program, is progressing along, with the dates set for March 15th – 18th 2003. Already we have a number of farmers qualified for the trip, and with seven months to go in the program, we envisage that many more will qualify by the end of the year. Some of our speakers have been contacted and are very keen to participate in the conference.

Some people have asked about extending their trip in New Zealand after the conference. The event management group NJL Management will be the contact for organising this. Narelle from NJL Management will be sending out a form later in the program to farmers who qualify for the trip to organise passport details and accommodation arrangements etc. Once this form has been sent out, you will be able to arrange with Narelle if you want to extend your trip. If you have already qualified for the trip or believe that you will qualify by the end of December, we suggest that if you don't have a current passport, that you start arranging to get one as soon as possible.

Some farmers have also enquired as to why their actual Pig Points are less than their potential Pig Points. This is in accordance with the program rules, where potential points are only converted into actual points provided the account is paid within the trading terms of 7 days from end of month statement.





Products of the Month

For the month of June, Pfizer Animal Health's RespiSure and Dectomax Injection will be the products of the month.

Product Profile

RespiSure

YOUR PIGS ARE TRYING TO TELL YOU SOMETHING.

cough, cough, cough.

Chronic coughing is a sign of mycoplasmal pneumonia.

That means:

- Reduced feed efficiency
- Lower daily weight gains
- Lack of uniformity in pig size
- Slower time to market

Vaccinate with RespiSure® - before the cough begins.

RespiSure®
Mycoplasmal Pneumonia Vaccine

www.RespiSure.com
RespiSure® is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.
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Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae is one of the world's most prevalent and costly pig diseases, with around 93% of herds affected.

The economic cost of Mycoplasmal pneumonia is extremely high with pigs taking between 6 – 25 days longer to reach market weight. This dramatically increases feed usage and cost as well as the need for extra pig space, which can spin off into other problems such as over crowding, tail biting and stress to the pig, lowering feed conversion rates.

Vaccinating against *M. hyo* prevents the slow weight gains, decreased feed efficiency and lack of uniformity in pig size associated with this disease. This will allow pigs to get to market sooner, decreasing feed usage and allowing more pig space in sheds giving the opportunity to produce more pigs per year.

RespiSure is the only Mycoplasmal vaccine that incorporates a unique adjuvant called Amphigen resulting in prolonged immune response by carrying more antigens to the immune system.

RespiSure is less irritating to the tissue of the injection site reducing the cases of lesions and trim at slaughter.

RespiSure also has a high degree of ease of use with the pigs being treated by intramuscular injection in the neck at 1 and 3 weeks of age with a 2ml dose. The milky consistency of RespiSure makes it very easy to use in a syringe.

Preventing Mycoplasmal pneumonia with RespiSure can help improve average daily weight gain and get pigs to market sooner.

(RespiSure information taken from Pfizer Animal Health brochure)

For more information regarding the strategic use of RespiSure please contact one of the Vets.

Dectomax Injection



Mange is the most common external parasite of pigs worldwide. Many farmers observe



pigs rubbing and pass this off as being a normal thing. In most cases however, it is being caused by the presence of mites.

Mange can have a large economic impact to the producer by reducing feed efficiency and weight gain between 5-10%.

Sarcoptic mites are very choosy where they live, preferring to live on pigs and do not survive long after leaving the host. As a result, pig-to-pig contact is the most common method of spread.

Mites can infest pigs all year round but usually spread more readily in the colder months when pigs come in closer contact for warmth. On the other hand, signs of mite infestation are more common in warmer months when mites are more active.

Injectable products are considered the most effective because it is possible to ensure that each animal receives the correct dose.

Dectomax is based on a unique pain- free oil based formulation and has specific properties resulting in longer duration of effective blood levels giving longer antiparasitic activity.

Because Dectomax is oil based, and not alcohol, there is no discomfort to the animal apart from the needle itself increasing ease of application. This becomes especially important in sow treatment programs as they receive multiple treatments during their lifetime with various injectable compounds and vaccines.

Dectomax is administered at a rate of 1ml / 33kg by intramuscular injection.

Dectomax is a highly effective product giving long duration of action against Sarcoptic mites, and protecting against re-infection for at least 18 days.

(Dectomax information taken from Pfizer Animal Health brochure)

For more information on the use of Dectomax for mange control, or to discuss the implementation of a mange eradication program, please contact one of the Vets.

Staff Profile – Dr Kellie Smith

Kellie started working for Chris Richards & Associates three months ago. Kellie completed her Bachelor of Veterinary Science in 1999 from the University of Melbourne and worked at Eaglehawk Veterinary Clinic for 2 years.

Kellie grew up on a property at Yarrawalla in Victoria, and her parents still operate a 900 sow piggery there.

Kellie plays netball for Calivil United, tennis for Yarrawalla South and touch football for the East Loddon School.

She got engaged to Darren Anset a couple of months ago, and are yet to set a wedding date. They have recently purchased a property in Myers Flat.

Kellie is one of three vets that we now have at Chris Richards & Associates and can be contacted on 0407 533 844.



Health Hints

REDUCING RESPIRATORY DISEASE IN YOUR GROWER HERD.

Over winter, the incidence of respiratory disease in a herd often increases. Follow this check-list to minimise the effects of respiratory disease:

- Stocking rate > 0.7m² per pig
- Air volume > 3m³ per pig
- Minimum temperature 19°C
- Daily temperature fluctuations less than 6°C
- Ventilation quality (shed design, no air rising from slatted floor, no zones of air turbulence at pig level, no cold air falling on the sleeping area, constant air speed <0.4m/sec at pig level, ammonia level <10ppm, no condensation on walls / ceiling)

- All-in, all-out production system
- Average daily feed intake >2.1kg for a 50kg pig
- Vaccinate against *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*, *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* or other respiratory pathogens (*Haemophilus parasuis*, *Streptococcus suis*) with commercial or autogenous vaccines where the causative agent has been isolated and identified by your Vet
- Herd health monitoring via slaughter checks

If these items are followed, medication usage can be minimised.



"It's his first needle, Doc."