



# Curly Tales



**Edition 9, May 2003**

## **Company Information**

How the year is flying. This is our first Curly Tales for 2003 and Easter has already been and gone for another year! It has been a busy year to date with the Country Vet Pig Points conference in Queenstown in March being a highlight and the Victorian Pig Fair held at the start of April also saw many industry people come together for a catch up.

Chris Richards and Associates has employed a new staff member since the last Curly Tales went to print. At the start of April Jacinta Mathews joined the team as technical services manager. She will be responsible for undertaking trial work and facilitating implementation of various programs on farm.

## **Pig Points Conference**

Queenstown, New Zealand was the setting for the inaugural pig points conference. A number of

farmers attended and enjoyed not only an informative day covering various topics, but also a day of thrills and spills. Sunday was a full day of sessions with the following topics covered:

### **Dr Roger Schneck (Alpharma Animal Health)**

Haemolytic E. coli -  
Postweaning Disease

- History and risk factors
- Diagnosis
- Control measures

Sow Mortality

- Factors impacting breeding performance and productive sow days
- Gilt management
- Use of Aurofac and BMD in the breeding herd

### **Mr Mike Stephens (MSA Consulting)**

- Employing, retaining and motivating staff
- Guidelines for setting salaries for different piggery positions

### **Dr Chris Richards**

- New innovations for the pig industry
- Oral vaccines to control ileitis and erysipelas
- Transmission of pig disease by humans
- Advances in AI including new 10-15 day semen extender and time induced inseminations
- Handheld recording devices

### **Dr Kellie Smith**

- Causes of prolapses
- Preventing the unnecessary culling of sows for this condition
- New kit for treating rectal prolapses

### **Jody Richards (Jody Richards Podiatry)**

- OH & S issues and associated podiatry problems in the piggery
- Preventative foot wear and care of feet

The conference concluded with a day packed full of activities around Queenstown including jet boating on the narrow Shotover River followed by white water rafting on the Kawarau River. The conference dinner was held at the spectacular Skyline

Gondala restaurant overlooking picturesque Queenstown.

Proceedings from the conference will be available soon for all Chris Richards and Associates clients.

### **Victorian Pig Fair**

The Victorian Pig Fair was held in April at the Prince of Wales Showground in Bendigo. Chris Richards and Associates had a busy fair with the SquizBiz technology creating a lot of interest. The makers of the technology were at the fair to show how the real time video can be used on farms to allow remote diagnosis and overcome bio-security problems. Kellie also had the phase contrast microscope set up with a camera. This camera enables the semen to be viewed on a computer screen instead of through the microscope, making it easier to count cells and detect abnormalities.

For any more information on either the SquizBiz or semen analysis service, contact the office on 03 5442 6142.

## Product News

### Preventing Potential Feed Quality Problems

Due to the current state of feed grain supply (poorer quality and end of season grain), the risk of undetectable mycotoxins in grain may be increased. The most commonly seen mycotoxins in Australia include the Aflatoxins, the Fusarium mycotoxins (zearalenone, vomitoxin and fumonisins) and sorghum ergot alkaloids.

Of main concern to the pig industry is Zearalenone as it can cause reproductive problems in sows; delayed weaning to oestrus interval, irregular returns, swollen vulvas and rectal or uterine prolapses. The ergot alkaloids found in sorghum are also a major concern as they indirectly affect reproduction by causing agalactia. The alkaloid present in sorghum ergot depresses blood prolactin, which is the hormone necessary to prepare the mammary glands to produce milk after farrowing. Other effects are low piglet birth weights, low piglet survival and poor piglet weight gains.

Using a mycotoxin binder in your feed will bind the toxin to the feed, allowing for a safer passage through the pig. Two options are Mycosorb and Mycobond (1-3 kg/tonne).

If you suspect you have a mycotoxin problem, please contact one of the vets at Chris Richards and Associates.

### Diary Dates

#### July

Victorian Clients Seminar  
- Bendigo

South Australian Clients Seminar  
- Clare

Speakers include:

Mike Stephens – Employing, retaining and motivating staff  
Dr Domenic Dell’Osa – New technologies for respiratory disease control

Dr John Walters – Respiratory disease – new vaccines

Dr Chris Richards – New technologies for the Australian pig industry

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

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

## **Footy Tipping 2003**

The AFL footy season has started again with six rounds already completed. There are 75 participants in the running this year and the competition is hotting up with 7 people in third position (33). The current leaders after six rounds are:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Score</u>
Marlene Kenny	37
Anne-Marie Link	37
Clare Cappy	34
Ricky Sheahan	34
Brett Dye	34

## **The Great Footy Give-Away**

As we get back into footy mode, Country Vet Wholesaling has decided to get into the spirit and run a promotion where you can receive a free "Country Vet" Sherrin football (valued at \$120). All you have to do is purchase two Terminator 20L drums per order at RRP of \$315 plus GST per drum. This offer is valid for all orders placed between 20/4/03 and 31/7/03. Other current quantity discounts still apply.

**Free Call: 1800 426142**



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