



Curly Tales

Edition 7, November 2002



Company Information

A quick reminder that the Pig Points program finishes on the 31st December, so you only have two months left to earn points on your purchases.

Our Squiz Biz unit has been installed at the piggery, and we will be able to show demonstrations to anyone that is interested in a couple of weeks time.

Product of the Month

For the month of November, Fort Dodge's Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae vaccine, Suvaxyn M. hyo will be the product of the month.

Almost all pig industry personnel know that respiratory disease is a major problem. We all know about pigs that cough for weeks on end. Pigs that won't gain weight. Pigs that continually need expensive antibiotics. Pigs that go to slaughter lighter than they should be or later than we really want.

Granted with good husbandry and skilled stockpersons, you can try and keep the unwanted consequences in check. But that's often only treating the symptoms, not the causes – and in this case, the cause you should be concerned about is Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae.

The Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae organism is present in a large proportion of Australian pig herds – creating a spiral of disease that begins with primary infection, known as enzootic pneumonia. This subsequently creates the conditions in which a whole variety of secondary respiratory infections can take hold.

Now there is a simple, well proven and cost-effective way to combat the infection and dramatically improve the performance and profitability of your pigs. With a record of millions of successful doses used around the world, Suvaxyn M. Hyo vaccine has set the standard for controlling enzootic pneumonia and is now available to Australian pig producers.

Suvaxyn M. Hyo has shown it can provide up to 93% protection against Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae, and can reduce the severity of Mycoplasma related lung lesions by up to 82%. The economic importance of these results can be better appreciated when considering that independent studies have concluded that Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae can cause an average reduction of 17.4% in daily live weight gain and 14% in feed efficiency.

Consult one of our vets about the use of Suvaxyn M Hyo vaccine in your herd.

(Suvaxyn M. Hyo information taken from Fort Dodge's brochure.)

Staff Profile – Justin Kennedy

Justin is our warehouse manager, and is responsible for the purchasing of all our stock from our suppliers, as well as the despatch of your orders.

Due to technical problems with our digital camera, we apologise that we are unable to provide you with a photo of Justin.

He has been with us since January 2001, after coming from a previous warehouse manager's position.

He is a local from Bendigo, and is plays pool in both local and state competitions.



Product News

- CSL Animal Health's Neovac is still out of stock
- We are giving away a 10ml metal vaccinator (value = \$70) with every 4 x 500ml Dectomax Injection
- The promotion on Mycobond continues until the end of November (\$40 Myer vouchers for every two bags purchased)
- Enclosed with this newsletter is a sample of Restart for you to trial.

Pre-weaning scours

Scouring piglets can be a time consuming, money-draining problem in the farrowing shed. Problems arise as a result of interaction between the pathogens and poor environment and nutrition. The severity of scours will increase if there are cold draughts, fluctuating temperatures, moist pens, poor milk flow from the sow or anaemic piglets. Following is some of the pathogens that are responsible for causing scours in these pigs and what can be done to eliminate, reduce or control the scour.

E. coli

Escherichia coli is a bacteria that is the main causative agent of piglet scours. The scour normally starts within the first 24-48 hours of life (but may not start until day 5), and is more common in gilt litters and piglets that do not get a good drink of colostrum eg runts, splaylegs. The bacteria attach to the intestine via pilli and secrete toxins which causes electrolytes and fluid to be secreted into the intestine and be lost from the body. The scour is usually watery to pasty, yellow to white in colour. The piglets become thin, weak and dehydrated very quickly. Death is common in E. coli scours.

Treatment:

1. Fluid therapy. It is most important that the electrolytes that are lost in the scour are replaced. This can be done by providing electrolytes in a clean bowl, by stomach tubing or injecting into the abdominal cavity.
2. Antibiotics. An antibiotic can be prescribed pending the results of culture and sensitivity testing of the E. coli isolated.
3. Absorbents. Spreading of the absorbent (eg bentonite) on the floor will reduce the amount of fluid lost in the scour.

Control:

1. Vaccination* of sows and gilts 3 weeks before farrowing will boost the antibodies contained in their colostrum and improve the piglet immunity. (Gilts need 2 shots before this time.)
2. Temperature to be at 32-36°C for the first 48 hours then 30-32°C for the rest of the week
3. Power pressure cleaning and disinfecting of crates between batches.

* There are a number of different strains of E. coli and the commercial vaccines cover most of these strains. However if the strain is not responding to the commercial vaccines, an autogenous vaccine can be developed by your veterinarian.

Coccidiosis

Coccidiosis is caused by the protozoa *Isoospora suis* and is the next most common cause of scours in piglets. It is often called the '10 day old scour' as piglets start scouring from 7-14 days of age. There are 3 phases to the coccidia life. Firstly, eggs are passed in faeces and then eaten by the next pig. The eggs then develop into the next stage where they enter the lining of the intestine and multiply. (This is when the scour starts due to damaging the intestinal



lining.) The organisms then generate eggs that appear in the faeces 5 days after infection.

The scour is usually grey-yellow, frothy, and watery-pasty. Growth rate may be reduced but deaths are not common with coccidiosis unless conditions are very poor. Those that recover from coccidiosis are then immune to getting it again.

Treatment

1. Fluid therapy. Electrolytes in bowls is usually adequate.
2. Coccidiocidal chemicals. Prescribed antibiotics may be of some assistance.

Control

1. Coccidiocidal chemicals. Toltrazuril (Baycox) can be given on day 4-5.
2. Wash sows and disinfect crates before entering.
3. Reduce contamination – remove sows dung daily, limit fostering, keep dry, apply lime to floors.

Rotavirus

Rotavirus is widespread but herd resistance is good, thus outbreaks are not common. Scours generally start after 4 days of age and is less severe if they are older when they contract the virus. Diarrhoea is often associated with E. coli or coccidiosis. The scour is usually yellow-grey and pasty in the early stages, then become grey. Affected pigs can become scrawny and rough haired, but mortality is low.

Treatment:

1. Fluid therapy. Electrolytes in bowls.
2. Antibiotics for concurrent E. coli infection.

Control:

1. Hygiene & Warmth

Electrolytes

Electrolytes are solutions of water and various salts, used (with glucose) to replace fluid losses in scouring piglets and weaners. Scours can cause piglets to die from dehydration. Water, sodium, chloride and potassium are lost from the pig's tissues into the gut as diarrhoea. Loss of water and/or electrolytes can kill rapidly.

Electrolyte preparations can be given via drinkers or stomach tube. The electrolytes should be provided as the only source of water immediately scouring is observed.

Diary Dates

2002

November 14 – Chris Richards & Associates and Country Vet Wholesaling Bendigo Cup Day

December 24 – Chris Richards & Associates and Country Vet Wholesaling close for Christmas at 3:00pm, to reopen on 2nd January

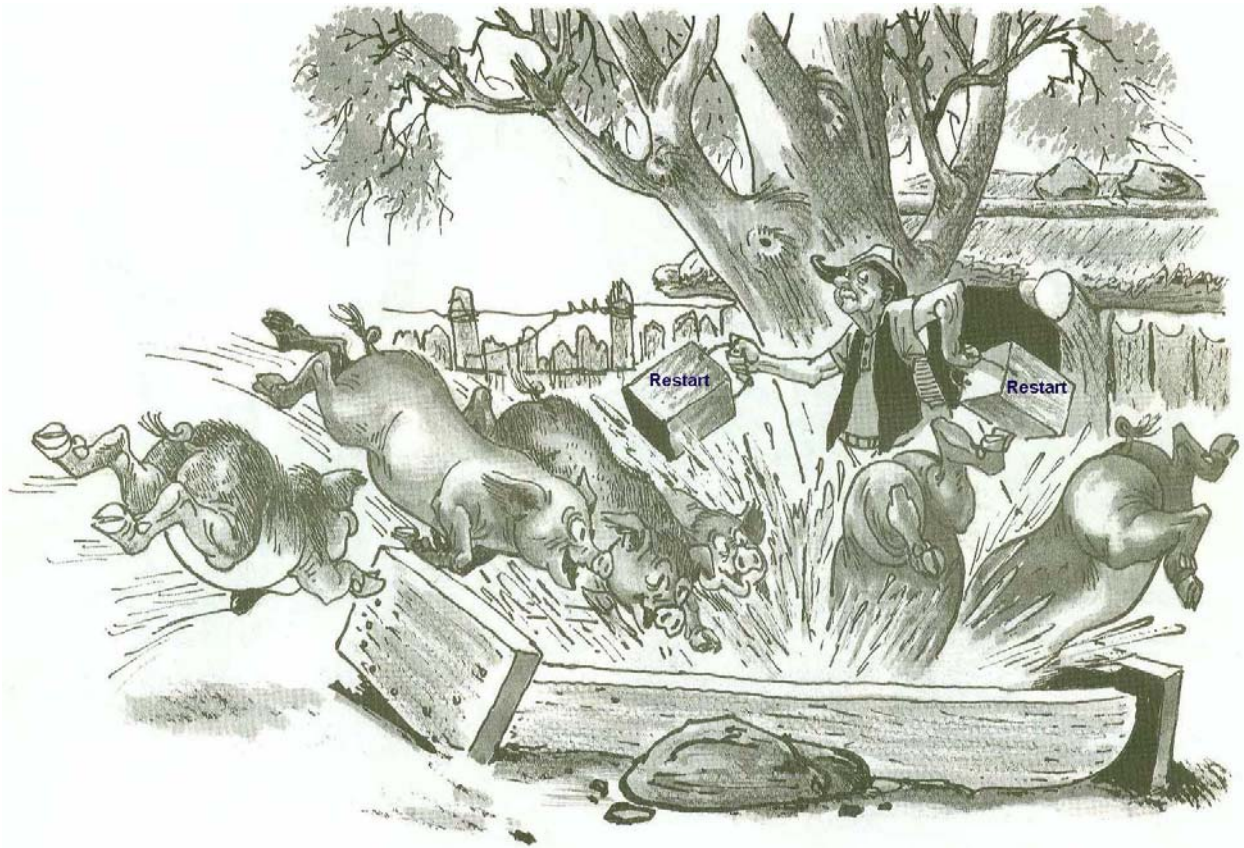
December 31 – Last day to earn Pig Points

2003

January 2 - Chris Richards & Associates and Country Vet Wholesaling reopen for business

March 15-18 – Pig Points Conference in Queenstown, New Zealand

April 8-9 – Victorian Pig Fair at Bendigo



"Two-four-six-eight — bog in, don't wait!!"