



Curly Tales



Edition 17, February 2004

Company Information

Chris Richards and Associates are constantly developing their services to help farmers optimise their production.

A couple of new services that are now available include

- Herd recording
- Pregnancy testing

Herd Recording

The profitability of any piggery depends upon good recording and monitoring of production parameters. Computer based herd recording programs such as MIPS, Pig Champ, Pig Tales and Pig Win enable you to accurately keep track of how your herd is performing and what areas need attention to help improve productivity and as a result profitability.

Most programs allow a quick analysis of the herd performance. They can provide action lists to help organise day-to-day activities, detailed analysis of efficiencies and trends and also allow instant reviews of historical data.

By using a herd recording system, it should enable the manager to:

- Analyse past physical and financial performance
- Establish targets or goals
- Monitor current performance against set targets

If you need assistance to set up your own herd recording system on farm please contact us at the office.

Hugo Dunlop has also developed a palm computer program that can be easily used in the piggery to record various performance figures.

We can also assist with the timely task that managers often don't get the time for – data entry and analysis if required.

If you are interested in learning more about how this service can assist you, please contact one of the vets at the office.

Pregnancy Testing

Pregnancy testing gives you the best control over the number of empty days in your herd.

The most obvious method for detecting non-pregnant sows would be to conduct oestrus detection at day 21 in the presence of a mature, sexually active boar. This method relies on an experienced stockperson to use the correct heat detection techniques.

Real time ultrasound pregnancy detectors provide a quick and accurate diagnosis from as early as 21 days post mating. The picture below shows a pregnant sow at day 23.



The advantages of using real time ultrasound to detect pregnancy are:

- empty sow days reduced
- quicker and more accurate culling decisions
- increased confidence in farrowing rate projections

For more information on this service please contact Jacinta Mathews at Chris Richards and Associates.

Partnership Program Product of the Month



Suvaxyn HPS (Glasser's Vaccine)



Suvaxyn HPS is the Fort Dodge vaccine that offers protection against the most prevalent *Haemophilus parasuis* serovars occurring in the field.

H. parasuis has spread rapidly and has become a more important disease over the past few decades due to consolidation of farms into large, fully integrated operations. Although primarily a disease of nursery pigs, *H. parasuis* can be a problem in pigs of all ages.

Suvaxyn HPS is for the vaccination of healthy pigs as an aid in the prevention of clinical signs, disease and death due to polyserositis and Glasser's disease associated with serovars 4, 5 and 13.

Suvaxyn HPS requires a 2 ml dose at 7 to 10 days of age, with

a second dose 2 to 3 weeks after first vaccination.

(Information taken from Fort Dodge *Haemophilus parasuis* manual)

Health Topics

Glassers Disease

General

A disease caused by *Haemophilus parasuis*, that results in polyarthritis, polyserositis and meningitis of young pigs. It may also cause bronchitis and related syndromes in older animals in non-immune herds.

Pathogenesis & Clinical Signs

Infection is via aerosol or intranasal infection, usually seen when pigs are overstocked and stressed. Outbreaks of the disease occur post weaning, (3-6 weeks of age) with initial clinical signs being fever, anorexia, shallow breathing and extension of the head, leading to coughing. Pigs become lame and shuffle, due to the swollen, painful joint inflammation that occurs. A septicemia results in a red to blue skin discoloration, followed by death within the hour. Pigs can die immediately or within 2-5 days of first showing clinical signs.

Post mortem examination results in a stringy, white material on lungs (pleurisy), reddening of the heart (pericarditis), peritonitis and pneumonia.

Diagnosis

Glasser's is diagnosed upon clinical signs but must be differentiated from Streptococci and Mycoplasmal infection that also cause joint inflammation and meningitis. The most evident sign in live pigs is a fever, whereas a pericarditis, fibrinous pleurisy and peritoneal is highly suggestive of Glasser's upon post mortem.

Treatment & Control

Acute cases can be treated by injection with penicillin, oxytetracycline, amoxicillin, ceftiofur, and sulphonamides. Spread to other animals at risk may be prevented by water medication with one of the above drugs. Feed medication over the period of risk may also prevent disease.

Killed vaccines are available and may be used to vaccinate sows and piglets. It is important to identify the serotype of the organism prior to any vaccination program.

Chris Richards and Associates would like to thank the following companies for their commitment to the Partnership Program



Product Information

Respisure 2 shot is no longer available in 250 ml. It can be purchased as 100 ml or 500 ml.

Diary Dates 2004

March 16-17

Chris Richards and Associates Annual Conference, Brisbane

March 18-20

Pan Pacific Pork Expo, Brisbane

March 17-19

Office Closed

March 22

Office Re-opens

Free Call: 1800 426 142

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