



Curly Tales



Edition 18, March 2004

Company Information

This month was very busy at Chris Richards and Associates with our Partnership Program Conference in Brisbane. We would like to thank all producers who attended and to all our guest speakers including those who made the big trip from overseas.

We also again thank the following companies for their support companies. Without this, events such as this would not be possible.

Allfarm
B & M Slots
Bayer
CCD
CSL
Elanco
Fort Dodge
Intervet
Norbrook
Ozbiopharm
Pfizer
Pharmtech

Over the next few weeks we will be getting some proceedings put together to distribute.

Dr Rowan Wilson has left Chris Richards and Associates. He was only with us for a short while however due to family reasons he has decided to stay in Corowa. We thank him for his efforts while with us and wish him all the best.

Pan Pacific Pork Expo

This event was held in Brisbane on the 19th and 20th March. It was a chance for industry to get together and showcase their wares and expertise.

Chris Richards and Associates had the following new products on display.

Pulse 250 Needle free vaccinator

Originally developed for human use in the military for mass vaccinations, this device has been designed for veterinary use.

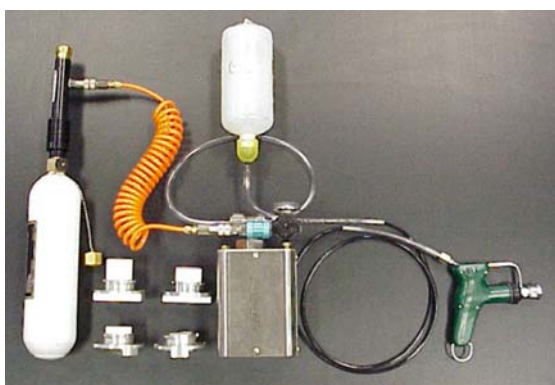
It is powered by carbon dioxide or compressed air and the device can deliver doses from 0.5ml to 2.5ml.

The size of animal you are injecting determines the pressure

required for the dose to be administered.

The advantages of using a needle free vaccinator are increased worker efficiency, improved food safety, improved welfare and less bio hazardous waste.

The device can be used to administer vaccines and iron for piglets.



Ideal Instruments D3 Detectable Needles

D3 needles are the first designed with strength and detectability that helps ensure zero tolerance by keeping needles out of meat products to begin with, and easily detecting needles if they are present. In addition, the D3 needles' strength provides durability, and thus a cost-effective utilisation rate.

D3 detectable needles are specifically designed for

production animal use and processing plant detectability.

Ideal has developed and added a detectable alloy to the cannula of the D3 needles. This patented alloy allows D3 needles to be as much as 100% detectable in metal detection systems, while maintaining their stainless steel classification.

D3 needles are ultra sharp with three-point precision ground tips for sharper cuts and easier penetration. Sharpness increases the possible number of injections per needle, and reduces the risk of injection site abscesses.

They are available in a range of sizes and come in boxes of 100.



Please contact the office for further information on either of these products.

Partnership Program Product of the Month



ANIMAL HEALTH

RespiSure



Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae is one of the world's most prevalent and costly pig diseases, with around 93% of herds affected.

The economic cost of *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* is extremely high with pigs taking between 6 and 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 overcrowding, tail biting and stress to the pig, affecting 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 opportunity to produce more pigs per year.

RespiSure is the only *Mycoplasma* vaccine that incorporates a unique adjuvant called Amphigen resulting in a 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 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 *Mycoplasma pneumoniae* with RespiSure can help improve average daily gain and get pigs to market sooner.

(Information taken from Pfizer Animal Health brochure)

For more information on the strategic use of RespiSure contact one of the vets.

Health Topics

Lameness

Lameness can occur in any pig on farm at any stage of production and can be caused by a multitude of factors.

Lameness is a common cause of culling sows second only to reproductive failure. If unprepared, an increase in culling due to lameness can increase the number of non productive sows days thus reducing litters/sow/year.

The occurrence of lameness in growing pigs can range from 1-5% however if it's more than 2% per month, further investigations should be made.

Significant losses can be found when lameness occurs at this stage as pigs unfit to travel due to welfare concerns cannot be slaughtered as they often need to be destroyed on farm.

Early identification of lame animals and their removal to hospital pens as soon as any lameness is sighted is vital to the control and healing process.

There are several signs to look for if a pig is lame. Symptoms may include but are not limited to; reluctance to stand, swollen joints, fractures, loss of balance,

arthritis and pigs may be off food.

The causes or contributing factors are numerous. Some causes may include but are not limited to; arthritis caused by bacteria, fighting, poor floor surfaces, trauma, Glassers disease, nutritional deficiencies and high stocking densities.

Each farm should have a treatment guide that outlines what should be administered when pigs become lame.

If you need a treatment guide please contact one of the vets.

Don't forget to check your footy tipping results on our website:



www.chrisrichards.com.au



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