

NEWSLETTER

January 2006

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The staff from the Chris Richards Group of Companies would like to wish all our valued customers a happy and prosperous 2006.

FLY CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Flies are of importance in pig production for several reasons. Some flies annoy pigs by their bite while others act as vectors for transmission of infectious diseases. Some species are problematic because they can invade tissues by fly larvae. The common housefly which is spread world wide is the greatest problem particularly in farrowing and weaner rooms.

To understand why various prevention and control strategies are used, it makes sense to look at the life cycle of the housefly. The cycle (from egg to adult) is about 7-10 days in the summer in warm temperate areas (Figure 1). The housefly is most active in summer. The preferred breeding place is in the faeces of animals or in dead decaying organic matter.

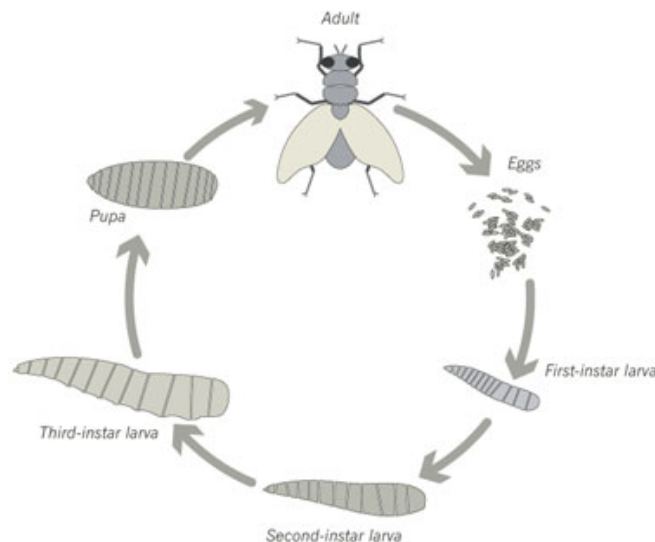


Figure 1. Life Cycle of the Housefly

Disease Risks

Flies come in contact with faeces, skin and discharges from all surfaces of the pig. If the number of flies in the environment reaches a high enough level, it stands to reason that they can become major transmitters of disease organisms, not only within a building but between buildings and sometimes between pig herds.

Such infections include pathogenic strains of *E.coli*, *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae* which causes swine dysentery, salmonellae, streptococci, and rotavirus. Major outbreaks of greasy pig and coccidiosis can be maintained by very high fly populations.

When sows are sick with mastitis, flies are attracted to the udder and skin surfaces in great numbers and they can be responsible for enhancing severe outbreaks.

Control and Prevention

Particularly over the summer months, fly control needs to be ongoing.

- Keep numbers low - this is the most important factor in controlling fly populations.
- Break the breeding cycle - Eggs hatch best at 30°C and multiplication is reduced when temperatures are below 16°C. Moisture is a major requirement and humidity between 25 and 65% is ideal. The cycle can be broken by adding products like **Larvadex** to the feed, which prevents larvae development.
- Identify the breeding grounds - If the breeding ground can be removed, the reproductive cycle will be broken or considerably reduced. Waste feed that accumulates, especially if there is moisture, provides an ideal environment for flies to lay eggs. Accumulated manure is another perfect area for flies to breed. Farrowing sheds harbour large populations that can become sources of infection for other sheds. Products commonly used in piggeries that increase the breakdown of manure, such as **Actizyme**, can be used to reduce breeding grounds
- Use all-in all-out systems - with the cleaning of sheds between batches.
- Identify resting sites - Where contact insecticides are to be used for control, it is important to identify the resting sites of the flies eg. Heat lamps, creep lids.
- Hygiene - Having identified the breeding areas, keep them clean by pressure washing regularly and applying a residual insecticide. Solid manure stored on farm should be moved well away each week. Manure should be disposed in the centre of effluent ponds rather than the edge where flies can breed. Again **Actizyme** will assist in this area.
- Creep feeding - As these feeds contain high levels of milk products and sugar (provides nutrition and encouragement for breeding and feeding), delay creep feeding until piglets are at least 14 days of age. This will reduce breeding levels.
- Monitoring the population - A suggestion is to hang a white card soaked in a sugar solution and dried (150 mm x 200 mm) from the roof of each shed. Weekly, over a 48 hour period the dots of the fly faeces can be counted. This will give an indication of build up and therefore when intensive prevention and treatment routines can be carried out.

Methods of Control

Destruction of flies within pig sheds can be carried out in a number of ways.

Insecticides are effective in the form of sprays, baits or in feed. Some insecticides such as trichlorfon are effective in destroying both the larvae and adult flies that settle on dung from treated pigs. Sprays are applied to walls, ceilings and pen partitions (stock and feed may need to be removed first). Aerosol sprays (foggers used from twice daily to weekly depending upon fly levels) with knock-down insecticides are also effective. Baits applied to clean concrete surfaces and pen divisions are effective and usually contain insecticides such as diazinon. Fly electrocutors offer an automatic, non-chemical method of control.

Some of the products also have effects on other insects and parasites such as mosquitoes and lice.

Chemical	Application	Approx. Cost
Diazinon (Various Brands)	Slurry crusts	Variable
Deltamethrin (FOM15) - Off Label Use—Vet Only—Withholding Periods Apply	Apply to Sow skin 1ml per 20kg monthly	\$71.45 500ml
Permethrin (Various Brands)	Spray, roof/walls	Variable
Fenitrothion (Rentokil, Nufarm, Farmoz)	Slurry, faeces heaps, residual larvacide.	Variable
Pyrethrins (Pestigas)	Knockdown spray - Fumigation	\$125 per cylinder DE size
Natural Pyrethrins (Robocan)	Knockdown spray - Pulsed dose	\$75-\$80
Imidacloprid (QuickBayt)	Granules, Place in trays or paint onto walls	\$127 2kg
Cyromazine (Larvadex)	Granules larvacide, Used in Lac Sow and Dry Sow @ 50g/T	\$6/T in feed

APL RELEASES POSTER AND CD TO ASSIST WITH EMERGENCY DISEASE RECOGNITION

In mid 2004, there were several new APIQ standards developed particularly in the area of biosecurity. One of the standards to be complied with by the end of 2005 is: Staff are trained in emergency disease recognition. This has obviously been an area of great concern with diseases such as PMWS and Foot and Mouth disease being prevalent to a greater degree around the world in recent times. The CD is entitled "Biosecurity at your piggery – Keep diseases out." This outlines the following:

- How diseases spread.
- How to minimise the risk of disease entering your piggery.
- What disease signs to look for.

- Who to contact if you do see suspicious signs.

The poster is entitled "Emergency Animal Disease signs" and includes the following diseases:

- Foot and Mouth Disease
- Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera)
- Pseudorabies or Aujeszky's Disease
- Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS)
- Transmissible gastroenteritis (TGE)
- Post weaning multi-systemic wasting syndrome (PMWS)
- Influenza

The poster outlines what pigs are affected (ie. Growers only, piglets etc.), what signs to look for with each disease (ie. Coughing, vomiting, scouring, increased mortalities, impaired movement or loss of condition).

It also identifies other specific signs to look for with each disease.

A copy of these materials have been sent out free of charge to APIQ certified producers. Non APIQ producers can purchase the poster and CD for \$25.00 plus postage and handling. Contact APL on their toll free number 1800 789 099 if you are interested.



If you think your pigs are showing suspicious signs of an exotic disease immediately call one of the CR&A Vets or the:

**EMERGENCY
DISEASE WATCH
HOTLINE**

1800 675 888

Farewell to Dr Kellie Anset

Kellie joined the Chris Richards team back in March 2002 and since then has been a valuable member of the veterinary team. Most clients would have had the pleasure of seeing Kellie, either to preg test their sows, conduct a QA audit or undertake a farm health visit. We wish Kellie ever success in her new endeavours—as a mum and a change to mixed vet practice. The team from Chris Richards and Associates would like to publicly thank her for her time and efforts she has made over the past 3 and a half years.

Dr Bernie Gleeson joins the Veterinary Team

Bernie Gleeson graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from The University of Sydney in 2002. He then completed a Graduate Diploma in Veterinary Clinical Studies, studying ruminant medicine, also from The University of Sydney in 2003. Prior to studying Vet Science Bernie was a farmer for ten years near Gunnedah in north-west NSW and also managed a piggery in Western Australia.

Bernie moved to Bendigo to join Chris Richards and Associates in late 2005 after working with PIC Australia, based at Grong Grong in NSW. He has an interest in embryo transfer and advanced reproductive technologies, as well as maintaining and improving herd health and production.

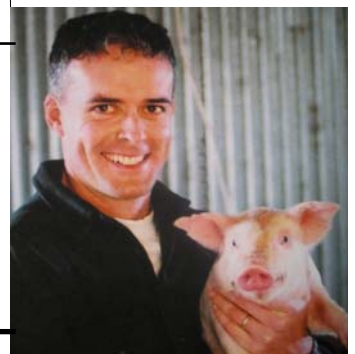
Bernie is married to Helen and enjoys watching sport and sleeping in.

New Customer Services Officer

Kristen Patching joined the Country Vet team in November. Kristen is responsible for taking any customer orders or queries regarding dispatch. Born in Mildura, Kristen grew up in the Mallee on a wheat and sheep farm. At the age of 12, her family moved to South East Queensland for her father to pursue a professional harness racing career, having done it as a hobby while in the Mallee. Being successful in this, the move back to Victoria was imminent as the industry had gone ahead in leaps and bounds since the move in 1998. So in April 2004, back to Marong near Bendigo it was.

Having been around the harness horse her whole life, Kristen has been bitten by the proverbial harness racing bug. She worked for leading trainer, Peter Manning, for 6 months in the latter part of 2004. Also always having the desire to travel, she left there and started work at Castle Bacon in early 2005 where she saved enough money to dodge the freezing Victorian Winter and travel to the Northern Hemisphere where the weather was more to her liking, namely the United States.

She returned home in October and started work at Country Vet soon after. In her free time she trains 3 of her own harness horses and now has a licence to drive in races, so look out!



Bernie Gleeson joins the CRA team. "I'm the one with the shirt on".

**Chris Richards
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DIARY DATES

May 4th-5th, 2006

Chris Richards and Associates
Partnership Program Confer-
ence, Gold Coast

May 4th-7th, 2006

Pan Pacific Pork Expo
Gold Coast Convention Centre

Partnership Program Conference

Attend our Seminar Program and more over 2 days at the Kurrawa Surf Club on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

World renown speakers on the most up information on **HEALTH, NUTRITION & MANAGEMENT.**

When: May 4th and 5th 2006

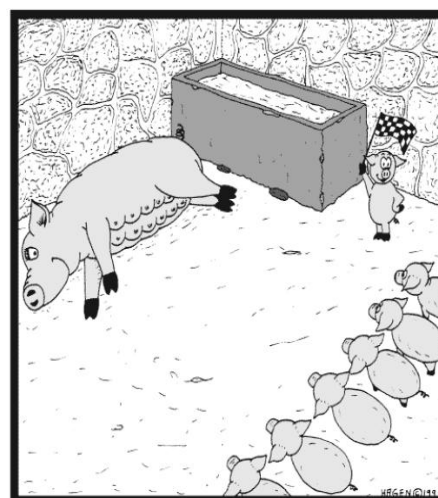
For more information on joining the Partnership Program and the associated benefits contact:

Chris Richards and Associates on

03 5442 6142 or 1800 426 142



Cartoon Corner



On your mark, get set...