



# NEWSLETTER

**REMINDER: The CR&A OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED 24th DECEMBER TO 2nd JANUARY INCLUSIVE VETS CAN BE CONTACTED AS FOLLOWS: Dr Hugo Dunlop 0428129053, Dr Chris Richards 0429843184.**

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## Product Updates:

- Quickbayt fly bait released by Bayer
- CSL Lepto-Eryvac and Eryvac unavailable until February 10th 2005
- TOMCAT rodent control blox and pellets released to the pig industry.
- Ferron + B12 iron injection now available
- Suvaxyn Mhyo/HPS now available in 125 dose and 50 dose formulations
- Ideal Instruments release D3 Detectable needles.

## MYCOTOXINS FOUND IN STRAW

It is well documented that mycotoxins can be a problem in some grains fed to pigs. With straw making up to 10% of feed intake in straw-based housing systems (Edwards, van Barneveld, the presence of mycotoxins at high levels in straw is a potential contributor to some diseases. Recent testing of straw samples collected from a variety of deep litter housing systems in Victoria and South Australia have shown significant levels of mycotoxins. Samples were collected from both straw-based farrowing huts from outdoor piggeries and straw-based

housing systems for grower pigs, and submitted to a laboratory at Romer Labs in Singapore to test for zearalenone (ZON) and deoxynivalenol (DON). Both these toxins can cause reproductive problems as well as reduce feed intakes, cause skin irritations, decrease semen quality as well as generally compromise the immune system. Levels of DON as low as 12.5 ppm can produce vomiting. The most significant finding was that as DON accumulates in the stem of the plant during the growing season, even well preserved straw (yellow with no obvious moulds) contained high levels

of mycotoxins. It is therefore our recommendation that prior to purchasing significant parcels of straw, that these be tested. This test costs approximately \$300 per sample. Alternatively, products such as Biofix can be added to the ration at a cost of approximately \$12 per tonne to prevent potential problems. If you have any concerns about the effects of mycotoxins, or would like to have testing performed, please give one of the veterinarians a call.

Sample Number/ Location	Deoxynivalenol (DON)	Zearalenone (ZON)
683 (Burra, SA)	<50ppm	<32ppm
684 (Burra, SA)	<50ppm	208ppm
685 (Clare, SA)	1860ppm	328ppm
686 (Clare, SA)	72ppm	592ppm

## DR KIRSTY RICHARDS JOINS THE TEAM

In response to the development of our successful Partnership Program we are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Kirsty Richards to the veterinary team. Kirsty graduated from The University of Queensland in 1999 and started as a mixed practice veterinarian in Clare and Port Pirie in South Australia. She then ventured to Europe to work in a number of various

practices in the UK, as well as time as a horse veterinarian in Morocco. Kirsty joins after returning to Australia and spending 12 months in Queensland. Kirsty's has a special interest in swine disease epidemiology and will be involved mainly in providing veterinary services to clients in South Australia and Queensland. Dr Kirsty Richards can be contacted on 0407 282592 or 03 54426142.

## SEMINAR PROGRAMS CONDUCTED IN BENDIGO & ADELAIDE

Nutrition, Rodent Control, Automated Sorting and Monitoring Control of Grower Herd Environment were amongst the topics presented at CR&A Seminar Programs conducted in October in Bendigo and Adelaide.

Damian Moore, Biomin, presented information on the potential accumulation of mycotoxins in the tillers (stalks) of cereal plants and subsequent potential problems in straw-based housing systems. Damian presented results from straw samples recently tested for these toxins (see cover story).

David Maher, a nutritionist from Jefe in Canada described the applications of various acids and enzymes, and how they influence the different parts of the digestive system of the pig. David outlined how dissociated acids affect the pH in the stomach, but do pass in high concentration to the small intestine. Other products, such as a new product called Tetracid, is protected in a lipid matrix, which allows it to pass through the stomach, and become dissociated and active in the small intestine. He also discussed the importance of the different products and where each is best used in prevention of disease and improving digestion.

Hugh Crabtree, an environmental engineer from the UK, discussed his findings when monitoring grower herd environments. The main areas of significance were the variations that occur in water intakes and feed consumption as a result of changes that occur in the environment, in many cases due to mistakes by piggery personnel. Hugh described a system that is currently used in the UK, where environmental data from individual buildings in a piggery is collected and monitored by a bureau service, who notifies the producer when an environmental parameter is causing or can potentially cause economic losses.

Lisa Dillon, a biologist from a Melbourne-based company, Webcot, presented a talk on effective rodent control. Producers gained knowledge in the various breeds of rodents, their behavioural patterns and subsequent feeding patterns. This knowledge allows more efficient selection and placement of baits and traps. Lisa also spoke about the TOMCAT range of rodenticides and management of a rotational baiting program.

Stacey Martin, recipient of the PPPE 2002 Ron Collins Memorial Scholarship presented information obtained from her study tour of the USA on automated sorting systems. Stacey outlined the different systems of training pigs through these machines including use of food courts and water courts, as well as potential designs for conversion of existing finisher facilities. The main benefits of automated sorting systems are the improvements in sort loss, phase feeding opportunities including use of Paylean, and the ease of loading pigs that are familiar with confined spaces.

At the Adelaide Seminar Program, a presentation was given by Dr Chris Richards on Pork Storks Australia and its design and development, implementation, quality systems, fertility selection processes, and distribution systems. This involved a number of photos of all areas of the boar stud, as well as a description of the various laboratory tests and procedures performed at Pork Storks in selection of highly fertile boars and semen. The presentation concluded with a number of case studies demonstrating the improvements in conception rate and litter size that have been observed on Australian farms since the implementation of the Pork Storks Australia system in February this year.

The seminar programs were attended by over 60 producers representing over 40% of the Australian pig population and were sponsored by Chris Richards & Associates, Country Vet, Pork Storks Australia and CCD Animal Health.

It is planned that a similar program will be put together for clients in Queensland and Western Australia early next year.

For further information on any of the presentations please contact either Dr Chris Richards or Dr Kellie Anset at the office.

*"You can't start to  
improve something if  
you don't measure it"*

*Hugh Crabtree*

## NEW AUSSIE PIG SEMEN FRIDGE LAUNCHED

After 2 years of development and testing, Pork Storks Australia, in conjunction with Australian medical equipment company, LEC Instruments, have launched the **Genetisafe**, a semen fridge specifically designed to maintain pig semen at 17 degrees Celsius in Australian conditions. The semen fridge consists of the 24 litre semen storage component, attached to a microprocessor unit, that maintains semen at 17C +/- 1C even when ambient temperature may vary between minus 15C and plus 50C.

The **Genetisafe** has both a heating and cooling mechanism, with temperature monitored through various probes and balanced throughout the unit by a fan system. The semen fridge

stores up to 80 flat packs or tubes.

The **Genetisafe** retails at \$1390 + GST per unit, but is available at a special price of \$990 + GST to semen clients of Pork Storks Australia. PSA can be contacted by phone on 1800 647744 or by facsimile on 03 52817547.



*“Genetisafe, a semen fridge specifically designed to maintain pig semen at 17 degrees Celsius in Australian conditions.”*

## CHRIS RICHARDS & ASSOCIATES WE KNOW REPRODUCTION!!

At Chris Richards & Associates, we consider ourselves to know most of what there is to know about reproduction. And this has proven to be true over last 6 weeks, when two of the CR&A team have given birth themselves! Congratulations to Technical Services Manager, Jacinta Mathews (and husband, Kev), who now have a baby daughter, Charlotte Louise, and to Accountant, Clare Banfield (and husband Marty), who have a baby son, Fraser Felix. All mothers and babies are well. We welcome the two new members to the pig industry.

## VETS AT THE CUTTING EDGE

To ensure our customers maintain “world’s best practice” in production, sales and administration within their piggeries Chris Richards Group members have attended the following conferences.

- Dr Hugo Dunlop attended the AI Leman Conference and the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, USA to investigate new ways to prevent post-weaning *E.coli* disease in pigs., assess the various tools that are available for producers to conduct on-farm training programs, and the use of palm-pilots to enter production data while in the piggery for herd recording systems.
- Drs Chris Richards, Kellie Anset and Kirsty Richards attended a Forte Dodge conference and workshop in Singapore which addressed issues such as pig welfare, veterinary and animal ethics, epidemiology, and the emergence of influenza in SE Asia. The presentation on influenza surveillance by the World Health Organisation was of particular significance as Australia’s pig and poultry industries are void of influenza, yet there is a epidemic currently in Asia, and the virus is spread through migratory birds, many of which come to Australia.
- Julie Tippett attended a VFF workshop on the new Federal ‘Common Rule’ Award which all Victorian piggery employees will come under after January 1st, 2005.

## JULIE TIPPETT APPOINTED ACCOUNTANT

CR&A welcomes Julie Tippett as our new accountant, replacing Clare Banfield who has taken maternity leave. Julie is the person to contact for all matters regarding accounts and business administration. Julie is also involved in the financial management of a number of piggeries and provides financial and budgeting assistance to the veterinary services provided to clients.

## TERRY LOHMANN APPOINTED GROUP OPERATIONS MANAGER - SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Following continued growth within South Australia, the Chris Richards Group has recently appointed Terry Lohmann to the position of Group Operations Manager - South Australia. Terry has extensive experience in sales, marketing and customer service and was previously employed by the Baycorp Group prior to joining Pork Storks Australia in January this year. Terry is based in Adelaide and has taken on the responsibilities of organising veterinary services to Chris Richards & Associates clients, ensuring efficient delivery of CR&A and Country Vet products, as well as managing the delivery services for Pork Storks Australia. Terry will also take an active role in the Groups national development throughout Australia. Terry Lohmann can be contacted on 0427 097 817, Fax: (08) 81780166 or on email at [terryvet@bigpond.net.au](mailto:terryvet@bigpond.net.au).

## Chris Richards Group of Companies

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**100% Aussie Pork  
Handicap  
December 23rd  
2004  
Bendigo Jockey  
Club**

This publication is intended as a first point of reference and should not be relied upon as a substitute for expert advice. Expert advice should always be sought in relation to any particular circumstances and no liability will be accepted for any losses incurred by those relying solely on this publication.

## Is YOUR rodent control really effective?

### LEARN HOW TOMCAT PEST CONTROL CAN...

- Keep livestock healthy
- Prevent feed wastage
- Reduce structural damage

### FREE DVD WITH EVERY PURCHASE\*

This DVD explains how to implement & maintain an effective pest control program for rats & mice and to know where & when to bait or trap for the most effective results.

- \* Free DVD with purchase of any of the following:
- Tomcat 1 Blox 8kg bucket
  - Tomcat 1 Pellets 8kg bucket
  - Tomcat 2 Blox 8kg bucket
  - Tomcat 2 Pellets 8kg bucket



**Country Vet**  
Your Pest Control Specialists  
Ph: 1800 426 142  
Fx: 03 5442 6119

\* Free DVD available with any purchase of the Tomcat 1 or Tomcat 2 range of 8kg buckets. Offer limited to one DVD per customer at time of first purchase by customer. Offer ends 5pm EST February 28, 2005. Freight applicable on purchases. Offer on available from Country Vet Wholesaling Pty Ltd.

## BENDIGO CUP DAY A SHINING SUCCESS

The 5th Annual CR&A/Country Vet Bendigo Cup Race Day was held on 10th November at Bendigo Jockey Club. The Bendigo Spring weather stood true as 200 pig producers and industry personnel from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales attended the 'Piggy Marquee' to rekindle friendships and try and back a winner! After a roast pork and beef spit lunch and a few light refreshments, we were entertained in the late afternoon by Tim Henwood and his band. The day concluded with patrons being ferries back into town on the Old English Double Decker bus. Special thanks by all to Adelle for organising such a great event and to our Partnership Program sponsors in supporting this event.

## 100% AUSSIE PORK PROMOTED AT RACES

The Chris Richards Group of Companies, as part of its Bendigo Cup Day function with the Bendigo Jockey Club, have joined with the BJC to promote PORK as the preferred meat on course. As part of the arrangement, pork is to be served at all BJC functions and signage with the slogan "Go on, you'd love a bit of Pork!" has been applied in prominent places at the racecourse which attracted over 13,000 patrons on Cup Day. Finally, on the 23rd December, the 100% Aussie Pork Handicap will be run at the Bendigo Race Course. This race will be promoted in local media, as well in all national newspapers and on the Sky Racing Network. This race has been scheduled just 2 days prior to Christmas day, and will hopefully assist in convincing consumers to buy pork in preference to other meats.

**Go on, you'd love a bit of Pork.**