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LINWOOD AGRICULTURE INFORMATION DAY– Tuesday, February 24, 2009

Once again we are happy to be continuing our annual agriculture and information day along with Jones Feed Mill on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 from 9-4 at the Linwood Community Centre.

SWINE

2009, let's get back to some swine production basics to maximize productivity in anticipation of at least some profitable months.

Key Points

Gilts: target a 40 – 45% replacement rate make sure you have a good isolation acclimation program and target breeding age over 210 days of age.

Must focus on gilt immunity therefore proper timing and vaccine selection and don't forget about deworming.

Farrowing rate drives the production train!

- Hit breeding targets, spend lots of time on heat detection and proper mating procedures

Pigs weaned/litter enhances the bottom line. I think the first 24 hours after birth are the most important in a piglets life. Colostral intake is not emphasized enough on many farms. The importance of colostrum intake and disease control is huge. Therefore ensure supplemental heat at farrowing, provide the piglets with the best possible environment to be born into clean, warm and dry. Focus fostering in the first 24 hours and use procedures like split suckling and/or hand feedings stored colostrums to light weight piglets.(A breast pump can be used to harvest colostrum and you can freeze it in ice cube trays).

Make sure processing procedures are kept up and utensils are clean. A pig needs 200mg of iron before day 7. That's 1cc of the concentrated produces and 2cc of the regular iron.

Post weaning: ensure your circo/myco vaccination program is right for your health status and pig flow.

Maximize all-in, all-out pig flow where ever you can.

Treat individual problems early and aggressively and kill economically non-viable pigs.

The ingenuity, strong will and work ethic of Ontario pork producers makes me proud to be a part of our industry. I hope our clients see some profit light at the end of what has been a long tunnel.

EQUINE

Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage – “Bleeders”

Horses that experience exercise induced pulmonary hemorrhage are often referred to as “bleeders”. On the racetrack you may also hear the terms “bobbling”, “choking” or “gurgling”. This condition predominantly affects racehorses such as Thoroughbreds, Standardbreds, Quarter Horses, and Arabians. Arabians appear to be the most likely to be affected by the condition and to bleed.

Horses that have this condition may or may not bleed from their nose after strenuous exercise. Commonly, only about 10% of affected horses will bleed after strenuous exercise. Contrary to common belief, the blood originates from the lungs rather than the nose. Generally, the caudal dorsal lung lobes are affected. This condition is a very real economic consideration for an owner of performance horses. Horses that are afflicted with this condition often don’t “finish” their races, meaning that they lack the stamina to continue racing at speed. Often they will have to slow down towards the end of the race because they cannot pull enough air into their lungs. Additionally, horses that have this condition will often need an increased amount time to cool out and may develop exercise intolerance. The condition does appear to worsen as the animal ages and when the distance and intensity of the exercise increases.

There has yet to be scientific evidence of the exact cause of this condition. It is suspected that the effort required to perform at speed for an extended period of time may severely tax the lungs. There is also the thought that when a horse’s lungs have been damaged, or have respiratory disease, they may be at an increased risk of developing this condition. High levels of dust or allergens have also been considered as a potential cause due to the extent of the damage they may cause to the lungs.

Treatment of this disease is often difficult due to the chronicity of the issue. Environmental management becomes vital since if the level of dust and allergens are minimized, then you can reduce the extent of the damage experienced by the lungs. Generally, rest is the prescribed treatment with a concurrent diuretic.

This is an important condition for owners of both performance and pleasure horses. Often this condition becomes career ending for performance horses due to the extent of the poor performance and basic economics. These horses can often go on to lead productive lives but some environmental management is advised. If you see that your horse has a decreased exercise tolerance or swallowing repeatedly during or after work, it might be a good idea to have your horse’s airways examined. Advanced planning and monitoring can save you a lot of time and money and keep your horse in great shape for many years to come.