

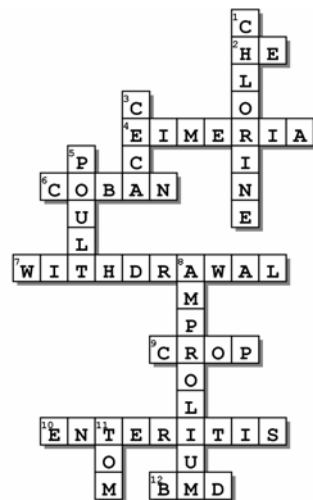
# The Mystery Colony

This month's mystery colony is east of Helena. If you can't figure it out, call your Standard Nutrition Consultant and have them give some hints. June's mystery colony was Eagle Creek Colony.

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## Tobin' Talk

Jason McNaughton



It seems that the challenge of producing pork and poultry continues grow with each passing month. Whether it is negative market fundamentals, diseases, animal welfare or environmental pressures, you can guarantee that profits will remain hard to come by. This trend is one that is sure to continue in the future, even once this current rut we find ourselves in has passed. So, let's talk this month about two management functions that we as producers of pork and poultry can control in order for our business to survive the tough times and prosper in high times.

Feed Efficiency may be the single greatest factor affecting the bottom line for producers. The following key factors should be addressed with your Standard Nutrition consultant and will result in a positive impact to your profit: formulation (best use of available feed stuffs for your farm including alternative feeds), feed manufacturing (accuracy of mixing and proper particle size), nutrient technologies (products that will improve ability to digest the nutrients), feed delivery (reduce separation, feed wastage, and out of feed events) to insure we meet our stocks feed conversion potential.

Risk Management- Who are we working with to protect our business from the highs and lows of grains, and meat? The one thing that we have all realized is that when such a high percentage of market prices received for goods have been contracted in advance, or fund buyers move great sums of money in and out of our market, the remaining cash bids can be extremely volatile. We can no longer leave our businesses at risk to these volatilities. Thus said, if we have been contracting the ins and outs of our business, we would have owned some \$5/ bushel corn for longer than we'd have wished, but this is part of securing our business. Pick a partner to assist you with this, and a plan that you can stick with through thick and thin.

We all are planning to survive the current markets, so be sure to consider the points above which may assist you in profitable producing pork and poultry.

## Don's Deal

Don Deleurme



In traveling as of late, and seeing what is happening in the Agriculture industry, it has become apparent that not only are we facing trying times with price within the livestock industry, but in addition, the dry climate which many areas in the west are facing is proving to make grain farming very nerve racking. Some areas have been hit with frost in early June which has forced some to turn over very young crops. The dry weather has caused some crops not to germinate and at this time of year that spells disaster for grain supplies come this fall. Especially when needed to feeding livestock. This will be an area to closely watch because this may cause the commodity market to be extremely volatile come this fall.

I would like to thank all of those who came to our meeting last month. It was informative and I was glad to see many of you be able to take time out of your busy schedules by attending this kind of event. We appreciated the attendance and the camaraderie with all of you.

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome Kirk Russell to our consulting team. Kirk has been in the agriculture industry for most of his career and in many different aspects. Kirk will be based out of Lethbridge, and will service mostly the southern and mid-Alberta. We are excited to have him join Standard-Max Pro Nutrition and are confident he will make a great addition to the consulting team.

## Craig's Corner

Craig Anderson



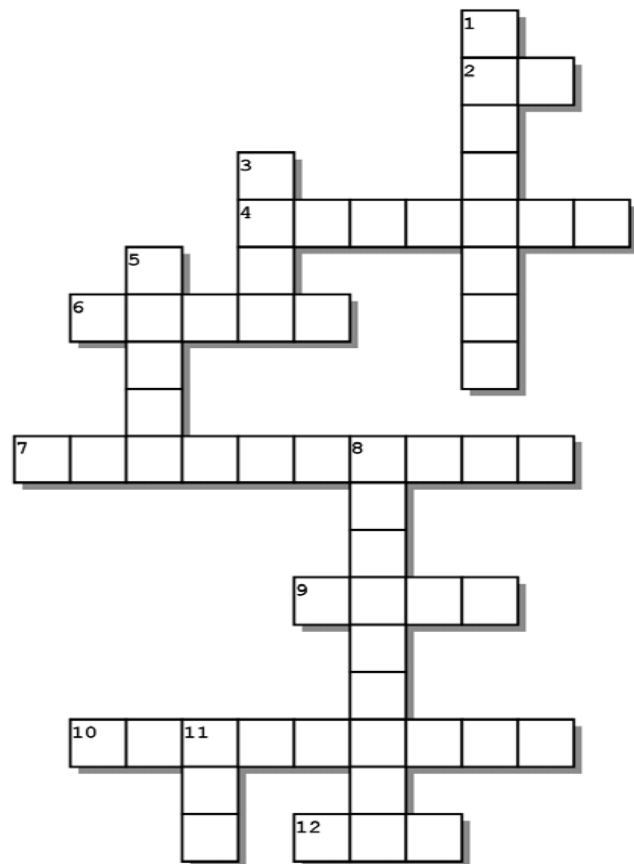
Here we are in the middle of June, and we have the hog market retreating further instead of reversing the trend and moving higher. Last week the WHO announced that indeed the H1N1 flu strain can now be declared a pandemic, it has been officially found in 74 countries and counting! Grain prices are rallying higher every day it seems, with possibilities of a short corn crop. Demand for our pork products is down both domestically, and with the countries we export to. What in the heck is the pork producer to do, what does the future hold for our industry and the products we produce?

NO ONE can answer this question at this time. The pork industry will survive this dramatic downturn, but no doubt it will look somewhat differently. Pork has to be produced profitably, or no one will produce it, the law of supply economics. When everyone sees no hope for the future, is the time to be in the business. Some event will take place, that no one can see or predict, that will change the outcomes as we see and know them today!

Producers that fit the colony profile will be the survivors in the industry, if they choose to be! The producers that grow their own corn, that can effectively utilize home grown labor, and that can fully utilize the manure that is produced on their farm, will be sustainable in the swine industry long term. The other key parameter in the industry today is the collateral position held by the banker in relation to the operation. Therefore, land based operations have the edge!

## Turkey Health Update

Colin Kirkegaard, DVM, MS  
Crossword Puzzle!!!



### Across

2 - Abbreviation for the virus most flocks vaccinate for around 5 to 6 weeks of age.  
4 - Genus for all turkey coccidia.

6 - Feed medication used to control coccidiosis.

7 - Feed \_\_\_\_\_ is a management technique used to reduce processor condemnations.

9 - The structure where feed first accumulates in the turkey's gastrointestinal tract.

10 - Cause of loose droppings.

12 - 3 letter abbreviation for feed medication approved for the treatment and control of necrotic enteritis.

### Down

1 - Substance commonly used to treat poultry drinking water.

3 - Turkeys have two of these where mammals only have one.

5 - The smallest of turkeys.

8 - Water coccidia treatment.

11 - Opposite of Hen.

## Nutritionally Speaking

Darrelle Embury, M.Sc.  
Monitoring Quality of On-Farm Ingredients



My last contribution to the newsletter talked about the limitations of using feed labels to evaluate the quality of a manufactured feed product. Similar considerations should be made with regards to labels present on individual feed ingredients purchased for use in on-farm diet formulation. Part of an effective quality control program for incoming feed ingredients relies on proper identification and subsequent storage of these ingredients.

All incoming ingredients arriving on-farm should be inspected and labels read to identify medications, trace minerals or other feed additives. In the case of medications, check each drug for its D.I.N. (Drug Identification Number) and do not accept improperly identified ingredients. Check all bags for rips or tears and do not accept ingredients that are not in good condition. Depending upon the type of ingredient purchased, a label will accompany the feed ingredient or feed additive indicating a nutrient profile, purpose and usage rate of the

ingredient. Always read the label to determine the suitability of the product for its intended use (is it approved for swine, poultry etc.?). Review the label to verify if it is the product that you were expecting. Check the product name and concentration - many products available for use in livestock feeds are available in different concentrations. The concentration of the product will determine its usage rate in the final diet.

In order to legally use an ingredient in livestock feed in Canada, the feed ingredient must be approved for use in the particular species of livestock for which the feed is being manufactured. The use of the incorrect product or an unapproved ingredient can have consequences for animal health, food safety and the livestock industry in Canada. Please contact your Standard-Max Pro nutritionist or consultant for further information on product approval or suitability.

## From the Field

Dr. Brian Anderson  
Director of Colony Nutrition



While visiting the world Pork Expo this year and talking to producers, the reoccurring question was what can we do to our nutritional programs to become more efficient and lower feed costs. I quickly explained that these two ideas (efficiency and costs) are directly related if we do things properly and indirectly related if we don't.

Let me explain; if we look at products, principles, and processes which increase efficiency while at least maintaining costs then we have accomplished both. In fact; depending on the increase in efficiency, increases in

feed costs can still lead to lower production costs. On the flip side, lowering feed costs by removing products from the diet or lowering nutritional quality of the diet to reduce feed costs often results in actually increasing production costs due to reduced feed efficiency. Some examples might be substituting alternative ingredients into your diets to lower costs only to see performance go down. There are many quality products and alternative ingredients presently available in the market but if not used properly even the best products and the best intentions can become a liability.

## Mike's Minute

Mike McNab  
Standard Nutrition Consultant



Mold is a topic that draws a lot of attention from poultry and livestock producers. With warmer weather now here, mold can grow rapidly in corn as well as many other feed ingredients given the right conditions. Mold levels can fluctuate widely as corn is fed that comes from the bottom of a grain bin. I have seen mold counts change from less than 1000 CFU/gram to up and over 1,000,000 CFU/gram from one batch of feed to the next. Once ingested by the animal, mycotoxins produced by the mold reduce efficiency and increase cost of production.

There are many products available to help limit the absorption of the mycotoxins by the animal. These

products are either an organic or an inorganic product. Inorganic products include: bentonite, hydrated sodium calcium aluminosilicates, diatomaceous earth and other clays. These products are usually less expensive, but may need higher inclusions rates to work and may bind some minerals and vitamins. Organic products include: various fibrous products, extracts of yeast cell walls, cellulose, hemi-cellulose, as well as other products and tend not to bind nutrients in the feed. It is recommended to check your feed for mold and include one of these products in your feed at the level necessary to limit mycotoxin absorption. Contact your Standard Nutrition Consultant to help determine which product will best work for you.

## Nutritionally Speaking

Michelle Tjardes, Ph.D.  
Formaldehyde—Good or Evil??



Many turkey producers use formaldehyde to treat their feedstuffs to reduce salmonella contamination and it can be used to prevent mold growth. However, producers should understand that in the case of formaldehyde as with many other feed additives, more is not better. We know from numerous research trials that poultry and specifically turkeys will grow much better when feed is free of mold and bacteria that can cause disease. However, formaldehyde use does not come without risks. Formaldehyde is a potentially carcinogenic compound and can have adverse effects on the respiratory system of humans. So it should be handled carefully.

Additionally, a study was just conducted by DSM and Kansas State University evaluating the stability and efficacy of phytase enzymes in the presence of formaldehyde. 2 formaldehyde products (Sal-Curb, 6.5

lbs/ton & Terminate, 4.4 lbs/ton) were added in the presence of 2 phytases (Ronozyme & Quantum). Phytase recovery and chick growth were evaluated. The addition of formaldehyde decreased the level of phytase analyzed in the diets. Both phytase sources were susceptible to both formaldehyde products. The reduction in phytase activity found by analysis resulted in a reduction in gain by the chicks fed the formaldehyde treated rations.

These data are important to understand given the high requirement for both calcium and phosphorus by the growing turkey. Any deficiency can result in bone development problems and structural soundness. It is important to weigh the risk of using contaminated feedstuffs with the effects of formaldehyde on enzyme stability. Please contact your Standard Nutrition consultant for more information on formaldehyde use in turkey diets.