

The Mystery Colony

This month's mystery colony is just south of the Canadian border. If you can't figure it out, call your Standard Nutrition Consultant and have them give some hints. April's mystery colony was Seville Colony.

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Tobin' Talk

Jason McNaughton



The spring reluctantly came to Manitoba this year, a true blessing as we battled flood waters which were second highest since the 1800's. A slow melt allowed for our rivers to handle the crest, which displaced 2200 Manitoba residents from their homes and had thousands more sand bagging, pumping and praying. Once again the residences of our Province have found friendship and inspiration in the Hutterite community here, through their willingness to come and help. Without this effort from the Hutterite people and volunteers many homes and dreams would have been greatly damaged or lost completely.

This spring also brought us out to view a new farrow to finish operation in Manitoba, built by Evergreen Colony. At this viewing, we heard that this was the first sow barn built in Manitoba in 5 years! I was personally inspired by what I witnessed at this new farm. The farm will house and finish offspring produced by 1000 sows and was built as an open gestation system (without stalls). The sows will be grouped in 200 head sets, where their computer chip id will control many functions of their management. This unique system will automatically sort out those sows that are due to enter the farrowing house, possible open animals, or ones that have lost their computer chip ids. While sorting the animals, each will be sprayed with different colors that identify why the animal has been sorted from the group. Aside from this innovative gestation barn, the members of this colony did an extraordinary job of building this barn and installing the equipment. The workmanship was the talk of this event. I've never seen such great work in my life, and must congratulate them for their commitment to this job, and to our pork industry. Thank you to the management of Evergreen for having us out on this day.

Don's Deal

Don Deleurme



As spring time is upon us for many it does not feel like it whatsoever. Seed planting is very slow and for some regions it looks like it will not happen for a very long time. Hopefully for those less fortunate a turn for the better will transpire and they will be able to plant a crop at a decent time where there will be enough growing season to get a crop off for this year. Due to this weather it will be important to monitor what is happening in the country because if it is a very late planting season, this will have a huge impact on commodity prices this fall. Thinking of locking in commodities might become a very important option for the next fiscal year if there is a poor crop in 2009.

For many people near Lethbridge, as you all very well know that Dave Borsboom and I became quite ill. For Dave, fortunately, it was not as life threatening or as long lasting. As for myself, it became very apparent, after spending a month at home recovering that one takes advantage of the most valuable thing given to us and that being our health. I would like to thank everyone who called and left thoughtful messages in regards to my recovery. It was nice to hear voices of people who we have a business relationship with but at the end of the day after what is said there are friendships with these people.

Craig's Corner

Craig Anderson



As of this writing, April 6th, how much profitability can the hog producer expect for the rest of 2009 and going into 2010? We know that we can expect a strong seasonal increase, about \$10.00 per hundredweight from mid-April going into spring. Will this year bring even more of a seasonal increase? Only time will tell, as there are many unknowns currently in the world economy that will ultimately influence the hog price. The breeding herd is currently down 3%, and the summer farrowing intentions are down 4%. Along with that, 2.3 million less hogs will be coming from Canada, due to the liquidation of the Canadian sow herd. There are currently empty finishing barns in the Midwest, a sign that animal numbers are truly on the decline.

What are the negative factors that we need to consider as we move through the period. The tone toward higher corn and meal prices came from smaller than expected planted acres and the March 1 stocks report. However, no one will know how many acres are actually planted until they are in the ground. We need to pay close attention to the final numbers, as this will influence future grain prices. The other main factor to consider is export demand. It is estimated we will be down 14% this year from last year when China was a critical buyer. This amounts to 700 million pounds less pork shipped out of the country. All in all, both positive and negative factors are at play here, we need to pay close attention as we move forward to help us with our risk these factors determine our management strategies.

From the Field

Ken Prychun
Ice, Rain, & Sand

Standard Nutrition Swine Consultant



Thank You!! As you keep reading you will understand what I mean.

For those of you who don't know me or where I live, I'm Ken Prychun who consults out of Winnipeg, Manitoba and lives on the mighty Red River, north of Winnipeg, in a town called Selkirk. My wife Carla and I live on a small acreage right on the Red River, which at times is called the "Flood Zone".

Well, this spring is making us and our neighbors very anxious. We had a very cold winter which created ice, thicker than normal (in the range of 3 – 3 ½ feet). Now the snow is melting and the river is rising due to ice jams, the panic is on to sandbag our homes so our basements don't fill up with water.

Very concerned, we made a few phone calls to Hutterite Colonies. We were thinking we would get 20 – 30 people when obviously the word got out that the Prychun's needed help. The following morning a small group of us started bagging at my neighbors. Then around mid-morning we smiled as we saw the first van pulling in to my yard, then a bus, then another van, then another bus, full of Hutterite friends eager to help us and our neighbors with their homes. My neighbors could not believe their eyes when they saw all the support from the Hutterite Colony folks when they started to walk from my yard to theirs. Young boys and girls, men and women of all ages started the

grueling process of laying sandbags. A shocking amount of over 100 colony people showed up that day to assist the half dozen of us. We sandbagged four houses in 8 ½ hours and laid down approximately 25,000 sandbags.

We truly know that we are blessed with the friendships we have through people showing up that day and the continuing phone calls I get on where the water level. Many of these callers are curious to know what else they could do to help.

My family, friends and neighbors are uncertain of how we could ever return the gestures of so many; all we can say is THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU.....

PS—In a couple of weeks we're having a Sandbag Removal gathering. Hint, Hint!!



Nutritionally Speaking

Darrelle Embury, M.Sc.

Standard Nutrition Nutritionist

The Limitations of Feed Labels to Evaluate Feed Quality



Often the nutritional quality of a feed is evaluated by means of the nutrient guarantees listed on the feed label (tag) accompanying the feed purchase. Unfortunately, the information on the feed label is only a snapshot of the level of nutrition being provided by the product. Canadian feed manufacturers are required to provide a feed label with the basic nutritional information in the Guaranteed Analysis section. The nutrients listed in this section vary depending on the type of product - complete feed, supplement or premix - and the type of animal being fed. The Guaranteed Analysis includes crude protein, fibre, fat, macro mineral (calcium, phosphorus, sodium, etc.), trace mineral (zinc, copper, etc.), and vitamin levels guaranteed in the product.

The feed label serves as a broad way to evaluate a feed product, however there are nutrients (ex. B vitamins) and ingredients present in feed that are not declared on the label that can make similarly labeled feed products very different from each other. The quality of ingredients used influences how available the individual nutrients are to the pig. Amino acid levels including lysine, threonine and

methionine and ratios of these amino acids help to describe the quality of a protein source and play a part in optimizing pig performance. Amino acid levels provided by a feed product are not required on the label, so simply comparing the crude protein percentage from one label to another does not provide enough information on the quality of protein source used and suitability for the class of pig being fed. Digestibility values for individual ingredients or nutrients better predict pig performance and this information cannot be gained from the feed label. Trace mineral source is another important piece of ingredient quality information that does not appear on the feed label. Mineral source affects the availability of that mineral to the pig. Whether the oxide, sulfate or chelated form of a mineral is present cannot be determined based on the mineral analysis provided on the feed label.

Please consult your Standard Nutrition representative for more information on the suitability of a particular feed product or for questions regarding your feed label guarantees or directions for use.

Nutritionally Speaking

Michelle Tjardes, Ph.D.

Standard Nutrition Nutritionist

Meat & Bone Meal (MBM) - Quality vs. Price



Meat and bone meal (MBM) is an important feedstuff in poultry nutrition. MBM is prepared from the waste materials associated with slaughtering operations and also from the rendering of dead animals. There can be a wide variation between plants and batches in what goes into the MBM that is being prepared. It is a good source of protein; however the digestibility of the amino acids can vary greatly. Raw materials (beef, pork, or mixed) and processing temperature and pressure greatly influence the amino acid digestibility and thus quality of MBM.

A large source of variation in the quality of MBM is the ash content. If the ash content is high, this indicates that it contains a higher amount of bones. Bone contains 83% collagen. Collagen is devoid of the essential amino acid tryptophan and is very low in the rest of the essential amino acids. Therefore, the higher the ash content, the lower the level of amino acids necessary for growth.

Additionally, the quality of MBM is influenced by the processing temperature. As temperature increases, the digestibility of the amino acids will decrease. Temperatures exceeding 130°C have been shown to decrease the amino acid availability to the bird.

The amino acid cysteine is most negatively impacted by heat. This is important because poultry have a high requirement for the sulfur amino acids (methionine and cysteine) and sulfur amino acid level is the lowest quantity in typical turkey rations. Additionally, increasing processing temperature can decrease the amount of energy available to the bird.

From our testing we know current rendering processes do not always destroy pathogenic bacteria in the MBM, such as Clostridium. It is important to test and treat MBM to make sure you have the best quality to promote the overall health of your birds.

It is very important when formulating diets containing MBM that the digestible level of amino acids be used. This will result in a better estimation of what is available to the bird for growth. It is also important to know what processing temperature your source of MBM has been treated with. Finding a consistent source of high quality meat and bone meal will help in maximizing the growth potential of your turkeys.

Turkey Health Update

Colin Kirkegaard, DVM, M.S.

Erysipelas in Turkeys



From an economic standpoint turkeys are the most important poultry species affected by erysipelas.

Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae is the causative bacterium in turkeys just as it is in swine. Turkeys of all ages are susceptible with the incidence in males reported to be higher. Erysipelas can affect the fertility of males and may contribute to down grading and processing losses. Infection occurs when the organism enters through breaks in the skin or through the mucous membranes, and by ingestion of contaminated feed (particularly cannibalism of infected carcasses).

The organism is shed in the feces from infected animals and contaminates the litter and soil where it can survive for long periods. Turkeys may be carriers and shed the organism without showing clinical signs of the disease. In non-vaccinated flocks morbidity and mortality may reach 40-50% but mortality is usually limited to less than 15%. In vaccinated flocks some birds may be depressed for a short period of time and recover. Mortality in vaccinated and non-vaccinated flocks is influenced by the virulence of the organism.

Clinical Symptoms

Erysipelas is primarily an acute infection characterized by sudden death. In an affected flock some of the following clinical symptoms may be observed: lack of appetite,

depression, sleepiness, swollen snood, and chronic scabby skin (especially snood),

Diagnosis

Erysipelas outbreaks need to be differentiated from the other septicemic diseases such as pasteurellosis (fowl cholera), colibacillosis (*E. coli*), and salmonellosis that can affect turkeys. A presumptive diagnosis can be based on an impression smear of the liver or spleen (see picture below). Isolation and identification of *Erysipelothrix rhusiopathiae* is necessary for a definitive diagnosis.

Treatment and Control

The antibiotic of choice is penicillin and can be injected or administered through the water. Vaccination with inactivated or live vaccines are available to control erysipelas. Only vaccines approved for use in turkeys should be used.

