

The Mystery Colony

This month's mystery colony is in South Central Minnesota. If you can't figure it out, call your Standard Nutrition Consultant and have them give some hints. Last month's colony was Starland Colony.

Brian Anderson (605) 941-4937

Patrick Prychun (204) 471-7287

Chad Deatherage (605) 695-4655

Mike McNab (507) 920 8188



Standard Nutrition Services, LLC
PO Box 3844
Omaha, NE 68103

Standard Nutrition Services, LLC

PO Box 3844
Omaha, NE 68103



Tobin' Talk

Jason McNaughton



Many of our comments have focused on the volatile markets. I'd like to change gears and acknowledge changes and additions on our team. In Brandon, Manitoba we welcomed Greg Farely. Greg is working with John Enns operating our Innovative Veterinary Services retail outlet and livestock truck wash. With Greg joining our team, we are now open from 8 AM-8 PM to compliment our 24 hour wash service. John and Greg have also opened a Standard Nutrition warehouse, where customers can access many of our feed nutrition products. In Lethbridge, we have welcomed Gordon Vandasselaar as our Production Manager. Gordon knows our company and customers well and is geared up to handle all customer feed orders. Assisting Gordon and Dan at that facility is another new addition in Rob Hedley. Rob is an experienced production technician who will assist us in achieving greater heights at our Lethbridge facility. Lastly, we have welcomed Jolene (Jo) Waldie who has joined IVS in Lethbridge to assist Dr. Dawn and our clients at this facility. Like Rob, Jo has past experiences within our industry and has hit the ground running in Lethbridge. We are extremely proud to welcome each of these people to our Standard team, and feel very fortunate that they have chosen our company and industry. At Standard we take great pride in our ability as a company to work with some of the most talented and skilled people in our industry. During these difficult times many companies have reduced their staffs and the services they offer. As our client base continues to grow and more and more producers are finding the value that our team can bring to their business, we continue to seek strong professionals to join our team. As the year goes by, we'll hopefully introduce you to a few others.

Don's Deal

Don Deleurme



In discussions with producers as of late, barn performance, for the most part, has taken a turn for the better in the finishing side. As fall is now with us many places have seen an increase in hogs moving through the feeder barns in a timely manner. Between better grains and the cooler temperatures hogs are moving through the barn quicker which in the end shows better feed conversion and better profitability. With feed costs at the present every little bit helps the bottom line. With fall comes the other issue of sow repeats on the rise. It is natural to see this event happening due to the warm days and very cool nights. A suggestion is to monitor on a weekly basis if the issue is natural or is there a health issue arising through you herd. As for management of the environment make some adjustments to your barn settings so that the animals are not exposed to the large fluctuations in temperature. Many are asking the question, do I lock in prices for some commodities because from one week to the next the price fluctuates dramatically. My suggestion is if you do not know your cost as of yet to feed a hog through your facility, do it. Once one knows the cost and the price you need to be profitable make the call. There have been some not bad deals as of late but they left as fast as they came. Shop around on commodity prices and monitor as best you can the markets. Only then will you find the best deal for your facility.

Craig's Corner

Craig Anderson



As of September 30, 2008, the mandatory Country-of Origin Labeling (COOL) law became effective. What does this mean for the producer of livestock? Producers are the only ones that have first hand knowledge concerning the origin of their animals. Definitive origin information must be provided to slaughter facilities so that meat covered commodities can be accurately labeled at retail.

The National Pork Producers Council is recommending industry wide adoption by meat packers of a standard affidavit for use in verifying the origin of the hogs. This would eliminate the need for providing the affidavit every time the producer sells a load of hogs. NPPC believes a new affidavit should only be required if the producer has changed production practices. Meat packers will be deciding very soon whether they will only accept U.S. hogs or mixed lots.

Original producers of livestock will be required to maintain for at least one year the following documents; birth records, inventory records that reconcile, purchase and sales receipts, and supporting documents identified by the USDA. These supporting documents will include financial records such as income statements and balance sheets. Other documents may include scale tickets, closeout records, feed bills, health treatments or vaccinations, and shipping records. If you have question concerning COOL, contact your Standard Consultant for more information.

From the Field

Elwyn Beck

Standard Nutrition Swine Consultant



I'm Back!!! As some of you know I was in a car accident in March and broke a Vertebra in my back. After a long time away from work, I returned to work on September 8. I just want to thank all who wrote, called or stopped to see me and encouraged me. It was a long drawn out affair. I also want to thank my wife Mary who had to put up with me. I know I wasn't always the best patient, but she always treated me better than I deserved.

Agriculture and the swine industry are going through a long drawn out affair as well. The condition of the industry is also serious and needs some loving attention. One advantage of achieving a certain age is having seen bad times happen before. I can think of at least three times in my life where people were sure that the good time in swine production were gone and would never come back again. 1998 was the one I remember the most. People were really hurt by the price drop, but there were other times in the 1970s and in the 1960s that were also bleak times for hog farmers. The face of agriculture has changed dramatically since 1950 when I was born. Whether we consider the change good or bad, we have to live with the reality of that change. A wise man once told me that I could complain about the changes in the hog industry or I could find opportunities in those changes. I believe that we are going through the same type

of situation now. We have to find opportunities and take advantage of those opportunities.

As input costs and transportation increases, it is important for producers to find ways to become more efficient and productive. One large finisher noticed a \$7 per pig difference in feed costs per pig between two different genetics. Using enzymes and other biological products, controlling disease with biosecurity, all in- all out technology and offsite production and step feeding are examples of steps that can be taken to improve efficiency. These examples as well as others not mentioned can not be implemented all at once, but it is important to move to greater efficiency.

Increasing profitability or at least limiting losses can also be achieved by receiving greater value for investment of both time and money. Niche marketing, (roasters, organic markets, iso-weans etc) are ways to increase the return over traditional marketing.

As long as I can remember, prices for both inputs and products have gone up and down. I would expect that to continue. The key to success in the swine industry is to be efficient and to know what can be done to improve profitability.

Turkey Health Update

Colin Kirkegaard, DVM, MS

Coccidiosis



Parasites can and do infect any and all animals at some point in their life cycle. However, I doubt there are any more pervasive than the myriad of coccidia strains that infect our domestic poultry including our friend the turkey. I've often wondered why poultry have more problems with coccidiosis than our other domestic animals. It's probably a combination of bird density on floor litter coupled with natural instincts to preen, peck and pick.

Coccidia are very host specific. For example, the species that cause disease in chickens do not cause disease in turkeys and the species that cause disease in turkeys do cause disease in chickens. There are 7 species of coccidia in turkeys of which only 4 are capable of causing disease (pathogenic) in turkeys. All turkey coccidia belong to the *Eimeria* spp. *Eimeria adenoides*, *Eimeria dispersa*, *Eimeria gallopayonis*, and *Eimeria meleagridis* are all considered to be pathogenic. *Eimeria innocua*, *Eimeria meleagridis*, and *Eimeria subrotunda* are all considered nonpathogenic. There is no cross protection from one species to another, For example, a flock with immunity to *Eimeria adenoides* can still become infected with *Eimeria meleagridis* and undergo a disease outbreak.

Infection occurs when the birds eat infective (sporulated)

oocysts (eggs). Once in the intestine the coccidia invade the lining and destroy the cells normally used for the digestion and absorption of nutrients. If the infection is severe enough, the destruction of the lining can result in diarrhea and hemorrhage. Loose, bubbly droppings with or without evidence of blood and mucus are commonly seen from birds undergoing coccidia infection. Production losses occur from weight loss, poor feed conversion, and reduced growth.

Coccidiosis spreads from bird to bird through eating or drinking contaminated feed, water, litter or other material containing coccidia. The main source of infections is the turkey itself as a bird with active coccidiosis discharges great numbers of oocysts in the droppings. Then as the flock pecks into the litter millions of oocysts may be taken in with each beakful. A bird that has recovered from coccidiosis may carry and possibly discharge oocysts for months. Furthermore, oocysts can survive in moist soil for a year or more.

Cool, damp conditions (typical fall weather) hastens the formation of sporulated oocysts which are the infective stage of coccidiosis. It's important that we keep this in mind as we walk our barns this time of the year and be on the lookout for breakthroughs in our coccidia control programs.

From The Field

Mike McNab

Standard Nutrition Turkey Consultant



As you are reading this, I hope you are nearing the completion of a bountiful and safe harvest season. It seems as if we have been waiting for new corn for a long time this year. Many producers have had to buy corn and there have been a lot of questions mold in corn and other feed stuffs. As we get to the bottom of the corn bin, we typically run into more mold problems. We have found several cases where mold and mycotoxins have been a concern. Molds can produce mycotoxins that have a negative impact on turkey and livestock production. Some of these negative effects include: reduced feed intake or feed refusal, reduced nutrient absorption and metabolism, a change in the production of hormones and enzymes, suppression of the immune system, poor growth, increased mortality, leg problems, and an increase in carcass condemnation. These effects can lead to unspecific symptoms making it difficult to diagnose mycotoxin problems. The best way to determine a mycotoxin problem is by a tissue sample analysis from affected birds and feed analysis.

Crops stressed by too much or too little rain, heat or cold and damage from hail will increase the probability of mycotoxins produced from mold. It is also important to check the ingredients you purchase to make feed on the colony. Soybean meal, dried distillers grains, and other alternate feed ingredients need to be checked for mold. When these ingredients arrive at your feed mill a sample should be taken with half sent to a lab for analysis and the other half retained in the mill for future

reference if needed. Corn needs to be dried and stored properly to reduce mold and mycotoxins. Storage bins need to be cleaned out at least annually. It is recommended that corn be dried to at least 12% moisture if it will be used in feed manufacturing. If corn is stored at this moisture level the mold spores become metabolically inactive.

There are several acid products available that can be added to your feed on a regular basis to help reduce or control the growth of mold and mycotoxins. Once mycotoxins are in the feed, they cannot be removed without removing the ingredient source of the problem. If you are dealing with mycotoxins in the feed there are organic absorbents and inorganic binders to reduce the effects of the toxins in the animal on feed. The inorganic binders are less expensive but are added at a higher rate. They also tend to bind vitamins and minerals at higher rates. The organic absorbents are more expensive but are added at a lower inclusion rate. Research shows organic absorbents with glucomannan containing yeast products are effective in absorbing several mycotoxins.

Molds and mycotoxins add stress to your turkeys and rob profitability from your grower operation. Your Standard Nutrition Consultant can help in identifying a potential mold problem and in developing a game plan to deal with or help prevent mold and mycotoxins from reducing profitability in your flock.

Turkey Talk

Jim Plyler, M.S.

Standard Nutrition Turkey Consultant

Nitrate Removal—No Problem!



Much good can be said for the necessity of nitrates and nitrites when it comes to food products. But in our private wells for drinking water for our family and our animals we need to be tenacious about keeping them under control. Just a few years ago, nitrate removal was not a problem for private wells, because there was no way to remove it. You can not oxidize it with chlorine nor filter it with sand or carbons. Using reverse osmosis or distillation would work but only for small volumes of water, but large volumes of water would make them cost prohibitive (in most cases) and labor intensive.

The past solution was to find a promising location for a new, deeper well away from septic fields, cess-pools, hog wastes sprayed on fields for cultivation, poultry litter spread on fields for cultivation, inorganic fertilizers applied on row crops etc., and go to an aquifer deeper than the one presently used. Once nitrates have percolated into the aquifer, they can spread considerable distances. A deeper well may or may not solve the problem and it is a costly gamble at best.

The best resin in the proper cubic footage and adequate regeneration will produce beneficial results. Other factors such as pH, the ppm of sulfates, and bicarbonates should also be considered in the selection of the resin and its volume.

Things to remember:

1. Chlorine will NOT remove nitrates but it may prevent them from being reduced to the toxic nitrite form. Improper use of chlorine can have an adverse effect.
2. Nitrates can be oxidized.
3. Contaminated well water is sometime caused by poor wellhead protection from runoff animal waste that posses nitrate-nitrogen.
4. Nitrates may indicate high levels of biological pathogens.
5. Nitrates provide nutrients that promote growth of algae and biofilms in water lines/systems.
6. Nitrates affect the ability of the blood to carry oxygen.
7. Nitrates reduce growth, and increase mortality rate.
8. Nitrates have no detectable color, taste or smell at low concentrations.
9. Nitrates can cause thyroid enlargement.
10. Nitrates removal resins require frequent and through regeneration. Nitrates selective resins also reduce alkalinity which will lower pH. Water chemistry and water solutions can be intimidating. When addressing the issue of nitrates, it is imperative that you work with a professional.