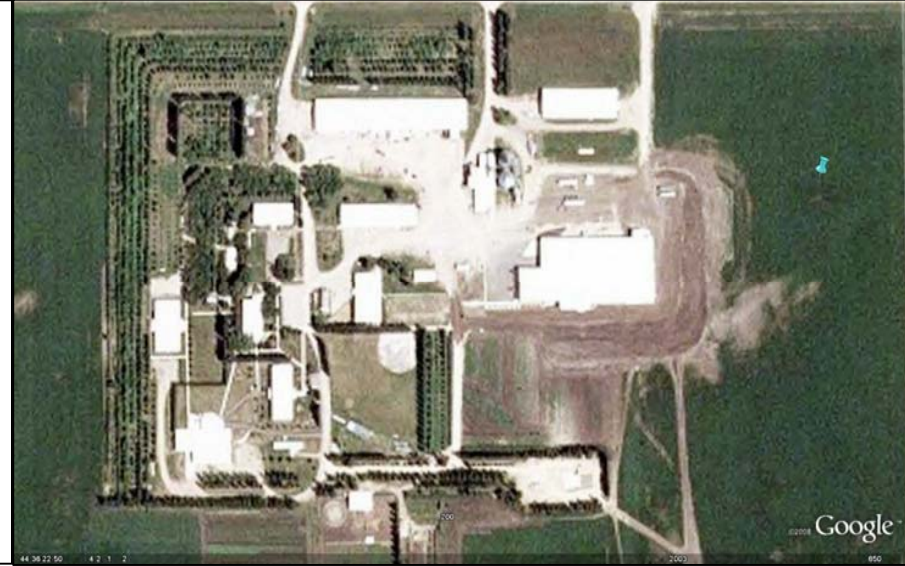


# The Mystery Colony

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

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 Omaha, NE 68103



### Tobin' Talk

Jason McNaughton



The U.S. agriculture industry is currently going through a definite transition that weighs export markets more heavily than ever in its past. The bread basket of America has in part become a bread basket for the world. This shift in market dynamic naturally brings with it a whole host of new fundamentals to the fore front. Just ask any Canadian farmer, who's country has been reliant on export markets for an eternity. Canada with a generally small population base has been a producer of food for export customers since the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Being an export nation brings with it many opportunities, but also a few extra threats that can quickly alter the prices we receive for our pork, poultry, and crops. The new fundamentals include international trade, currencies, freight (cost and availability), and a host of new competitors that produce similar products as us. Exports of US pork currently make up close to a quarter of the pork we produce. This is a staggering number which could grow rapidly over the next few months and years. With economic times as they are, and US financial institutions experiencing such a severe adjustment, its likely that this currency can remain low enough to support the growth of many export markets. As an industry we've been plowing ahead to meet the new demands created by these fundamentals. But then- trade issues with Russia and Mexico somewhat derail the positive momentum the market had experienced. Now maybe this does not seem new to many, although I believe that its much different due to the pricing affect. If one quarter of production compared with ten percent is reliant on exports, the price shifts become much more defined meaning our markets will be extremely volatile.

### Don's Deal

Don Deleurme



As fall rolls around for most the crop is in the bin and quality for the most part is favorable. What a lot of producers had to do this year is basically feed their new grain straight from the combines and that unfortunately can cause some negative effects if you were one of those producers. My only suggestion for you is to deal with it because it does not last for a long time or use an enzyme short term if you are not already and this will help with the situation you are dealing with. Favorably it is best under ideal situations to leave your grain in the bin for at least 3 weeks before you feed it to livestock but we don't always live in ideal situations so it gets fed when needed.

We have seen some favorable increases in hog prices but as the light got brighter shortly after it got dimmer. It goes to show how volatile our industry has become and gives all an indication of what the future is saying to us in the swine industry. Whatever happens things can dramatically change in a blink of an eye so if there are opportunities that arise we need to capitalize on those because they don't seem to stay around very long anymore.

For most people who know me personally, as you all know I got married last month and in taking on a new life with my new bride I thank all of you who offered all the warm and happy wishes for Bonnie and I. Many were shocked about the news but I guess none of us are too old to make the right decisions in life.

### Craig's Corner

Craig Anderson



As of this writing, September 8<sup>th</sup>, there is no forecast of an early frost. If this holds true, Informa's yield estimates last week of 156.6 bushels of corn per acre, and 41.4 bushels of soybeans per acre may be allowed to materialize. This would give us some breathing room for carryover next year, although there is not much margin for error. We would also think that this yield potential would allow for the covering of feed needs, probably in October if you have not already done so. What this will allow is the ability to help cover the cost of production better than the scenario allowed this summer,

I am cautiously optimistic when it comes to the swine industry this late fall. Yes, we will have weekly kills this fall approaching 2.5 million head, however, U.S. exports were up 113% in June compared to a year earlier, that is five times the pace from year ago levels. China continues to be the most dynamic growth market, as the people there continue to demand more red meat as their standard of living improves. Economists do not see the pace for pork exports slowing significantly, unless the dollar strengthens to a great degree and holds that trend.

What about the production side of the equation? If we look at the numbers, about 300,000 sows have been, or shortly will be taken out of production both here in the U.S. and Canada. That translates into roughly 7.5 million pigs that won't be placed! The possibility of much higher hog prices in late fall or early winter could become a reality?

## Nutritionally Speaking

Darrelle Embury, MS

### Detection of Mold and Mycotoxins in Swine Feed



The presence of mold and mycotoxins in swine diets or individual feed ingredients is an ongoing issue for swine producers. Molds can grow on crops in the field as well as during storage if given the proper conditions of moisture and temperature. Insect damage in the field can further increase the susceptibility of a crop to fungal infection. Field or storage conditions which promote mold growth can lead to mycotoxin production. However, the presence of mold does not automatically mean that mycotoxins are present – not all molds produce mycotoxins. Mold on its own can have negative effects on the nutrient content of the crop and on quality / palatability of the grain to the pig. Mycotoxin-contaminated grains may affect animal performance through reductions in feed intake, growth rate, or reproductive performance.

The level of mold or mycotoxin contamination of a feedstuff can be determined through sampling and laboratory analysis of the affected ingredient. The accuracy of the laboratory test for the presence of molds or mycotoxins is only as good as the sample

submitted to the lab. It is important that an appropriate number of random samples of the ingredient or feed to be tested are obtained in order to represent the bulk lot of feed or ingredient in question. Mold can exist in “pockets” within a load of grain or feed bin and so appropriate sampling is important here. There are a large number of potential toxins produced by molds and it would be too costly to test for all of them. Mycotoxin testing is normally restricted to testing for a few common toxins as signs of potential problems. Toxins can exist in combination with each other and interact to produce greater negative effects on the pig than each toxin acting alone. This may explain why toxin test results and observed negative effects on pig performance do not always match up.

It is important that a planned sampling and testing protocol is used to most accurately determine the level of mold or mycotoxin contamination. Please contact your Standard-MaxPro Nutrition representative for further information on mold or mycotoxin testing.

## Swine Health Update

Colin Kirkegaard, DVM, MS

SIV



The fall season with its changeable weather places extraordinary demands on our ventilation systems and increases the susceptibility of our swine populations to SIV (Swine Influenza Virus). A SIV infection can result in an explosive outbreak of acute disease that is characterized by large numbers of grow-finish pigs that are off feed and coughing with labored breathing. The classic case is you have a barn full of pigs that are normal one day and the next day they are off feed, lying around, “thumping” and coughing. You are sure the death loss from this outbreak will be high when in fact many of the pigs will recover on their own especially if there are no underlying pneumonia problems in the herd. Actions to be taken to hasten the herd’s recovery include the following:

1. Provide a comfortable draft free environment. Running the barn temperature 2-3 degrees F. warmer will help accomplish this. The pigs have no access to blankets to pull over themselves like we do when we get the chills.

2. Provide access to plenty of water so the pigs can re-hydrate themselves while they fight off the virus with their fevers.

3. Medicating in the feed is a waste of time as the affected pigs will not eat. However, strategic pulsing through the water with liquid aspirin and broad spectrum antibiotics such as the tetracyclines and sulfas are beneficial in preventing and controlling secondary bacterial infections.

4. Pigs with secondary pneumonias are best treated individually with injections of long acting broad spectrum antibiotics.

5. There are no specific treatments for viruses. However, strategic pulses of vitamin C in the water, early in the disease process have shown to alter the clinical course of the disease and promote a faster recovery. Contact your Standard Nutrition consultant for specific details on how to strategically pulse vitamin C in your barn for the best results.

## Turkey Talk

Jim Plyler, M.S.

Standard Nutrition Turkey Consultant

### Don't Let Rodents Nibble Away Your Profits



#### Damage By Rodents

Did you know that a single rat eats as much as 20 to 40 pounds of feed a year? Multiply this by 1000 and you can experience a loss that will impact feed conversion that will affect your bottom line, especially with current feed prices. It has been estimated that rodents can increase poultry feed usage by as much as 2%. When the weather cools, mice and rats move indoors and can wreak havoc on not only feed conversion as well as jeopardize bird health and damage facilities. Rodents spread diseases to flocks by contaminating feed, water and the birds living area with urine or droppings. Rats and mice do not have bladders, so they continuously urinate and defecate on everything they contact. Rats and mice are linked to poultry diseases such as salmonellosis, colibacillosis, coryza (bordetella), pasteurellosis (fowl cholera), mycoplasmosis, hemorrhagic enteritis, hymenolepiasis, capillariasis, and ascaridiasis. Rodents are often vectors that carry over disease organisms from one flock to the next flock. Even if the facilities are cleaned and disinfected, if rodents are present, they jeopardize sanitation efforts by keeping diseases active on a farm due to their ability to harbor pathogens.

Since the upper incisor teeth of rodents continue to grow throughout their life, mice and rats chew constantly to keep their teeth from becoming too long. This means that insulation, wood, curtains, electrical wiring and even metal objects can be damaged.

#### Rodent Reproduction and Habits

The most common rodent pests in poultry houses are the house mouse (*Mus musculus*) and the Norway rat (*Rattus norvegicus*). Rats mature in four to six months while mice mature in six weeks. Mice produce as many as 8 litters per year with up to six young per litter while rats produce 3 to 7 litters with as many as 18 young per litter. This means that within a year, forty-two mice and sixteen rats can produce 4,000 rodents!

Mice usually nest within 10 to 30 feet of their food source, but rats will travel miles in search of food. Rodents are typically shy creatures that like dark hiding places. They prefer to travel along walls and stay away from open areas. Mice can crawl through openings the size of a dime and rats can contort their bodies to squeeze through openings the size of a quarter. The Norway rat will burrow under foundations or footings

and can dig tunnels up to 48 inches deep with several entrances. Mice can live without a source of water, but rats need about 1/2 to 1 ounce of water daily. Rodents are nocturnal and prefer to feed at night.

#### Don't Give Rodents an Invitation to Stay

Maintain a minimum three-foot space around the outside of poultry barns that is free of brush, trash, weeds and all vegetative growth. The more bare ground or short grass next to buildings, the less likely rodents will build nests or burrow under footings. Clean up spilled feed near feed bins or feed pans and keep medication rooms tidy and clutter free. Keep unused equipment stored away from production facilities. Keep dead bird disposal area clean and dispose of dead birds on a daily basis. If rodents don't find the living arrangements attractive and convenient, they won't stay.

#### Getting the Most From Rodent Baits

To make a bait station use a minimal of 1.5 inch pipe for mice stations or 2.5 to 4 inch diameter pipe for rat stations. Construct a T with a cap. The sides (each side) and top need to be 8 to 12 inches in length. Familiarize yourself with the different types of bait and be aware that resistant rodent populations can develop if there are inadequate levels of bait for treating a population or baits are overused. This means that it is just as important to maintain records on what baits are used, as it is to maintain a monitoring schedule. One rodenticide company recommends that baits be switched as often as every 2 months for second generation products, but traditional products may be effective for as long as six months. The main message is rotate rodent baits!

#### Conclusion

Rodents can have a detrimental effect on livestock operations because they consume valuable feed, harbor diseases and destroy facilities and equipment. Keep facilities clean so rodents don't want to stay. Monitoring for rodents activity on a set schedule, maintaining adequate bait stations with fresh bait and rotating baits on a set schedule will help keep rodent problems under control.