



W-S Feeds Chronicle

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BIOSECURITY

Even when farmers and their employees know what they're supposed to be doing, more than half of the time they fail to comply with biosecurity protocols, Dr. Peirre Vaillancourt of the University of Montreal told the annual Shakespeare Swine Seminar recently. As captured on hidden video cameras, Quebec poultry farmers and staff failed to respect the line between "outdoors contamination" and "in-barn cleanliness", they didn't change footwear and coveralls and properly use footbaths. Farms often store deadstock too close to the barn which means deadstock removal vehicles come too close. Many fail to post signs to mark biosecurity zones around the farm and near the barns. Sometimes service people, such as feed truckers and veterinarians, fail to follow the biosecurity protocols the farm has posted. In the study, ignorance was no excuse because every barn has a poster outlining precisely what's required. However, over half of the people broke two or more of the rules. Vaillancourt said the situation is serious, such as a large sow barn in Minnesota that invested heavily in an air filtration system, but PRRS (Porcine Respiratory and Reproductive Syndrome) wreaked havoc when it came in through the failure of people to adhere to the farm's biosecurity protocols. He said that breach was identified after as the cause of that outbreak. The risks of herd disease outbreaks increases with the number of animals in a barn and with proximity to other hog barns. The risks are 11 times greater with large barns and seven times greater if there is another hog barn within 2.5 kilometres. If the barn lacks shower-in-shower-out facilities that are used by everybody, the risks are eight times greater. Vaillancourt said observations indicate that the majority of shower facilities installed at barns are not being used. Even when they are used, some people step over the outside-inside security line. A physical barrier is much better than a line on the floor. So are simple, easy-to-use procedures, clothing and facilities. Upper management seldom knows that employees are violating the protocols.

Visitors were also supposed to have a time gap between visits to poultry farms, but in fact the compliance rate with this rule was only 53 per cent. Compliance rates are higher in the morning than the afternoon, and for long visits to the barn compared with quick in-and-out visits. Only 16 per cent of the men washed their hands when they visited a washroom alone compared with 91 per cent when there were others in the washroom. Audits did not improve biosecurity, Vaillancourt said. What works much better is more frequent visits accompanied with feedback. Studies have found that technical visitors are no better than farm staff when it comes to

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compliance. Attitudes are important, he added and attitudes can be improved with more feedback during training to ensure people understand not only what is expected, but also why. He said lack of signs to mark biosecurity zones, lack of a full-blown Danish entry system and deadstock disposal next to the barn are the infractions that are most common in the audits done so far. People get \$150 for a training session \$500 for preparing a biosecurity plan for their barn and another \$500 to compensate a veterinarian-auditor to visit and validate the plan and facilities. (Ontario Hog Farmer)

ESTABLISHING FORAGES & PASTURES

We all faced some extraordinary challenges in 2011, and were left with hard decisions that impact the future! Unfortunately, when it comes to crops we haven't experienced a "normal" growing season for some time. We all have to have the ability to adapt and overcome the changes that come our way. However, we still have to go back to our "roots" and do things correctly. With the poor condition of most pastures due to drought conditions or flooding, lack of new establishment, etc., it would be a good time to revisit the basics. Establishing forages and pastures is a key step in having a thick, lush, and profitable stand. With attention to a few important steps, a producer can prepare to have greater success. This includes: 1) properly preparing soil and setting the drill to the right depth decreases the risk of planting too deep and reducing the stand; b) properly using cover crops (or eliminating them) to attain a good stand without too much crowding or shading of the desired crop; c) correctly managing the height of an existing pasture can allow a producer to have very good success with frost-seeding grasses and clovers to enhance a forage field to gain profitability.

A properly prepared seed bed is worked well with a cultipacker or other tillage tool that will help to firm the soil. It is best to test the soil to determine if it is firm enough for planting. This can be done by walking through the field! If the heel of a boot leaves more than 1/4" of an imprint, it is advisable for the producer to make one more trip over the field with the packer to make it firmer. It is best to prepare a good, firm seed bed. Don't simply count on the seeder to provide the necessary firmness. If a producer is still no-till seeding into an existing pasture or for a new pasture it is vital to have proper seeding depth and seed coverage. The proper seeding depth for forage grasses and legumes is approximately 1/4 to 3/8" deep. This will be attained by properly setting the drill and sowing into a firm, moist (but not wet) seedbed. Frost-seeding in late February and into early March is a common practice for establishing legumes into an existing pasture. One of the keys to success with this practice is to control the growth of the crop intended to frost-seed into. Grazing or clipping existing pastures when they reach 8-10" and cutting down to 4-5" will allow sunlight to reach the new seedlings. Many species can be frost-seeded. The greatest success with this approach will be found with ryegrass, festuloliums, and clovers, since they establish quickly. This practice generally works well, especially if spring weather conditions are moist and cool. In spring weather that is warmer and drier-than-normal the seedling will not be as vigorous and will often not establish as well. (Agriculver)

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COCCIDIOSIS PREVENTION AND CONTROL

- When Rumensin is fed at label dose, the shedding of coccidial oocysts is significantly reduced.
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- This translates into improved health and productivity ensuring more nutrients are available for growth.

FUTURES MARKET PORK (US \$ per cwt.)

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April	\$87.70
June	\$95.50

BEEF

February	\$123.92
April	\$127.75
June	\$126.85
