

studies reviewed

formance and reduce forge consumption. Furthermore, it appears that pasture supplementation with DDGS does not reduce subsequent feedlot performance.

A final thought: Some have speculated that feeding DDGS reduces carcass marbling and grade. However, there was no indication of this in any of the University of Nebraska studies. Personally, I have not seen grading problems when using DDGS, and several of my consultant friends indicate the same.

References

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eVFD system launched

FOR the first time, U.S. swine veterinarians can use a free, web-based system to prescribe tilimicosin (Pulmotil Premix) for swine to control respiratory disease.

Just as it was the first veterinary feed directive-approved product in 1997, Elanco Animal Health's Pulmotil has now become the first product available via an electronic veterinary feed directive (eVFD), which meets all Food & Drug Administration requirements for electronic signatures.

Dr. Ginger Pelger, an Elanco swine technical consultant, presented the eVFD system to U.S. veterinarians at the 2007 American Association of Swine Veterinarians (AASV) annual meeting held in Orlando, Fla.

She said, "Moving to an internet-based process is the next logical step for a product such as Pulmotil. It allows easier fulfillment and communi-

cation between veterinarians and the feed mills producing the medicated feed, which, in the end, benefits producers and their animals."

Pelger said the eVFD process was created by partnering with GlobalVetLink, a firm that specializes in web-based animal health applications. "The eVFD process actually improves upon the old handwritten system because it allows for the most responsible way to create, sign, transmit and store the necessary information for compliance with FDA electronic regulations," she said.

Kevin Maher, GlobalVetLink president, said, "The eVFD system marks another technological step in helping veterinarians to better serve their clients," specifically by using its built-in computation for product usage and label compliance.

According to Maher, pork producers and feed mill operators will have

an easier time understanding the contents of an eVFD compared to paper-based systems. "In addition, it can help reduce errors common in paper submittals," he added.

Pelger also explained how interested veterinarians can learn more about adopting the eVFD process by going to www.globalvetlink.com. In addition, she explained how any data gathered for eVFDs can be used with other applications, such as health certificates, available for a fee through GlobalVetLink.

She said, "Elanco believes in making it easier for veterinarians to comply with regulations, and this 'one-stop shop' for veterinary services certainly allows for that. It's a natural fit."

Pelger reiterated at the AASV meeting that the most important thing the eVFD does is get medication to animals that need it when they need it and at the proper dose.

She said, "This system helps us all achieve that by reducing errors, ensuring animals aren't waiting on medication because of travel schedules or lack of forms and having easy retrieval of VFDs at the mill and the clinic."

Producers should be held accountable

FOOD producers should be held accountable for the quality and safety of their products by their customers in the foodservice and retail trades and should establish codes of conduct to compete in the domestic and international markets, according to a survey of pork producers attending the March 1-3 National Pork Forum in Anaheim, Cal.

Indeed, 98% of producer delegates to the National Pork Act said producers should be held accountable, and 82% said producers should establish codes of conduct. In response to another question, 85% of producers said they consider themselves food producers rather than hog producers.

Delegates to the Pork Act set policy for the National Pork Promotion & Research Board, which manages the national pork checkoff. The forum houses the annual business meetings of the Pork Act and the National Pork Producers Council.

— By ROD SMITH

Mercosur countries agree to FMD control

MERCOSUR countries — Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay — agreed March 8 to a 15 km zone of intensive surveillance for foot and mouth disease (FMD) along their common borders, under the incentive of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). A further 15 km zone of intensive surveillance and disease control will be added to the intensive surveillance zone.

The agreement, which OIE announced March 9, comes as the result of a joint evaluation mission of OIE's FMD experts and the OIE Reference Laboratory for FMD for the Americas (the Pan American Centre for Foot & Mouth Disease, or PANAFMOSA) to Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay in December 2006. The conclusions of the mission indicated that the FMD virus was still circulating along the shared borders of the three countries.

In this perspective, OIE proposed that the three countries commit to apply intensive sanitary vigilance in the zone, which encompasses a small area along their shared borders. In this defined zone, OIE said the identification of each animal, control of all movements of animal and animal products and vaccination of all susceptible animals will be applied.

OIE will closely follow the application of the joint agreement, with the support of PANAFMOSA and the Joint Committee for Foot & Mouth Disease Control in the Region.

OIE Director General Dr. Bernard

Vallat said, "The actions carried out in this zone will be under international control. This historical decision paves the way for the eradication of the disease in the subregion and for the establishment of a regional commission for the control of FMD under the auspices of OIE.

"It should also be an incentive for other subregions to move quickly toward regional approach policies for disease control," he added.

In the agreement Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay sacrifice a small portion of their territory that will not, at present, be included within the areas OIE will officially declare as free of FMD with vaccination. This regional approach will help resolve the unstable sanitary situation along their shared borders and will also ensure the continuation of trade activities, even in the case of outbreaks in the intensive surveillance zone.

In the early 1990s, OIE received a mandate from its international committee to draw up a list of member countries, or zones within countries, officially recognized as free from certain specific diseases.

The procedure applies to four priority diseases: FMD, rinderpest, contagious bovine pleuropneumonia and bovine spongiform encephalopathy.

Each year at the OIE General Session in Paris, France, the status of member countries in regard to these diseases is reviewed and, where appropriate, ratified and published.

Sugar Food Product for Pig Starters

% inclusion	ADFI (g/day)	ADG (g/day)
0	~260	~170
5	~300	~200
10	~330	~210
15	~340	~220

Sugar Food Product increases average daily feed intake (ADFI) and average daily gain (ADG) in a high quality pig starter diet.

(research available upon request)

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