



SWINE FEED INTAKE Robert Fischer, PhD

Points to Ponder:

- The amount of feed consumed is central to determining their growth performance.
- Many factors have been shown to influence feed intake.

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Growing-Finishing pigs are provided feed on an *ad libitum* basis for most, if not all, of the production period under normal conditions in the United States and many other countries. Consequently, the amount of feed consumed is central to determining their growth performance in terms of both live weight and tissue accretion rates. In addition, knowledge of the feed intake of pigs in commercial units is essential to formulating diets to meet the animal's requirements within its intake limit.

Feed intake can be either measured or predicted. When feed intake is measured at different weight ranges, on-farm feed intake curves can be developed. The limitation of such an approach is that prediction of future feed intake is completely dependent on the conditions under which the initial measurements were made. When feed intake is measured, it is generally measured by determining the amount of

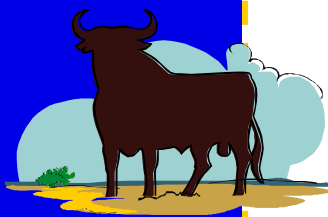
feed that disappears, which does not compensate for feed wastage. The amount of feed a pig wastes can be significant and highly variable depending on feeder type and management. On many operations feed intake data is available, however this information is based off of long-term averages. These long term averages are calculated by using the total feed intake for a given group of grow-finish pigs over the total feeding period. This information provides a useful reference point against which other groups of pigs can be compared, however it fails to generate the time course of feed consumption, which is essential to precise diet formulation.

While calculating accurate feed intake at many different weight ranges to develop on-farm feed intake curves can be difficult, many factors have been shown to influence feed intake in pigs. This includes such factors as the environment (temperature,

humidity, heat radiation and air circulation), social factors (stocking density, group size, regrouping, etc.), genetics, health status, feeding frequency, dietary nutrient density, and presentation of food.

Please check out next months newsletter for details on how some of the following factors impact feed intake and to what extent feed intake is reduced during the growing and finishing period.

- Temperature
- Humidity
- Space Allocation
- Health
- Genetics
- Feed Consumption
- Water



ANTHRAX

Mick Harding, DVM

With flooding in areas of the state this spring conditions are ripe for Anthrax.

Anthrax is a disease caused by the bacterium *Bacillus anthracis*. Anthrax has been around since biblical times and will probably be around forever. It comes in two forms, a vegetative state and in the form of spores. The vegetative state causes the disease and the spore form spreads the disease. The vegetative form is a growing, reproducing form found in infected animals and people. The form found in the soil or

air is the spore form. Grazing animals pick up the spore by either grazing on pastures infected with the spores or by stirring up spores residing in soil. The spore form of anthrax is a tuff bugger resistant to heat, cold and chemicals. It is the kryptonite of bacterium. Animals infected with anthrax usually die a quick death with no observed symptoms. If anthrax is caught early (which rarely happens) it can be treated with penicillin or tetracyclines. Since treatment of

this disease is rarely an option the best offense is a good defense.

Fortunately **vaccination for Anthrax is relatively cheap and highly effective**. If you plan on pasturing cattle in areas where Anthrax could be a concern this year you should consider vaccinating your cattle for Anthrax.

For information on anthrax vaccine or to place an order contact your **Sioux Nation Field Marketer**.

1-800-658-3629

Bovine Tuberculosis Update

The following is excerpts from the **South Dakota Animal Industry Board Quarterly Newsletter April 2010**:

Concerns regarding the fate of SD's TB Accredited Free status were partially alleviated following USDA'S announcement of a Federal Order on April 15, 2010. The Federal Order allows USDA APHIS flexibility in determining whether or not a State's TB status should be

downgraded. The Order will remain in effect for 2 years unless extended, allowing time for APHIS officials to draft changes to the Federal regulations governing Bovine Tuberculosis.

Beef breeding cattle may now move from Minnesota to South Dakota without a TB test. Per South Dakota import requirements, all dairy breeding cattle imported to SD will still be required to be

negative to an official TB test within 60 days prior to import. All cattle from Modified Accredited Advanced States or zones (California, New Mexico, Michigan and Minnesota) including feeder cattle, are required to be officially identified prior to import.

If you have questions regarding interstate transport of livestock contact a Sioux Nation Veterinarian.



JUNE SPECIALS!!

Revalor Implants

The complete lineup of Revalor implants provides beef producers with the flexibility to tailor an implant strategy to any feeding program. Whether you are formulating for aggressive growth and efficiency, or focused on quality grades, Intervet offers a line

of implants that deliver proven science as well as the latest technology. **This month mention the newsletter and receive \$.05 off per dose on any Revalor implant.** Choose from Revalor G, Revalor IS and IH, Revalor S and H, Revalor 200 and Revalor XS.

Y-TEX Insecticidal Eartags

Mention this ad and get 10% off any Y-TEX Insecticidal Eartag. The Y-TEX family of fly tags includes: XP 820, Python Magnum, Python, Warrior, Optimizer and Gard Star.

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