Producers who plan to empty barns and stand down should check their local municipal by-laws before doing so. Development Plans and zoning by-laws are required under provincial legislation, but the requirement as to whether or not producers must reapply for a "conditional use" may depend upon the municipality. Some Rural Municipalities (RMs) have clauses in their conditional use orders outlining whether or not producers must reapply for a conditional use permit, especially if the facility is empty longer than one year. For older facilities, producers may be concerned that expectations have changed significantly since they constructed their facilities.

Under The Planning Act, a livestock operation becomes a "legally non-conforming use" if it is located in an area in which livestock operations are not permitted in local development plans or zoning by-laws, or if it is already larger than the maximum size of livestock operation allowed in the area. If these non-conforming or grandfathered operations stand down for more than one year, producers may not be able to return to production unless they receive an extension from the municipal council. Currently, this legislation cites one year as the limit for the extension (two years total down time). An application for an extension must be submitted to the municipality prior to the expiry of the initial time limit. Some RMs have recognized this time limitation as a hardship and have adjusted bylaws to allow a full three years of down time.

Several RMs are still drafting their Development Plans and Zoning By-laws and existing by-laws can be amended. Find out what the local rules are so that you can protect your interests.

Reminder: Manitoba Conservation must be contacted in writing if a manure storage facility is proposed to be inactive for 12 months or more. For more information on the provincial requirements, please contact your local Regional Manitoba Conservation Office.
The future is here –
“HypoSpray” for pigs
By Dr. Tim Pasma, MAFRI/CVO

Needle-free injection devices (NFIDs) were originally developed for human use. The “Ped-O-Jet” was developed in 1960 and used in military and civilian populations for vaccination against small pox and influenza. A few years later, the Star Trek series introduced the “HypoSpray”, a high-tech syringe that painlessly delivered medications, even through clothing, without a needle (1).

Recently, NFIDs have been developed for vaccinating swine. The AcuShot™ and Pulse™ are 2 models that will be eligible for reimbursement under the federal-provincial Growing Forward program. Using NFIDs on swine farms will benefit human safety, food safety and animal health.

Since NFIDs do not require a needle, they do not require disposal for needle sharps and will eliminate injuries resulting from accidental needle stick. A recent study found that needle stick injuries are one of the top three categories of injuries experienced by workers in swine barns (2). The use of a NFID would help producers meet the requirements of the Canadian Quality Assurance program by reducing the use of needles on the farm. In addition, needle free injection would help improve meat quality through reduced scarring and abscesses in tissue. One study found that there was less tissue damage using a needleless injector compared to a syringe and needle (3).

NFIDs will also promote animal health. A review of studies on NFIDs found that the immune response to vaccines delivered by NFID were similar to or better than those delivered by needle (4). It is thought that needleless injectors produce a dispersed pattern in the body which provides more surface area for absorption of the vaccine. In contrast, needles deposit a large amount of vaccine in a single area, requiring a greater amount of time for absorption.

While there are benefits to the use of NFIDs, there are some disadvantages. NFIDs require more maintenance and skill compared to a needle and syringe. NFIDs are expensive, costing several thousand dollars per unit. However, the Growing Forward program will provide a reimbursement of $2000 towards the purchase of a NFID.

References

Funding for Needle-less Injectors Approved Under Federal-Provincial Growing Forward Program

Support funding for needleless injectors is now available for Manitoba hog producers under the federal-provincial Growing Forward Food Safety Program. This encourages and supports the adoption of needle-free technology that will help Manitoba producers move forward as leaders in Canada’s swine industry.

Through the Growing Forward initiative, producers that completed the Canadian Food Inspection Agency lead On-Farm Food Safety Program such as the Canadian Quality Assurance for Swine are now eligible for a rebate to a maximum of $2,000 on the purchase of approved needleless injector equipment. More than 600 hog producers in Manitoba are eligible for this program. The Swine Steering Committee, established by the Growing Forward Food Safety Program, recommended the funding support. The committee helps implement food safety, biosecurity and/or traceability programs by recommending activities and programs that will help advance and promote the swine industry as it competes in world markets. For more information please contact your local GO office.
Manitoba Premises Identification Program for Livestock and Poultry
By David Hunt Agri-Food Traceability Coordinator

In 2006 the Federal/Provincial/Territorial (FPT) Ministers of Agriculture committed to the creation of a comprehensive national farm to fork traceability system for livestock and poultry. To achieve this, industry and provincial and federal governments have been working together to create a framework for this system. Part of this framework is the requirement of a premises identification system based upon national standards which has been determined to be the responsibility of the provinces.

On January 28, 2009 the province of Manitoba announced a commitment of more than $400,000 to develop a premises identification database. A premises is simply a parcel of land with livestock or poultry and includes such places as farms, feedlots, veterinary clinics, auction marts, abattoirs and hobby farms. Land owners or operators that supply basic land and contact information will be assigned a premises identification number. This information will:

- Allow for rapid notification of stakeholders in the event of an animal health emergency
- Assist in the planning and management of animal health emergencies (e.g. disease or flood)
- Help reduce the social, environmental and economic impacts associate with an animal health emergency
- Serve as a foundation for livestock and poultry traceability systems as they become developed in partnership with industry
- Provide greater market access

All information collected in this program will remain confidential and can only be used for emergency management purposes to prevent, prepare, respond or recover from a disaster, foreign animal disease outbreak or emergency threatening animal or human health. The program is voluntary with the understanding that the effectiveness of the premises identification database is dependent on the level of participation.

By working with industry partners such as the Manitoba Pork Council, the development of a provincial premises identification database will be a major step in developing a national traceability system and will serve as a tool to provide effective and efficient responses to provincial and national animal health or food safety emergencies.

For more information please contact your local Manitoba Agriculture, Food and Rural Initiatives (MAFRI) GO Office or e-mail traceability@gov.mb.ca.

Cost of Production Survey

Every year MAFRI publishes copies of its Cost of Production for Swine. By making the Cost of Productions available MAFRI strives to help producers evaluate the viability of their operation, from year to year, and also as compared to the average costs to raise a pig in the province.

The information is only as good as its source so for 2010 MAFRI would like to do an in depth survey of producers to get an accurate picture of the industry. All of the information gathered is confidential and the results are based on the pooled data from multiple sources.

If you would like to participate in the survey please contact Robyn Harte at 945-5402 or robyn.harte@gov.mb.ca.
Manitoba Swine Seminar 2010
February 3 - 4th at the Victoria Inn Hotel and Convention Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba

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