



Mitchell Veterinary Services

Pauly Veterinary Clinic

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Christmas Newsletter for Our Pork Producing Clientele

December 1, 2016

Merry Christmas,

It certainly has been a wonderful autumn for getting work done! Pretty well all our livestock producing clients are very happy with the crop yields this year and the fact that most if not all of the equipment has already been put away.

Another positive thing is that the Ontario swine herd has been very healthy this summer and fall. We all have thoughts on why that has happened. Every improving management is one of those reasons. Now if only pork prices would come back up. Even there, some signs are optimistic.

Getting the Gilts Bred

By the time gilts are 7 months old (210 days, of age and 300 lbs) they will have already had one or two heats. They should have received all of their pre breeding vaccines by this time. They are ready to be moved to the breeding barn. Maybe the manager has recorded these heat-no-serve events in the gilt development unit (GDV); but of course, maybe not.

We expect gilts that experience a move, and change of scenery to come into heat. Usually, after a move from the GDV to the breeding barn about 70% of the gilts will cycle within a week. But what do you do if they don't? Well, first off, when you move the gilts it is the change - the *stress* – that stimulates them to cycle. Therefore, you can contribute to that stress by withholding feed for a day (not water though!); putting them in a pen or room with a lot more or a lot less light than they had before; maybe confining them to a gestation stall for the first time in their lives; etc.

Here is a game plan

From day 1 to 13 after arrival in the breeding barn

- Provide the gilts with direct contact with boars for 15 minutes and then indirect contact through spindle partition for another 30 minutes per day.
- Breed the gilts that cycle (obviously!)

14 days after arrival

- Remix and restress all the gilts that haven't come into heat and been bred. We used to recommend loading them on a truck and going for a long truck ride but this has biosecurity concerns. Moving them to another part of the barn, putting them in gestation stalls, etc. are alternatives.

23 days after arrival

- Any gilts that haven't cycled should be injected with 5 ml of PG 600 under the skin

35 days after arrival

- Any gilts that haven't cycled by now should be culled

Alternative Plan

- If they have come into heat and been bred within 10 days of arrival in the breeding barn then separate these bred gilts off together. Regroup the non-bred gilts and put them on Regumate (7 ml orally once a day for 14 days). Then give PG 600 on day 15. They have to be in heat 3 or 4 days.

Note: PG 600 – a full dose is 5 ml, and it is to be given under the skin, if they haven't cycled within 35 days of being moved to the breeding barn they should be culled.

Just some thought to help with those stubborn gilts.

Have a great holiday season,

Reg Reed
RR/cp

December Shipments

The last day to place an order to be shipped before the Christmas break is: Tuesday December 20, 2016 at NOON.

We will ship only 1 day the following week - Wednesday December 28, 2016 - orders must be in by noon.

We will resume regular shipping again on Tuesday January 3, 2017.

On behalf of everyone at Mitchell Veterinary Services, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and may 2017 hold much happiness and prosperity for you and your family.

