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Swine Newsletter

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More About Pain Management for Piglets

This is a follow up to last month's newsletter. Yes, those of you who have sows really are supposed to start giving some form of pain reducing medication to all the baby pigs when you are castrating and tail docking them. My job is to help figure out the best way for you to do just that. I listed some pain medications in the last newsletter. I'll elaborate on them here.

Anafen

- Active ingredient is Ketoprofen
- 100 mg/ml; dosage is 3 mg/kg
- ∴ 1 ml is enough for about 17 x 2 kg piglets.
- Take a 250 ml bottle of sterile water and remove 15 ml of the water. Then add 15 ml of Anafen.
- Then inject 1 ml per piglet
- Cost is about 13¢ per piglet. The sterile water is \$7.83/bottle and the Anafen is about \$1.64 per ml. The Anafen by itself would be about 9.6¢ per piglet.

Banamine or Flunazine

- Active ingredient is Flunazine meglumine
- 50 mg/ml; dosage is 2.2 mg/kg
- 1 ml will treat 11.4 two kg pigs
- Take a 250 ml bottle of sterile water. Remove 22 ml. Add 22 ml of Banamine or Flunazine
- Inject 1 ml per piglet.
- Cost will be about 6.5¢/piglet. The Flunazine by itself is only 3.3¢ /piglet.

Metacam 20

- Active ingredients is Meloxicam
- 20 mg/ml; Doseage is 0.4 mg/kg. 50 mg/ml will treat 25 two kg piglets
- Take a 250 ml bottle of sterile water. Remove 10 ml of the water. Replace with 10 ml of Metacam 20.

- Inject 1 ml per piglet
- Cost will be about 9¢ per piglet. The Metacam by itself will be almost 5.9¢ /piglet.

Metacam 5

- This is the only product actually labelled for swine for the relief of post-operative pain associated with minor soft tissue surgery. Mind you, I don't know if tail docking and castration should be considered minor! But I suppose that they are.
- This would be the ideal product as 1 ml is enough for 5 pigs. With a 0.1 to 1.0 ml graduated bottle mount syringe we could conveniently inject 0.2 ml per piglet. No mixing, no recipes, etc.
- The problem is, the product is licensed but not available. And we don't know the cost yet. Obviously we will be informing you when it is available.

Can we mix these drugs into iron, or with penicillin? I'm sure that there are going to be lots and lots of questions. The above three drugs are all prescription drugs and require that you have a Vet-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) with a vet for you to be able to purchase these drugs. Extra-Label-Drug Use (ELDU) requires a prescription from us.

This is a perfect time to review your baby piglet processing regime with Glenn or me. Lets go over this stuff.

Have a good month,

R.G. Reed
RR/cp