

Pork industry reducing disease in barns and on the road



ProVista Agriculture's drying bay

Through a concentrated effort from producers to abattoirs, Manitoba's pork industry has excelled at biosecurity. With continued improvement, it can further reduce the risk of disease.

"Manitoba is probably leading North America if not the world when it comes to biosecurity," says Mark Fynn, animal care specialist with Manitoba Pork Council.

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At the producer level, Fynn credits part of the success of Manitoba's pork industry adopting high biosecurity standards to the National Biosecurity Training Program that took place in 2011–2012. Through the program, producers met with veterinarians and discussed priorities and ways they could improve their farms. They received funding from *Growing Forward* to help implement some of those priorities. Today they still have access to funding through *Growing Forward 2's* Growing Assurance – Food Safety On-Farm program.

Detecting disease in high-traffic areas

At a regional level, Manitoba Pork Council is working with Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Development (MAFRD) to do voluntary disease sampling at high traffic sites—a program also supported through *Growing Forward 2's* suite of programs. Locations like assembly yards, federal packers, abattoirs and truck

wash stations can send in samples, and if they turn up positive for disease, the disease can be traced quickly to its source.

"The earlier we can detect disease, the better we can contain it," says Fynn. "In fact, one of the farms in Manitoba that came up positive for PED we found through a trace back."

Biosecurity on the road

Biosecurity is also a focus for companies that transport pigs, which are likely to visit many different farms with many different levels of biosecurity.

ProVista Agriculture is one such company. It focuses primarily on weanling sales, and transports 20 to 70-day-old weanlings to many farms, including into the United States. With funding from *Growing Forward 2*, the company recently built a dry bay for their trailers to further reduce their risk of carrying disease.

"Drying our trailers is important because moisture is a host that can carry disease," says Arthur Rempel, owner/operator at ProVista. "The drying bay is working very well. Once our trailers are washed we move them to a separate building where we heat them and have fans going. We get the trailers completely dry before we use them again."

Robyn Harte, business development specialist—swine with MAFRD explained that weanlings like those transported by ProVista have an incredibly high mortality rate if they contract PED. The dry bay reduces the company's risk.

Harte says there are many funding programs available through *Growing Forward 2* that help the industry make essential improvements to ensure the health and well-being of livestock raised in Manitoba.

Many organizations and individuals have received funding to do everything from spread information to improve deadstock handling to implement a needle-free injector system and much more. ■

Anteroom reducing risk of disease on poultry farm

A well-designed anteroom is one of the most important ways poultry producers can reduce the risk of disease on their farms. Clarke Goossen is one producer taking steps to ensure his barns are protected from disease.

"I created a big entrance with a walk through shower and a change room for our coveralls," he says. "Everyone who enters has to shower in and put on clean clothes before they have any contact with the birds. I also put a washer, dryer and bathroom in the barn to further reduce the traffic in and out."

Goossen established his farm in 2013 near Ste. Anne, Manitoba. The barn is new, and the construction of the anteroom area was partially funded through *Growing Forward 2's* Growing Assurance – Food Safety On-Farm program.

"Little viruses can make a huge impact on production," he says. "We're trying to eliminate disease, or at least restrict it through barn design. These measures are becoming more and more required so it's great that there is a program like *Growing Forward 2* to help us cover some of the costs."

Angela Kroeker, MAFRD on-farm food safety specialist, says that strict biosecurity measures should be top of mind for all farms, no matter what they're raising and that these measure will only become more of a requirement in the future.

"Proper biosecurity measures keep animals healthy which improves profits for farmers, opens up wider markets and helps them grow their operations," she says. ■

