# Field and Feedlot

**Northwest Area Extension** **June 2006**

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## Pork Producers Asked to Respond to Changes in Japan's Meat Import Standards

by Dave Stender, ISUE Swine Field Specialist

Japan has set new maximum limits for residues in pork. These were to be set in place on May 29th. Most of the pork going to Japan should be able to meet the new guidelines, but producers should find out if some small change in their production is required.

"Japan is a valuable export market for US pork producers representing 45 percent of all United States pork exports at a value of $1.070 billion. It is important that U.S. pork producers take this issue seriously," said Phil Seng, Chief Executive Officer of the United States Meat Export Federation.

"The United States can't afford to lose this essential market, and unfortunately, just one out-of-compliance animal could put this strategic market at risk," cautioned Seng.

Currently, U.S. pork producers are required to adhere to animal health product withdrawal standards determined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Following product label guidelines, producers will satisfy most of the new Japanese guidelines as well.

The National Pork Board has the following advice on their web page.

Producers are advised to take the following steps to find out if the new regulations require changes to their animal health product use:

1. Contact their packer and find out if their hogs are being channeled to the Japanese export market and therefore affected by these new regulations.

2. Visit the Pork Check-off's Web site to determine if medications being used in their production operation have withdrawal periods that are impacted by the new standards. This information can be found at:
http://www.pork.org/producers/JapanMRL.aspx
This Web page will be updated as information from animal health companies is received.

3. Contact their herd veterinarian to discuss changes to their herd health program if their use of animal health products is impacted.

Japanese residue monitoring protocols require testing to be done at or near any identified injection sites. Producers are encouraged to work with their veterinarian to consider product choices in the finisher phase and to develop appropriate treatment protocols. Producers are also encouraged to review the material contained on the Pork Quality Assurance™ and the Take Care – Use Antibiotics Responsibly™ programs. These materials can be viewed on the Internet at www.pork.org or obtained through the Pork Check-off Producer Service Center at (800) 456-PORK (7675).

The National Pork Board has responsibility for Check-off-funded research, promotion and consumer information projects and for communicating with pork producers and the public. Through a legislative national Pork Check-off, pork producers invest $0.40 for each $100 value of hogs sold. Pork importers also invest a comparable amount. The Pork Check-off funds national and state programs in advertising, consumer information, retail and foodservice marketing, export market promotion, production improvement, technology, swine health and pork safety.
For information on Check-off-funded programs, pork producers can call the Pork Check-off Service Center at 800-456-PORK or check the Internet at www.pork.org.

"It looks like producers should go to this web site (http://www.pork.org/producers/JapanMRL.aspx) to decide if any changes in protocol on the farm are needed to meet the new standards. There is a list of products and the changes needed to make them

compatible with Japan's new standards" says Dave Stender, ISUE Swine Field Specialist.

## Crop Things to Do in June

by Paul Kassel, ISUE Crop Field Specialist

**Check corn populations.** Check corn populations for each hybrid or every field. Take a tape measure and count the plants in the following distance. This will give you plant population in thousand plants per acre. Take stand counts from the same planter unit each time (like the middle two units).

| *Row spacing* | *Distance to measure* |
|---|---|
| 36 inch | 14 ft 6 in. |
| 30 inch | 17 ft 5 in. |
| 20 inch | 26 ft 1 in. |

**Things to look for:**

- Stand counts versus planting rate
- Plant spacing
- Doubles, skips
- Variation in plant development
- Insects that cause stand reduction (cutworms, grubs, wireworms)

This is a good activity to do in June because you likely can remember any planting problems. Things like seed size, seed weight and seed treatment may affect planter performance. Notes that you make this time of year can be helpful when you make seed selection for the next season.

This is also a good time of the year to evaluate the performance of insecticide seed treatments – if you find that you have had cutworm, grub or wireworm problems.

**Consider late spring Nitrogen tests.** The late spring nitrogen test (LSNT) can be useful to confirm nitrogen (N) levels or nitrogen needs. Fields that have had manure where the N content was in question, areas with excessive rainfall, or fields where N rates were questionable may be good candidates for the LSNT. For more information see:
http://www.agron.iastate.edu/soiltesting/LSN.pdf

**Check soybean plant populations.** Recent research has shown that a final plant population of 100,000 seeds per acre is adequate for maximum soybean yields. Check soybean plant populations using the following information.

| Row spacing, in. | One plant per foot of row equals: |
|---|---|
| 36 | 15,000 |
| 30 | 18,000 |
| 20 | 26,000 |
| 15 | 35,000 |
| 10 | 52,000 |
| 7 | 75,000 |

Measure out three foot of row, count the plants and figure the stand count from there. Compare planted seeds per acre to the final plant population.

**This is also a good time of year to check:**

- for soybean cyst nematode (dig a few plants).
- for soybean disease – like damping off, rhizoctonia and fusarium root rots. For more information see: http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/1998/5-11-1998/scoutsoy.html
- Effectiveness of the iron deficiency chlorosis resistance of your soybean variety. For more information see: http://www.ipm.iastate.edu/ipm/icm/2001/7-2-2001/soychlor.html

## Beef and Forage News

by Beth Ellen Doran, ISUE Beef Field Specialist

**Pasture Walk** – An area-wide Pasture Walk is scheduled for June 20 in Woodbury County, beginning at 3:30 p.m. and continuing until dusk. A light supper will be served around 6:00 p.m. The Pasture Walk is hosted by Brian Sadler and sponsored by ISU Extension, Woodbury County Natural Resources Conservation Service and Woodbury County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Participants will actively take part in the following:

- plant identification
- manure distribution
- decentralized watering
- weed and brush control
- managing grazing systems during a weather crisis
- maintaining forage heights
- pasture condition scoring
- solar pumps

A $20 fee will be charged for the Pasture Walk. Contact Beth Doran (712-737-4230 or doranb@iastate.edu) for a brochure detailing the program, registration and directions to the pasture.

**Weed Seed Free Certification** – Iowa Crop Improvement Association (ICIA) now offers a certification program to assure that forage and mulch are free of noxious weed seed. This

provides a new marketing opportunity for hay and straw producers.

Key steps in the ICIA program include application of seed on commercial fields of forage, grasses and small grains; inspection of fields and storage sites prior to cutting and harvesting; labeling the bales or containers with certification labels; and issuance of a Transit Certificate for interstate shipments. Inspection of field and storage sites within 10 days of harvest assures that 54 designated noxious weeds and undesirable plants are not present to disseminate seed or allow propagation of a new plant. Any noxious weeds or undesirable plants near the field are isolated from the field by at least 10 feet.

For more information regarding this certification program, contact ICIA at 515-294-0546 or iowacrop@iastate.edu.

**Proposed Change in Grass Fed Meat Label Rule** – USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) just released a revised proposal for a grass fed meat label claim for its process-verified labeling program. The revised standard, which applies to cattle, sheep and other ruminant livestock, but not pigs, will require that animals certified as "grass fed" receive at least 99 percent of their lifetime energy source from a grass or forage-based diet. This is a significant increase from the original proposal in 2002 which stated that at least 80 percent of the lifetime energy source comes from a grass or forage-based diet.

AMS proposes to administer the grass fed label through its Process Verified Program. Under the program, AMS will conduct an on-site evaluation for the livestock producer to ensure that the livestock is raised under the standard's feeding regime. Meat products from livestock raised in accordance with the AMS grass fed standard can then be labeled with the grass fed claim along with the "USDA Process Verified" statement and shield. This will assure consumers that USDA is a third party verifier of the product.

The request for comments on the grass fed claim were published in the May 12, 2006 Federal Register. This notice is available by accessing the website at http://www.ams.usda.gov/lsg/stand/st-pubs.htm. Public comments on the proposal must be received by August 10.

## Gutters on the Ground

by Kris Kohl, ISUE Ag Engineer

Several weeks ago I received a desperate phone call from a livestock owner whose pit floor was bulging after several days of very wet weather. The floor had raised almost a foot. As you can imagine gates don't close right, feeders don't fit right, and building owners wonder what is going to break. The problem was that the pit was empty, no gutters on the building, and the tile around the foundation was not functioning.

One simple solution for all buildings is to install what I will call gutters on the ground. In the area, 2 to 3 feet from the building's foundation, slope the soil away from the building at least 3 inches. Then place a 6 mill plastic film in this area with a 4 inch drain tile at the outside edge to act as the gutter and slope slightly to carry the water length wise away from the building. Cover the plastic and tile with course rock or gravel to discourage rodents and filter out any trash.

Once installed, the tile will convey the water away from the foundation. The plastic and rocks will prevent weeds from growing next to the building and discourage rodents. Ice and snow will not destroy it like they do gutters. Lastly, you don't need a ladder to build it, just a shovel.