

Today's newsletter reaches back to 1995 and 2000 to remind us of innovative work completed at PSC and verified at Texas tech 5 years later on the modification of finishing diets.

Although energy has been the number one diet consideration from a cost perspective amino acids and minerals & vitamins also contribute significantly to diet cost. The first article from Prairie Swine in 1995 recognized that finishing pigs consume the most feed and also have the greatest quantity of stored minerals and vitamins. With market animals there is no need to consider the potential impact on subsequent reproductive performance which often drives trace mineral and vitamin inclusion levels. This trial removed trace minerals and vitamins for the final 3-5 weeks pre slaughter. It is estimated typical savings of \$1-1.50 per pig is achievable. To read more go to:

<http://www.prairieswine.com/removal-of-vitamins-and-trace-minerals-from-finishing-diets/>

In 2000 John McGlone from Texas Tech also concluded that trace minerals and vitamins can be removed from finishing diets for the last 30 days with no negative effects on health or performance. To read this article go to:

<http://www.prairieswine.com/deletion-of-supplemental-minerals-and-vitamins-during-the-late-finishing-period-does-not-affect-pig-weight-gain-and-feed-intake/>

The final article deals with something unfortunately we have also have experience with – closing a barn. In response to the declining markets PSC Elstow Research Farm (a 600 sow FF operation) was closed. A great deal of effort went into the closure process and some lessons were learned on the closure as well as the reopening process that occurred 14 months later. The attached factsheet is a collaboration between Prairie Swine Centre, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Ontario Pork. This publication provides producers considering a temporary closure of their barns a checklist for what needs to be done to ensure the structural integrity and future operation of the barn. Although we wish it were not necessary the reality is many barns in Canada will be closed over the next few months. Many of those have several years if not decades of service remaining in them and the proper closure procedures now will ensure that original investment can respond when the business climate improves. To read more go to:

<http://www.prairieswine.com/publications-psc/pdf-fact/Closing Barns Fact Sheet.pdf>

To the pork producers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta - Thank you for your continued support of Prairie Swine Centre research and technology transfer programs.

### **Research Profits Everyone!**

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