



**Bethany Swine
Health Services**

COMPETITIVE PORK PRODUCTION

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Knowing the Rules Pencillin Residues

A new year is a time to address new rules and regulations that have or are going into effect that will affect your business. One of those is longer withdrawal periods for penicillin (Penicillin Procaine G, or PPG). The labeled withdrawal for penicillin is 7 days, BUT that it is at the label dosage of 1cc / 100 pounds of body weight. Most producers are typically utilizing a 1cc / 30 pounds of body weight dose. The first thing to remember is that the “typical” penicillin treatment is an extra-label use of that medication, and should only be given under the advice of a veterinarian. Until recently, the withdrawal, even for this extra-label use, was thought to be 15 days. However, the test at the processing plants to check for residues has recently been validated to be more sensitive to lower levels, resulting in increased violative residues this summer, particularly in cull sows. The Food & Drug Administration (FDA) has set a zero tolerance for penicillin in edible tissues. While kidney may not be the first thing you think of on your dinner plate, it is certainly an edible tissue, and consumed readily in many parts of the world. Recent research has determined that the withdrawal time for sows to clear penicillin from the kidneys, with a typical penicillin treatment (1 cc / 30 pounds body weight for 3 days) is AT LEAST 51 days.

Withdrawal periods of this length become nearly unfeasible in today’s modern sow units, leading to feeding non-productive sows for many days before they can be marketed. Therefore, many sow units have chosen to not use penicillin at all, and instead

choose alternative products with shorter withdrawal times. Suggested alternatives and their dosage are listed below.

Suggested Alternatives to Pencillin in Sows

<u>Product</u>	<u>Dosage</u>	<u>Withdrawal Time (U.S.)</u>
Lincomix® 100	1 cc/20#; 3 days	48 hours
Excenel®	1cc/37#; 3 days	4 day
Baytril	3.4 cc/100#; 1 day; SQ	5 days

Good practices to avoid residues and resistance to medications include:

- Follow the treatment plan. If the label says to treat for 3 days, don’t stop after 1 or 2
- Do not inject more than 10 cc of any product into a single injection site. No more than 2 cc per injection site for Excede® or 5 cc per site for Baytril®

However, wean to finish producers may not be as readily aware of this information. While the same research has not been completed for market hogs, it is thought that the withdrawal could be >50 days. Again, due to concerns about longer withdrawal time, many producers are utilizing alternatives.

Suggested Alternatives to Pencillin in Finishing

<u>Product</u>	<u>Dosage</u>	<u>Withdrawal Time (U.S.)</u>
Excenel®	1cc/37#; 3 days	4 day
Excede®	1 cc/44#; 1 day	14 days
Lincomix® 100	1 cc/20#; 3 days	48 hours

As always, discuss any medication choices and concerns with your veterinarian.

Knowing the Rules Premise ID (PIN) Tags

Beginning in 2015, all sows and boars will be required to have a Premise ID tag inserted before being transported for market. This is a USDA official pink tag that carries the US shield, and are preprinted with the farm's 7 digit alphanumeric Premise ID, as well as an identifying barcode on the back. They can also be printed with a "production number" so that the tag can also be used as the sow's identification for normal farm recordkeeping purposes.



Official USDA PIN tag with a production number

The goal of this tag is to improve the ability and speed at which disease and food safety issues can be traced back to the farm of origin. The value of our exports cannot be overstated, as the 2009 "H1N1 Flu" proved to us. Exports add over \$40 to the value of each hog you sell, and we need to make sure we take measures to protect that market. Because sows and boars are typically unloaded and reloaded, mixing with other animals at buying stations, they are the most difficult to track in the case of a food safety or disease outbreak.

Tags can be ordered from several suppliers (Allflex, Destron Fearing and Y-TEX). First, you must have a Premise ID (7 digit alphanumeric code) that you must register for with the State Department of Agriculture. Store your number in a safe place, as it can be difficult to retrieve if lost! Each "premise" needs a separate identification.

If you want to use these tags as your "normal" production tag, you may want to begin ordering and using them with incoming gilts so that animals culled in 2015, when the new rules take effect, are already correctly tagged. Gilts that are shipped to a sow processing facility will also need a pink PIN tag; however, if your farm keeps accurate production records of these cull gilts, you may be able to simplify tagging processes if the animals are shipped from different actual premises. Contact your veterinarian, the National Pork Board or your sow buyer for more information.

PQA Certification Changes

Renewing your PQA (Pork Quality Assurance) certificate isn't as easy as it once was. The new version of the program is now in effect and requires producers to take a 25 question quiz. Producers must score 85% or higher in order to maintain their certification. Producers who are renewing certifications can take the test online, but if your certification lapses, you cannot complete the online version. You should receive a phone call from the National Pork Board at least a month before your certification expires. Don't ignore these reminders!



In addition, you need to keep an eye on your Site Status Certification expiration. Remember, the Site Status requires an on-farm visit of your facilities. Many packers are requiring Site Status currently or expect to in the future.

Please contact Carrie Pollard at Bethany Animal Hospital for more information. Don't wait until the day before your certification expires to call!

Summary

While additional rules and regulations are not what anyone wants to deal with, they are an important part of your business. No better time than the present to get them implemented and start the New Year off right!

"Common sense is not so common."

-Voltaire