



**Four Star Veterinary Service - Stoney Creek Office**

**Newsletter August 2016**



**In collaboration with Four Star Veterinary Service  
is pleased to present**

**Veterinary Feed Directive Update**

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**Ted Holthaus, Livestock Production Specialist at Zoetis, will present information on the upcoming regulations and changes of the Veterinary Feed Directive.**

**WEBEX DATES & TIMES:**

**August 12, 2016**

**12:00PM – 1:00PM EST**

OR

**September 13, 2016**

**4:00PM – 5:00PM EST**

**[Join WebEx meeting](#)**

**Join by WEBEX**

**<https://zoetis.webex.com/>**

**Meeting Number: 745 158 242**

**Meeting Password: VetFeed2016**

**Join by phone**

**Call-in toll-free number: 1-(855) 996-3847 (US)**

**Conference Code: 861 401 8476**

## Summer Heat and Out of Feed Events

We are in the middle of the summer heat and it is important to discuss some of the heat's consequences. Suffocation is one of the most dramatic and devastating consequences and occurs primarily when animals are kept in confined areas with less than adequate air flow. During the summer this occurs when power outages occur and fans are not working appropriately. Power outages occur and there is no predicting when this may happen. It is important to have precautions in place to minimize the effect of power outages. Emergency curtain drops are one of the most commonly used systems especially in tunnel ventilated barns. These systems are triggered when the power is lost and they drop the side curtains on the barn to allow natural ventilation. It is important to check these systems regularly to ensure they function appropriately. A back-up generator that is regularly checked to ensure it comes on when the power goes off is also very valuable.

Other consequences of the heat in the summer deal with the feeding behavior of the animals. During extremely hot days or in barns without adequate air flow pigs will not eat much during the day and eat more at night. This doesn't usually become a problem but any dramatic change in feeding behavior can cause an increase in losses due to Hemorrhagic Bowel Syndrome (HBS) and Ileitis. This can also occur with out of feed events where animals gorge themselves on food after a period of no feed.

Another major consideration for the summer heat is water access. It is important to check the flow of water from the nipples in each pen to ensure they are working and that there is enough flow of water. If for some reason there has been an interruption in water flow for a day or more it is important to not provide completely free access to water right away. If the animals are allowed to drink too much at one time this can result in "salt toxicity" which can be seen as neurologic signs such as "star-gazing", staggering, unresponsiveness, and death. The best way to reintroduce water to these animals is very gradually using pans with electrolytes and turning the water on for short periods of time over the course of a day.

It is important to remember during these hot days that air flow and water access is extremely important to the growth and health of the pigs. It is also important to have an emergency plan for power outages to prevent dramatic losses.