

Control of cleaning and disinfection

In modern pig production the cleaning and disinfection of units is a cornerstone to good disease control and to keeping your pigs as healthy and productive as possible.

This is especially so with all in, all out facilities where a failure in the cleaning disinfection process will undermine the whole principle of the all in, all out unit and the benefits that should accrue.

In this article we will consider the broad picture in terms of the preparation, implementation and monitoring of your cleaning and disinfection programme.

Define objectives

First we need to define what the objectives of our cleaning programme are. Overall they must be to keep production at or better than certain defined levels.

At the breeder level this may well be defined in terms of pigs weaned per sow per year and at fattening level parameters such as days to slaughter, average daily gain and food conversion ratio can be used.

If these parameters start to slip one of the questions we will be asking is has the hygiene and, in particular, the cleaning and disinfection programme also slipped?

Thereafter, we will need to define the objectives of our cleaning and disinfection programme in terms of its application and thoroughness. These can be assessed by visual inspections and by microbiological testing.

We will also need to define our cleaning and disinfection programme in terms of cost. We need to define a cost for this in terms of per sow, per 100 fatteners or per 100m² of housing.

Ideally this should include the labour but most farms find this virtually impossible because general farm staff are involved and this means there is a problem in defining the true labour cost.

Thus, most costings are just based on the materials used. However, we should never lose sight of the fact that there is a significant labour input (cost) that goes into the cleaning process.

The next step is to look at our facilities and consider whether they can be actually cleaned! If we have a lot of old, cracked and damaged concrete or if we have a lot of old and damaged woodwork we will have to accept that this will significantly impair our ability to thoroughly clean and disinfect.

Repairs and renewals

We then need to decide whether we need to instigate a repairs and renewals strategy or make our objectives more appropriate for the conditions of our buildings and equipment.

The next stage is to consider each area that needs to be cleaned and disinfected and to accurately define and document how the cleaning and disinfection will be undertaken.

This information will be converted into

our SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures).

In doing this we need to define the desired outcome of the process, the competency required in the staff doing the job, how the job will be done and the equipment and chemicals required.

We need to define for people doing the job the criteria they need to use to confirm that they have achieved the standards expected of them.

All this needs to be documented in a language and style that those doing the job will be able to understand. These documents need to be available where the job is being done and this is best achieved by providing laminated copies.

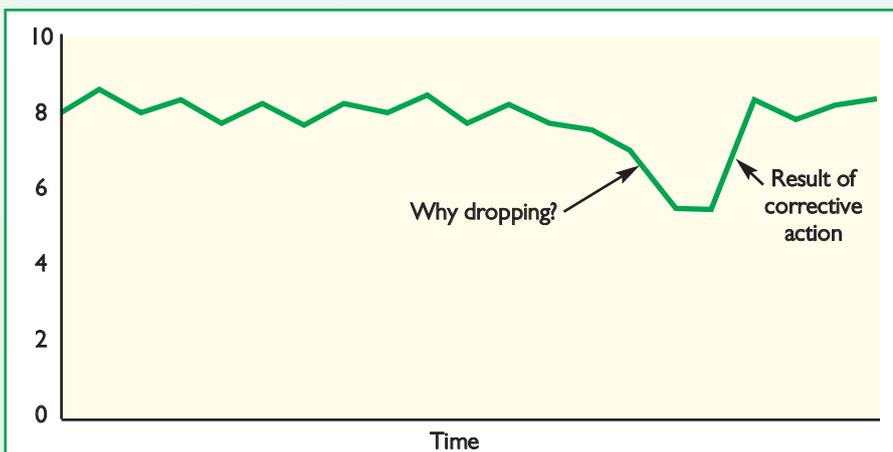
These documents must also be regularly reviewed against the job they are describing to be sure that no changes have occurred that affect their relevance.

In addition, we must ensure that staff have adequate time to do a good job and that factors such as delayed farrowings or extra days to slaughter are not compensated for by taking time off the down time provided for cleaning and disinfection.

This is critical because a rushed job is invariably a poorer job!

What people do not appreciate is that time is also a critical component to our cleaning and disinfection programme because most micro-organisms have a natural die off which also contributes to the effectiveness of our cleaning and disinfection programme.

Fig. 1. Trend analysis of cleaning indices.



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Date _____

Area	Area Test
1	Ceiling
2	Walls
3	Floor/slats
4	Sow crates
5	Creep area
6	Farrowing units
7	Cablings
8	Pen dividers
9	Sow troughs
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