He Treats Well Water With Hydrogen Peroxide

Water has often been described as the most neglected ingredient for proper livestock nutrition, but that's not true for pork producer Wayne Neuberger, Klemme, Iowa.

He installed a chlorinator on his well years ago that provides water for his hog buildings and home.

While the chlorine did the job on the water, Neuberger didn't like the idea that you could smell and taste it in the water. Then he heard about a system that injects hydrogen peroxide into the water line.

"Peroxide can do everything chlorine can do when it comes to taking contaminants out of water," he believes. "The big advantage we noticed right away is that it leaves no smell or taste in the water."

Then he found another advantage.

"It wasn't until after I'd switched to peroxide that I found what the chlorine had done to my well," he says. "We'd been using chlorine tablets, dropping them into the well casing. Chlorine is highly corrosive and it actually ate through the steel casing. We had to pull the pump, re-drill the well and replace the casing. When we pulled the pump, it was encrusted in undissolved chlorine from the tablets."

He says the cost was "significant." He had the well deepened, but the water from the lower aquifer had a high sulfur content.

That showed him another advantage of hydrogen peroxide. "Peroxide immediately oxidizes the sulfur, so we have water that's as clean, clear and odorless as fresh spring water. There's also iron oxide in the water and while the peroxide can't take it out by itself without extra filtration, it keeps it in suspension so it doesn't accumulate and plug waterers," he says.

Neuberger says he's run out of peroxide a couple of times. When that happens, the sulfur smell and taste show up in the water to remind him it's time to get a new supply.

He says you don't need to be a plumber or expert mechanic to install a hydrogen peroxide injection system. "All you need is a squeeze pump to inject it into the water and a wire from the well pump controller to the squeeze pump, so when the well pump comes on, the squeeze pump does, too."

After that, he says, the big thing is calibrating the squeeze pump so the right amount of peroxide is injected into the water. Hydrogen peroxide test strips tell you the level you're at. "Once you have it set, that's all there is to it," he says. "I haven't touched the pump since then."

Neuberger has found one more way to use peroxide for his hogs. "I add a little extra to the hog water through the medicator whenever I hear them coughing or suspect they might have a touch of a respiratory infection," he says. "That almost always knocks it out and I seldom use any other medication."

Compared to drugs, peroxide is considerably less expensive. And, while it costs less than a penny per pig more than chlorine for treating water, Neuberger says the fact that it's noncorrosive and not apparent in the water makes it more desirable and probably more economical in the long run.

Neuberger says he uses Oxy Blast®, the brand of hydrogen peroxide sold by Essential Water Solutions, Inc., Boone, Iowa. He uses a 15-gal. drum of the 34% Oxy Blast every couple of months, or about 90 gal. per year, for both his house and hog operation. Company president, Randy Navratil, says Oxy Blast is purer, more stable, and has a proprietary formula that plain hydrogen peroxide does not. It is available in 5, 15 and 55-gal. drums and 330-gal. totes. They also offer companion products to Oxy Blast for water that is hard, high in pH and high in sodium.

Navratil reports that Oxy Blast is not only used for swine operations, but also poultry, beef, and dairy. There currently are hundreds of thousands of hogs, dairy cows, and feedlot cattle, and several million chickens, using Oxy Blast through over 6,000 Oxy Blast systems throughout the U.S. and Canada. Producers report that because the water and waterlines are cleaner, the animals also do better. The Oxy Blast system comes with a six-month pump buy-back guarantee.

Essential Water Solutions, Inc., has on staff a consulting vet, nutritionist, water physiologist, and water filtration expert to round out their services.

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Reader Inquiry No. 44

"Rotating Forks" Dump Firewood Totes Upside Down Into Truck

Eric Petrevich, Glen Gardner, N.J., sells firewood to individual homeowners and wholesale markets, delivering the wood in a dump truck. He eliminated a lot of handling by adapting German-made "rotating forks" designed for use on a forklift to his Kioti 75 hp. 4-WD loader tractor. It lets him lift steel totes loaded with firewood over the side of the truck, and rotate them upside down to dump the wood directly into the truck.

The forks were made by Brudi, a German company, and consist of a big semi-circular steel plate equipped with a pair of long forks. The plate mounts on a shaft that's connected to a horizontally-mounted hydraulic cylinder, and extending the cylinder causes the plate and forks to rotate 180 degrees.

Petrevich bought the forks used on eBay for $1,800, and mounted them to a commercial quick tach mounting plate. He installed a camera on the mounting plate, which he uses to line up the forks when picking up totes.

"It lets me load the wood directly from my wood processor into totes without ever handling the wood by hand, and then stack for storage. I can stack the totes up to 3 high."

He says tote cages are ideal for firewood storage. "They can't rot, and the wood stays exposed to the wind and sun. I cut the lids off the totes for use as covers that keep rain and snow off the wood."

You can watch the rotating forks in action at farmshow.com.

Contact: FARM SHOW Followup, Eric Petrevich, Glen Gardner, N.J. (farmshow@megageek.com).

"Rotating forks" let Petrevich lift steel totes loaded with firewood over the side of a dump truck, then rotate them upside down to dump wood directly into truck.

Extending a hydraulic cylinder causes semi-circular steel plate and forks to rotate 180 degrees.