Dr. Doug Hutchinson talks about the introduction of M+Rhusigen™: a new vaccine that delivers long-term Erysipelas and Mycoplasma protection.

What is M+Rhusigen™?

**DH:** M+Rhusigen is a newly licensed combination vaccine from Schering-Plough Animal Health Corporation that provides proven long-term protection against Erysipelas and Mycoplasma Pneumonia in swine.

How does M+Rhusigen differ from other Erysipelas vaccines?

**DH:** M+Rhusigen is the industry's first and only Erysipelas vaccine with a label claim to provide long term protection against mortality caused by Erysipelas. Experimental trial results show that M+Rhusigen provides 87% protection against mortality compared to the control group.

In addition, M+Rhusigen contains optimal levels of powerful S-PX protein protection for Erysipelas in order to provide a high rate of immunity throughout the growing cycle. S-PX protein is found on the surface of the Erysipelas bacteria and was shown to be an important protective antigen. Immunity to this protein has been proven to correlate with protection to Erysipelas challenge in pigs. Each batch of M+Rhusigen is formulated to contain an optimum level of the S-PX protein before release to ensure high performance in the field.

Can M+Rhusigen also help producers control Mycoplasma Pneumonia?

**DH:** Yes. M+Rhusigen is formulated with M+Pac®, Schering-Plough’s field-proven Mycoplasma Pneumonia bacterin that is proven to provide protection against Mycoplasma Pneumonia for up to six months. Pigs vaccinated with M+Pac show higher antibody titers, less coughing and higher cell-mediated immunity (as indicated by increased white blood cell activity).
Is M+Rhusigen safe and easy to use?

DH: Yes. M+Rhusigen contains Schering-Plough’s proprietary Emunade® adjuvant, which ensures a good immune response to the vaccination with fewer overall reactions. In fact, independent swine practitioners and producers who vaccinated more than 800 pigs with M+Rhusigen at four farms in four states determined that the vaccine was safe for use in the field. In addition, the Emunade adjuvant makes M+Rhusigen easy to administer because it allows for excellent syringeability.

How is M+Rhusigen packaged?

DH: M+Rhusigen is packaged in 125 or 250 dose sizes. The product should be stored at temperatures between 35°- 45° F and producers should use the entire contents of package when opened.

How should M+Rhusigen be used?

DH: Healthy pigs can be vaccinated at 3 - 4 weeks of age or older with a 2mL dose followed by a second 2mL dose 3-4 weeks later. Care should be taken to make sure that maternal antibodies do not interfere with vaccination. M+Rhusigen should not be administered within 21 days prior to slaughter.

Do I have to go through my vet to purchase M+Rhusigen?

DH: No. M+Rhusigen is not a restricted product. Although you are not required to purchase M+Rhusigen from your veterinarian, it is important to consult your veterinarian regarding your herd health control program. Producers should contact their veterinarian, their Schering-Plough Animal Health representative, their distributor, or call (877) 633-3953 for more information.

Why does the industry need another Erysipelas vaccine when current products work?

DH: M+Rhusigen combines the latest advances in Erysipelas protection. It is a killed bacterin injectable vaccine. It is the only product of its kind labeled for protection against mortality. Additionally, clinical trials show pigs vaccinated with M+Rhusigen exhibited far fewer clinical signs of Erysipelas compared to controls. The E. Rhusiopathiae fraction is a U.S. strain and M+Rhusigen contains the same M. hyo strain found in M+Pac. This new combination allows producers to use M+Pac year around for protection against Mycoplasma Pneumonia as well as swine Erysipelas.