

Mistral vs. Stalosan F: How do they fit into my swine operation?

Both Mistral and Stalosan F are incredible products that offer producers a great deal of use options and value for money. These products however, contrary to popular belief, are not interchangeable. My experience is that each has its own place within an operation where its benefits are best utilized.

This article will attempt to outline the best applications and opportunities for each of the two products: Mistral and Stalosan F.

Mistral:

25kg - code 634729

Best used as a farrowing room management "tool", Mistral's ability to dry piglets at birth is exceptional and unmatched by any other product on the market. If a farrowing attendant is present or assisting with farrowing it is best to have a pail or Rubbermaid-type tote filled with Mistral on hand to coat piglets with immediately after birth. This process dries the newborn piglets almost instantaneously and allows them to warm quickly and get up to the udder that much sooner. If someone is unable to be present for farrowing – a generous amount on the mat under the heat lamp and scattered around the rear of the sow can still be beneficial.

Mistral scattered in the creep area (ie. on the sleeping mat) as needed can also be a soothing "constant" for piglets that do not have a great deal of disease challenge pre-weaning. By keeping the area dry and inviting, piglets are encouraged to spend their time where it is safe when not nursing.

Mistral's essential oils and natural ingredients are incredible "healers" that can aid in recovery and lower the rates of infection from tail docking and castration wounds. Mistral in the piglets' sleeping area enables it to stick to these wounds while they are resting.

At weaning times, Mistral can be used to lower stress levels and the incidence of tail-biting and belly-nosing if it was used in the creep area during the pigs' time in the farrowing room. Scattering Mistral in the sleeping area of newly weaned pens of pigs adds an element of familiarity when everything else seems so foreign to them. This familiarity can help to discourage fighting and can stimulate a greater interest toward feed. Also, as indicated in its farrowing room uses explained above, Mistral's great healing properties can also be very beneficial to pigs that do sustain scratches and wounds from fighting with new pen-mates.

Stalosan F:

25kg - code 636350

Probably the best and most versatile "dry disinfectant" available - Stalosan F is successful in reducing ammonia and other gases and effectively controls bacteria, viruses, parasites, and fungi. Use it anywhere that is difficult to wash and/or that doesn't get washed on a regular basis. Stalosan F is an economical choice that is simple to use as it can be scattered by hand, with a fertilizer spreader, or with a blower and animals do not need to be removed.

If used in addition to normal management practices to control flies (ie. scraping and removing manure regularly, cleaning up excess feed, etc...) Stalosan F can successfully augment your fly control program. Using it consistently before and

throughout “fly season” in otherwise wet or dirty areas can control fly larvae and, therefore, overall fly population.

The most common opportunities for Stalosan F use in a swine operation involve scattering in the dry sow barn behind and under sows in stalls and in the dunging areas of sow pens. Grow/finish areas of the barn, especially those with partial slats or solid floors can benefit from Stalosan F being spread after scraping soiled areas. Stalosan F is essentially the answer for anywhere there is solid concrete that gets wet or soiled to control both disease and flies, as well as to keep animals comfortable and happy.

An often overlooked, but very effective use for Stalosan F is to generously scatter in farrowing crates and weaner pig pens where piglets have scour issues due to *E. coli* or *Coccidia* or are dealing with “greasy pig” challenges (caused by *Staphylococcus hyicus*). Stalosan F can successfully dry up and kill bacteria and viruses in these common areas of “re-infection” that can make it so difficult for challenged pigs to recover.

In closing, I hope this information has given you some “food for thought” and that you will consider bringing these products into your barn. If you already use Mistral or Stalosan F (or both), perhaps it will give you some ideas and new ways to use the products and make them work harder for you. Both Mistral and Stalosan F are approved for the RWA program and are available from Farmers Farmacy and Grand Valley Fortifiers. Please contact Farmers Farmacy or your GVF Swine Specialist should you require more information.

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