



TECH NICKEL TIPS

TWO-WAY RADIOS SAVE TIME AND MONEY

As hog operations become larger and the number of employees increase, communication becomes more important but also more difficult. Some points to remember when developing a communication system are safety, cost, time savings and distance.

- Safety is a very real concern in all size hog operations, should a staff member require assistance or need to be summoned.
- System affordability varies with the communication system selected, from inexpensive baby monitors to FM radios and cellular phones.
- Time spent trying to find a co-worker or walking back to the office for supplies or information can add up and could in itself pay for a good system.
- As three site production becomes more common in the hog industry, communicating with co-workers in barns several hundred feet away is a must.

One affordable method of communication which addresses all of the above needs is two-way radios. When used with belt holders or shoulder harnesses they are out of the way and cannot fall out onto the ground or into pits. Each worker can carry one, which will allow for communication between all workers.

Radios come in different wattages but even the smaller radios will be quite clear several hundred feet away.

One drawback to consider when choosing two-way radios as a method of communication is that the environment in a hog barn is not friendly to the use of any electronic device. A life span of approximately two years seems to be a reasonable expectation.

So, to save time, money and to reduce the risk of injury, two-way radios may be your choice.

VIDO

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