

Preparing Your Barn for Winter

Red Deer Swine Technician Workshop

October 18, 2023

Outside The Barn



- Check Bin lids boots unloaders to ensure no leaks or repairs needed prior to winter
- Check to ensure doors and door seals are in good condition

Outside



Soffetts



Outside

- Soffetts you leave open should be clean and free of debris
- Close about 50% off soffits around the barn
- Closed more to prevent snow getting into the attic
- During the winter on days with frost these will need to be knocked off
- Avoid leaving soffetts open above fans as that just brings recycled air back into the barns and the ammonia will rust the truss plates
- Ensure Curtains close properly

Curtains



Boilers



Boilers



Boilers cont.

- Get your boiler serviced once per year
- Test all heat exchange pumps
- Check pressure, test pressure check lines inside the barn
- Train personnel how to troubleshoot if a boiler goes out
- Daily checking of temperature and pressure
- Ensure fresh ducting is not covered and supplemental heat has sufficient air supply

Heaters



Heaters

- Before the heaters are needed and the cold sets in all heaters should be clean and blown out ideally we use leaf blowers to blow the dust out ideal if done every batch through a room
- Test all heaters and fix the broken ones
- Soap test joins on gas line to ensure no leaks
- Inventory parts and order enough to have spares on hand when the temperatures really drop

Heaters



Heaters



- Use a leaf blower to blow heaters out
- Ideally every batch as helps heaters to work better

Attic



- Check Attic plenum and set inlets/slides whatever you have to control air flow into farrowing rooms through the winter
- Service heaters if applicable test when completed

Rooms



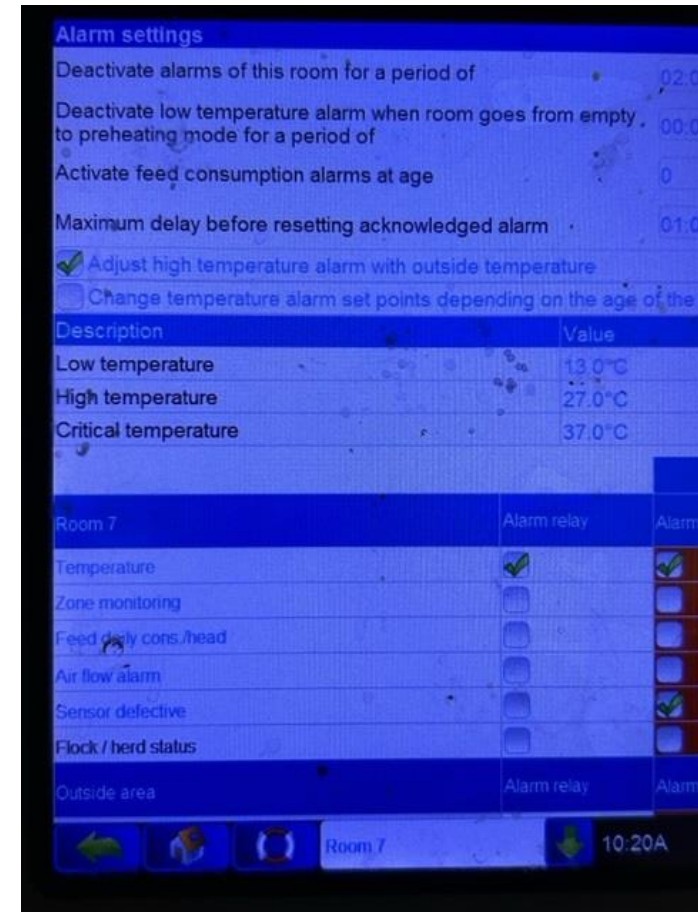
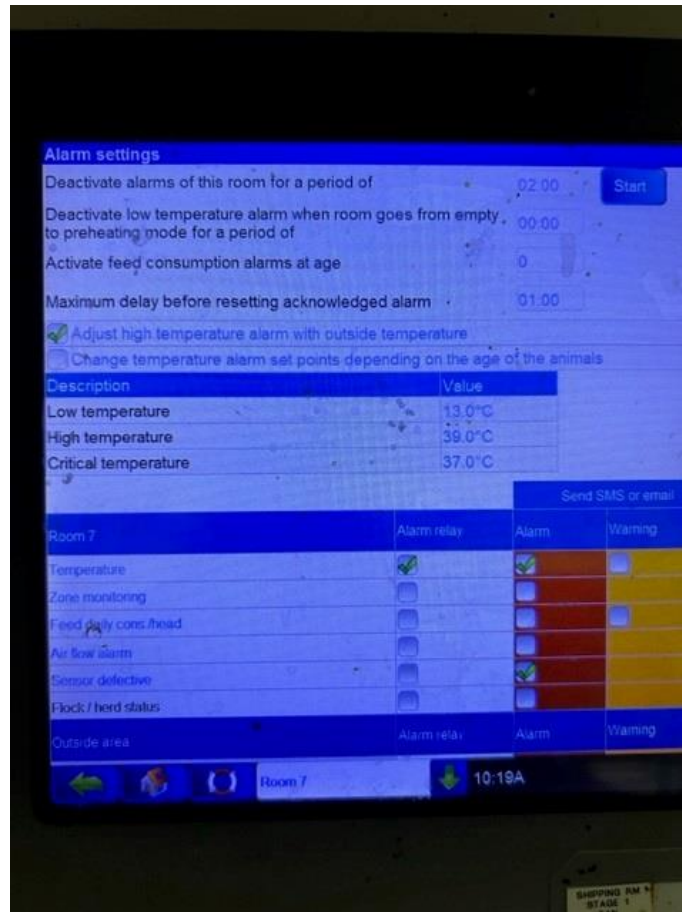
- Install winter covers into secondary fans
- Check and repair heat lamps(should be done every cycle)
- Check and repair heat maps Ir camera is an excellent tool for this to go a little quicker



- Ensure all primary fan louvers and the secondary fans left open for operation are in good repair
- Ensure backup thermostats work in case the primary fan freezes up



Miscellaneous



Misc Cont

- Change alarm settings last thing we need is a fan to freeze and have the summer settings in place
- Train staff what to look for and how to deal with common call outs
- Generators
- Frozen fans
- Faulty sensors
- Backup thermostats work

Conclusions

- Preparation will ensure a smooth start to the winter period
- But the key is everyday management and training of staff to deal with
- How equipment operates and how to deal with things when there is trouble
 - Heater failures
 - Frozen fans
 - Boiler shutdowns
 - Alarm calls
 - Plugged soffetts on frosty days
 - Frozen water lines
 - Make sure everything is sealed as good as possible