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# "HOGG SENSE" .....

**Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,**  
**Editor**  
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**Single Mating Gilts:** Dr. Mike Wilson, University of Guelph, Canada, reported several benefits from a single mating during estrus compared with twice-mated gilts. These benefits were: more liveborn pigs per litter; reduction of labor required; and only 14 boars were needed for a population of 520 sows. (International Pigletter, as reported in Pig International, May 1993, p. 16)

**Preventing PRRS:** Recent outbreaks of PRRS are suspected of being brought in with serologically positive replacement animals. Each producer should monitor his/her herd serologically before introducing outside breeding animals. If the home herd is negative, the incoming animals should be well isolated and be subjected to the PRRS serology test and found negative before they have contact with the main herd. Even if the home herd has gone through a PRRS outbreak, it is still dangerous to add known PRRS positive animals because there are several strains of PRRS virus and cross-protection between strains has not been reported. A very virulent strain of PRRS was involved in a recent Nebraska outbreak. In this outbreak the clinical signs were "blue ear", hematuria in sows, mortality in sows and finishing pigs. PRRS is widespread across the cornbelt and admittedly difficult to keep out. Prudent pork producers retest all new replacement animals for PRV while they are in isolation, it would not be difficult to run the PRRS test from the same serum sample. It is likely that isolation should be much farther away from the main herd for PRRS than has been suggested for PRV. (A.H.)

**Proliferative Enteritis:** A successful therapeutic and control program for proliferative enteritis is feeding carbadox (50 grams/ton) until 70 days before slaughter then feeding tylosin (100 grams/ton for 4 weeks) then 40 grams/ton to market. (Ward, GE and Winkelman, NL: Vet. Med. March 1990, pp. 312-18.)

**Separate Sex Feeding:** From 110-120 lbs. to market weight gilts consume about 12% less feed and are 4% more efficient in converting feed to gain than barrows. Consequently, their amino acid requirements as a percentage of the diet are higher than those of barrows. Little benefit results from providing barrows finishing diets containing more than .58 to .66% lysine. However, levels of lysine (.73 to .80%) may be justified for gilts, especially if their value at market is based on carcass leanness. (Reese, DE, Ani. Sci. Dept, Univ. NE Lincoln).