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"HOGG SENSE"

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Ascarid Larval Migration: Massive Ascarid larval migration commonly occurs when nursery pigs or even young replacement gilts or boars are moved from one location to another. The typical history is that of feeder pigs being moved from a feeder pig producing unit to a finishing facility that uses old barns and dirt lots. The arriving pigs have had very little exposure to Ascarid larvae and thus have not mounted an immune response. Ascarid ova survive in soil for 10 years or more, so the new pigs are exposed to large numbers of Ascarid ova. The clinical signs are flu-like coughing and depression a few days after arrival and no response to medication. Postmortem lesions are numerous petechial hemorrhages in the lungs and many round white spots on the liver. These white spots are the result of an acute larval migration and should be differentiated from more chronic "milk spots" which have an irregular star-shaped appearance. Many eosinophils and sometimes cross-sections of Ascarid larvae are observed on histologic examination. (Bruce Broderson, DVM, VDC, UN-L) (Editors Note: Prevention: Add pyrantel tartrate (Banminth) at the rate of 96 grams/ton to the feed to be fed on arrival. If possible place the new animals on a clean concrete floor for a few days before exposing them to the dirt lots).

Pre-weaning Survival: Fasten a 3" PVC plastic pipe on one side of farrowing crates to narrow the width. Slope it from shoulder height at the front to the same as the lower bar at the back. This will reduce crushed pig mortality by 0.5 pig per litter. (Dr. Wayne Singleton, Purdue University)

Reducing Days to Market: Feed pigs from weaning to market in three phases. Phase I is a high nutrient density diet (costs \$800 to \$1,000/ton). The 3 phase regimen will reduce days to 220 lbs. by 5 to 7 days. (James L. Nelssen, PhD, KSU).

APP Bacterin Efficacy: If multi-serotype APP commercial bacterins do not produce a satisfactory immune response, consider the following: 1). Determine the serotype(s) responsible for the problem in the herd and obtain an autogenous APP bacterin with a single (or two) serotype. 2). Avoid vaccinating pigs at too young an age because of convenience. 3). Use a 3 dose vaccination schedule, rather than the traditional 2 doses. 4). Leave at least a 3 week interval between vaccinations. 5). Improve the environment. (Alex Hogg, DVM, Editor)
