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"HOGG SENSE"

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Editor

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New Test for PRRS: The Diagnostic Laboratory, Minnesota Board of Animal Health, can run an IFA test for either the American strain (VR2332) or the European strain (Lelystad) of PRRS separately. (Call Dr. Goyal 612-625-2714 for details). Running these tests may be useful epidemiologically when identifying the source of a PRRS outbreak or in assessing the virulence of the virus when positive titers are found. The VDC, UN-L does a PRRS screening test which combines both strains of the virus. Both of these tests, separate (Minn.) or combined (NE.) have different applications according to the information being sought. (Editor).

pH Test for Cystitis and pyelonephritis: Measuring the pH of urine samples taken from the breeding herd will help identify urinary tract infections as a cause of high cull rate and mortality of sows. Herds with problems have a urine pH > 7.5, while herds with fewer problems have a urinary pH < 6.5. Bacteria associated with urinary tract infections are: *Eubacterium suis* (old *Corynebacterium suis*), *E. coli*, *Klebsiella* and *Streptococci*. (Pig International, May 1992, Vol. 22: p. 50).

Preparing Sow for Insemination: It is recommended that instead of washing the sows vulva before AI that a dry absorbent cloth or paper towel be used to swab the area. If the sow is especially dirty, a moist tissue can be used and even then this should be followed by drying. (Pig International, Aug. 1991, Vol. 21, p. 8).

New DNA Test for Porcine Stress Syndrome: A new blood test clearly separates normal, carrier and stress-prone individuals with 99% accuracy. Universal Gene Labs, RR 1, Box 118-A, Eldora, IA., 50627 (515 858-9334), is one US Laboratory performing the new test. Contact them for information on blood sample collection, handling and shipping. (Bruce Lawhorn, DVM, Texas A & M, College Station, TX, 77843).

Monensin/Tiamulin Toxicity: A recent report (Swine Health and Prod. 1:15-18) on the effect of monensin in the control of TGE may cause interest in trying monensin as therapy in swine. In the past 15 months there have been 3 cases of mortality in swine treated with monensin that were concurrently receiving tiamulin (Denagard) in the feed or water. The risk of this potentially lethal drug interaction should be recognized. (T. L. Carson & K.J. Schwartz, DVMs, ISU, Sw. Health and Prod. Jan/Feb. 1994, Vol. 2:1, pp. 4-5).