

friskie

"HOGG SENSE"

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Editor
Vol. 2, No. 4

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House Gilts and First Parity Sows Apart: Where seasonal infertility is a problem, house gilts and sows in individual gestation crates immediately following mating. Or if using gestation pens, place gilts and first parity sows in pens that do not contain any older sows. It is thought that pheromones from older sows interferes with the pregnancy of younger ones. A mature boar ought to be left permanently with the bred gilts and first parity sows for the entire gestation. The presence of the boar helps to overcome any sow-to-sow interaction that threatens the maintenance of pregnancy. (Dr. Mike Wilson, Canada, Pig International, Dec. 1990, p. 22).

Swine Reproductive Problems: Investigate management, environment, pathological problems and epidemiological factors. If you identify 15 management problems, work on only the two most significant ones at first, don't overwhelm the client. A sow gets the signal that she is pregnant 11 to 12 days after mating. Avoid all kinds of stress (moving, new pen mates, etc.) from day 10 to day 18 post-breeding (gestation crates useful here). Sunburn increases prostaglandin and can cause abortion at 35-42 days of gestation. (Don Levis, PhD, UN-L Animal Sciences Department).

Farrowing Rate: Farrowing rate after first service is 83.6%, it drops to 65.6% after the first return and free-falls to 44.8% after the 2nd return. (Editors Note: This makes sense because the most fertile females are removed after the first service, those with reproductive problems are left in the first and second return groups respectively). (Pig Farming Supplement, 1984)

APP Recommendations: *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* is difficult to control in some herds. Points to consider: 1. Most licensed APP vaccines contain the most common serotypes, i.e., 1, 5, and 7, often in combination with other antigens. 2. Pork producers frequently vaccinate too early before the pigs have lost colostrum antibody which may interfere with a strong immune response and before the pigs immune system has fully developed. 3. Occasionally other less common serotypes of APP such as serotype 8 are the cause of vaccine failure. 4. MVP Laboratories has the capability of serotyping serotypes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 9. 5. Every herd experiencing APP problems should obtain an APP serotype profile. 6. Best tissue to submit for APP isolation: frozen lung. 7. It may be necessary to produce an autogenous bacterin with a single serotype and schedule a series of 3 vaccinations in problem herds to control APP (Editor).