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"HOGG SENSE"

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Invitro Antibiotic Testing: Invitro laboratory sensitivity testing of E. coli that cause post-weaning diarrhea are sometimes different than what actually works in the field. Therefore, trial and error may have to be used in selecting the right antibiotic, even after laboratory results are known. (Tony M. Forshey, DVM, Wauseon, OH, Nat'l Hog Farmer, July 15, 1994, p. 42) (Editors Note: don't forget about excess iron in the weaning diet, 400-700 ppm of iron can favor the overgrowth of E. coli. Post-weaning pathogenic E. coli strains are different than neo-natal strains so commercial E. coli vaccines are not likely to work. Autogenous E. coli vaccines might be useful in this situation).

Aminoglycosides and Kidney Damage: Aminoglycosides are nephrotoxic when overdosed. The most likely scenario for a problem is when newborn piglets are injected with an overdose of gentamicin, streptomycin or neomycin (?). A 1 ml injection of these antibiotics may cause permanent kidney damage that results in mortality or poor doing pigs long after the injection is forgotten. Look for small fibrotic kidneys at necropsy. Submit the kidneys to a diagnostic laboratory for histopathology. (Editor).

Improved Mating Efficiency: There are reports of improved mating efficiency from a single natural mating followed by a single AI mating compared with a single AI mating followed by a single natural mating. It might be speculated that after ovulation, AI is less stressful to a sow than natural mating. Furthermore, antibiotic treated AI semen is less likely to result in blastocyst contamination than normal semen plus any hormones in AI semen would be diluted by the extenders. (M. R. Wilson, DVM, PhD, Guelph, Canada, and C. E. Dewey, DVM, PhD, Univ. of Nebraska. IPVS, 1994, Bangkok, Thailand, Pp. 30-33).

The Role of the Present Swine Practitioner: New graduates may be confronted by a bewildering array of technology and buildings and a manager that is perhaps more technically competent. They must therefore become very familiar with the work practices on a large pig farm, to enable them to appreciate the problems, talk the language and be well aware of the practicalities of a potential solution. (M. R. Muirhead, The Garth Veterinary Group, Beeford, Driffield, UK., IVPS 1994, Bangkok, Thailand, Pp. 1-4.)

What Makes a Piglet Scour: Specific disease agents; Drafts; Insufficient Warmth; Variable temperatures; Dampness; Poor Colostrum Intake; No Milk; Fostering; Pig Processing (iron injections); Infection Transfer; Poor Vaccination Technique; Poor Cleaning Between Batches. (John Carr, DVM, Garth Group, UK. Pig International, June 1994, Pp. 28-29).