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# "HOGG SENSE".....

*Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,  
Editor  
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MVP Laboratories, Inc  
Ralston, NE. 68127*

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**Feeding Management Predisposes Sows to Constipation:** Three feeding scenarios may predispose sows to constipation: 1. Full feeding sows during last 2 weeks of gestation. Also feed intake during lactation will be reduced. 2. Withholding feed from newly farrowed sows for 24 hours post-farrowing and gradually increasing intake over next 7 days. Best to feed sow on day of farrowing and bring her to full feed within 4 days. 3. Farrowing rooms too warm (above 70 F). Keep farrowing rooms about 65 F and supply ample water. (Dr. Karen Dupchak, Manitoba Swine Update, April 1994). Editors Note: Constipation in sows produces endotoxin which depresses the production of prolactin. The result is poor milk production.

**Effect of Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) in Swine Buildings:** Concentrations of ammonia of 0 to 50 ppm are frequently found pig buildings. Exposure to ammonia induces nasal irritation and growth depression at concentrations as low as 25 ppm. (Bruno Urbain, DVM, AJVR, Vol. 55, No. 9, Sept. 1994, pp 1335-40).

**Birth Order and Preweaning Mortality:** Birth order and preweaning mortality are positively correlated. Pigs born first during farrowing have the greatest chance of surviving. There is an inverse correlation ( $r = -0.23$ ;  $P < 0.01$ ) between serum IgG levels and birth order. Piglets having lower birth weights are often born later in the birth order. (Vaillancourt & Tubbs, Vet. Clinics of North America, Vol 8, No.3, Nov. 92) Editors Note: This finding supports the management procedure of holding the largest one-half of a litter away from the sow for one hour after farrowing to give the smaller pigs a chance to get a stomach full of colostrum.

**High Lean Gain Gilts and Lysine:** Gilts weighing 121-159 lbs. average daily gain was optimized at 0.91% total lysine and feed conversion at 1.02% lysine. Back fat decreased linearly from 0.68-1.25% total lysine. High lean gain gilts require at least 21-22 grams per day of total lysine for optimal ADG, FE and protein accretion rate. Only about 15-20% of the total USA swine population are "high lean gain" potential pigs. Therefore, elevated protein levels may not be appropriate for many herds. (ISU Vet. Med. Ext. Newsletter, Dec. 1993, p. 5848).

**Preventing Tail Biting:** Make sure that all personnel are briefed to remove the tail bitten pig at first signs (reddening and soreness of the skin before the tail has been chewed). If left in the pen for 24 hours, this pig will be mutilated and infected. Always remove the aggressive pig. It is usually slightly lean, long nosed and has a "wild-eyed" look. (Dr. Mike Muirhead, Hog Health, Sutton Veterinary Clinic, Sutton, NE. Vol. 3, No. 5).