
"HOGG SENSE".....

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

MMEW and SEW: Three swine diseases, APP, Strep suis and H. parasuis can spread to the weaned pigs in spite of MMEW and SEW. Practitioners should monitor herds by serology and bacterial culture that want to practice early weaning strategies for these 3 diseases. By identifying which of these 3 diseases, if any, that infect the herd and more importantly which serotypes of each exist, it is possible to select the appropriate commercial or autogenous bacterins to use in a control program. (Editor).

MMEW and SEW: One of the common reasons for failure of early weaning programs is that the newborn pigs receive poor colostrum. Four reasons for poor colostrum are: 1. Sows not vaccinated at the optimum times pre-farrowing; 2. Over use of oxytocin; 3. Cross fostering too early; and 4. Failure to practice split-suckling (take away the largest pigs for 1 to 2 hours after farrowing to allow the smaller one half to get a good dose of colostrum). (Editor).

Controlling PRRS: Before depopulating the nursery to break the PRRS cycle, do serology on 10 each of sows, 4-week, 8-week, and 5-6-month-old pigs (40 samples in all). If a high percentage of all of these groups are positive, there is a high likelihood of reinfection following nursery depopulation. (S. Dee, HS Joo; Swine Health & Prod., Vol. 3, No. 2).

Culling Rate of Boars: A study in Minnesota in 1990 by D'Allaine and Lemman reported that in 84 breeding herds the annual boar culling rate was 59.4%. Reasons for removal by percent were: Overweight 33.3; reproductive problems; 18.4; mobility problems 11.8; mortality 6.6; Disease 3.6; transfer 2.5; and miscellaneous 9.8. The two most prevalent reasons for culling were excessive weight and poor libido. Univ. of NE research indicated that boars should be fed 16-18 grams of lysine/day. Energy should be fed maintain weight gains at about 0.4 lb/day. (Swine Line, No. H-99, Jan. 1995).

Post-injection Shock in Pigs or Sows: Injecting cold antibiotics or vaccines can cause shock (vomiting, lethargy and mortality) in pigs or sows. Warm injectables to room temperature before making injections. (Sandy Amass, DVM, Purdue Univ., West Lafayette, IN.).

Gastric Ulcers: Interrupted feeding such as respiratory disease causing pigs to go off feed or letting the feeders go empty may cause ulcers in addition to the commonly blamed finely ground feed. Or sows may not eat for a few days post-farrowing (Editor: Is it wise to not feed a sow on the day of farrowing?). There are more ulcers with pelleted feed or high-fat feed. (Steve Henry, Nat'l Hog Farmer, April 15, 1993).