"HOGG SENSE..."

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Porcine Colonic Spirochetosis: Until recently, all weakly beta-hemolytic spirocetes (WBHIS) inhabiting the lower intestine of swine were assigned to the non-pathogenic spirochete species, *Serpulina innocens.* However, a non-fatal wasting diarrheal disease of growing swine called PCS, different from *S. innocens,* was identified in the USA and Europe. Recently the etiologic agent of PCS was identified as a new species and was designated *Serpulina pilosicoli. S. pilosicoli* has a world-wide distribution and has a broad host range including swine, humans, non-human primates, dogs, guinea pigs and opossums. A presumptive diagnosis of PCS is obtained on the bases of growth, diarrhea and uneven size in grow/finisher pigs. With PCS, gross and histologic changes are limited to the cecum and colon. Control of PCS: Preliminary data on the antimicrobial susceptibility of *S. pilosicoli* indicates a pattern similar to *S. hyodysenteriae.* (Duhamel, DVM, PhD, Proceed. IVMA Annual Meeting, 1996, pp. 161-165).

Carbon Monoxide Gas (CO): CO is a chemical asphyxiant that is generated by heaters, especially non-vented heaters that are not cleaned and adjusted routinely, and gas powered washers. Human exposure can result in headache and nausea. A CO level of 100-150 ppm can cause spontaneous abortions in swine. (Langely, R., 1996 AASP Proceed., pp. 379-383).

Reproductive Management for Weaned Sows: The following management strategies may enhance reproductive performance in early weaned sows: 1. Allow pigs to nurse for at least 72 hours before weaning in order to suppress the elevated LH and FSH and to prevent cystic follicles. 2. Maximize feed intake during early lactation in order to stimulate suppressed LH and FSH to return to normal as soon as possible after weaning. Use split weaning with an interval of 2 days between weaning the heaviest and lightest pigs. This stimulates LH and FSH secretion and benefits the smallest pigs. Use early weaning in multiparous rather than primiparous sows or in herds where the average parity is higher. For primiparous sows, wean after day 3 but before much weight loss has occurred. 3. Use gonadotropin treatment (P.G. 600) on the day of weaning or on day 7 in sows that have not returned to estrus. (Britt, J.H.., MS, PhD., CVM, NCSU. 1996 AASP Proceed., pp. 417-426). **(Editor's Note:** Perhaps the most common cause of poor feed intake in sows in early lactation is overfeeding sows during the last 2 or 3 weeks of gestation. Feeding gestating sows to improve their body condition should be done in mid-gestation. Sows in late gestation should be fed an average of 4 pounds of a corn/soy diet).

The Role of Maternal Immunity in *Haemophilus parasuis* Infection: In all groups of young experimental piglets, independent of the time of challenge, gross lesions of polyserositis, mortality and *H. parasuis* isolations from multiple sites were present only in piglets from non-vaccinated gilts. Under experimental conditions naive piglets born to vaccinated gilts were protected from challenge from a virulent strain of *H. parasuis.* Vaccination of both gilts and piglets protected pigs from polyserositis. Maternal antibodies did not interfere with vaccination of 1 to 3 week old pigs. (Solano, G., et al., Proceed. 1996 AASP Annual Meeting, pp. 433-436.)