
"HOGG SENSE".....

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MEW and MMEW: The success of both medicated early weaning and modified medicated early weaning is often dependent on the piglets receiving adequate passive antibody from colostrum during the first 24 hours of life. Split suckling will greatly improve the smaller, less aggressive piglets' chances of obtaining enough passive antibody. Split suckling means that the largest, most aggressive one-half of the litter are removed from the sow for one to two hours shortly after farrowing is completed. The smaller one-half of the litter will then have an opportunity to receive a good dose of colostrum before the larger piglets are returned to the sow. (Editor).

Zearalenone and Reproductive Problems: *Fusarium graminearum* produces zearalenone, an estrogenic mycotoxin in corn, milo and wheat. Poorly dried corn and alternating high and low ambient temperatures favor zearalenone production. Often it is produced in the field prior to harvest. Clinical signs of zearalenone toxicity in prepuberal gilts can occur in concentrations as low as 2 to 5 ppm. These signs are edema of the vulva and vagina and precocious mammary development. In prepuberal gilts the signs will regress within 3 to 7 days after removal of the offending feed. Reproductive effects of zearalenone in mature cycling sows are quite different than the effects seen in prepuberal gilts. Levels of 3 to 10 ppm can induce anestrus in sows if consumed during the middle portion of the estrus cycle. Because estrogens are luteotropic in swine, abortion in the last two trimesters of gestation is very unlikely. Treatment of anestrus: one-10 mg dose of prostaglandin F2a. (Osweiler, GD, Dis. of Swine, 7th edition, pp 739-740.).

Supervision Beats Stillbirths: In the USA there is a general suspicion that many so-called stillborn pigs were indeed alive at birth. In a recent trial, inducing farrowing with prostaglandin injections did reduce pre-weaning mortality, but the most important element was supervision of farrowing. Induction alone had no effect on stillbirths. One-half a pig per litter could be saved by supervising the farrowing process; more than enough to pay for the extra labor cost involved. (Peter Best, Editor, Pig International, Feb. 1996, p. 6). (Editor's note: A simple test to determine if a piglet was born dead (stillborn) or alive is to drop a section of lung from the dead pig into water. If it floats the piglet was alive at birth; if it sinks, the piglet was stillborn. It might be useful to test all pigs thought to be stillborns to see if supervision of farrowings would be economically feasible.).

Lactation Lysine Boosts Milk Protein: Research reports at an international conference in Australia indicate that feeding gilts 1.3% lysine rather than the industry standard of 0.8% lysine during their first lactation gave a significant increase in the size of their subsequent litter; no second parity slump. (Pig International, Feb. 1996, pp. 21-22.).