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# "HOGG SENSE".....

**Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,**  
**Editor**  
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## Gleanings from 1996 Allen D. Leman Swine Conference

**Clinical Signs and Pathology:** 1. Coughing and necrotizing pneumonia in finishing barn. Suspect PRV, confirm diagnosis with convalescent serology. 2. Posterior paralysis in nursery, finishers or breeding animals. Suspect arsenical toxicity or enteroviruses. Confirm by chemical analysis (arsanilic acid) and virus isolation (enterovirus). 3. Increased returns to estrus in gilts. Suspect parvovirus infection. Confirm by serology and finding rising parvovirus titers. 4. Glistening, loose stools in 30% of grow/finish pigs. Suspect *Serpulina pilosicoli* or *Cryptosporidium parvum*. Confirm with histopathology. 5. Whitish colored solid lumps in the lungs of pigs at necropsy. Suspect swine influenza. Confirm by serology or virus isolation. 6. Marked increase in the number of stillborns that have variable size and increased mortality in born alive pigs. Suspect PRRSV. Confirm with serology or virus isolation. (Greg Stevenson, DVM, PhD, Vet. Diag. Lab., Purdue University).

**Industrialization of the U.S. Swine Industry:** U.S. retail pork sales are \$27 billion. Producers' share is \$11 billion. The corn belt has lost 10% of its hog market to other regions. Number of swine farms in the U.S. was 670,000 in 1980; 208,000 in 1995. Generally there have been high margins for pork producers. However, there has been a wide variation in costs (\$28.00/head difference between the high third and the low third of producers). Implications of the move to industrialization: 1. High cost "dated" producers will exit (or modernize). 2. Producers marketing 1,000 or fewer pigs annually are exiting at 3% per year. 3. In the future, 50% of swine production has the potential to be "new" (35% will exit and 15% growth). 4. Midwest must rebuild and recapitalize. 5. Future: networking and alliances. (Mike Boehlje, PhD and Chris Hurt, Ag Econ., Purdue, Univ.).

**Segregated Early Weaning and Mycoplasma:** Weaning at 14 days or less greatly reduces the number of pigs with clinical signs of mycoplasmal pneumonia. The impact of *M. hyo* is worse when combined with other respiratory diseases. Weaning age is vitally important; twice a week weaning is optimal. Use tattoos or ear tags with the date of birth. (Allan R. Carlson, DVM, Swine Health Center, Morris, MN).

**Modifications of PRRS Vaccine Use:** Approximately 20% of herds receiving whole herd PRRS MLV vaccination experienced problems. Some of the vaccination modifications that have been used or recommended to avoid problems are: 1. Quarterly vaccination (Dr. Ralph Vinson). 2. The "6/60" program (vaccinate 6 days post-farrowing and repeat at 60 days post-breeding (Dr. Michael Mohr). 3. Vaccination of replacements; vaccinate all replacements twice at least 4 weeks apart and 3 weeks pre-breeding. (Timothy J. Loula, DVM, Swine Health Center, P.A., St. Peter, MN).