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# "HOGG SENSE" .....

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**Vol. 5, No. 1.**

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**Evolution of Swine Facilities and Management:** In the 1940-1950 period pigs were raised in old barns and "A" houses on pasture by farrowing twice a year, spring and fall. Weaning was at 6 to 8 weeks of age. These systems evolved to much larger units with all stages of production from breeding to finishing under one roof. Next came all-in/all-out management by room or building. This was followed by MEW and MMEW combined with 2 and 3 site production. Weaning time ranges from 8 to 17 days with an average of 14 days. In 1996, a new management technique is beginning to evolve. This technique has two steps; 1. breeding to weaning as in 3 site production, and, 2. moving 12 pound weaned pigs to wean/finish barns. All-in/all-out management is strictly followed in the wean/finish barns. Traditional wisdom would point out the wasted floor space that accrues from rearing pigs from 12 pounds to 250 pounds. However, when the increase in days to market weight from each move (nursery to grower and grower to finishing, 2 moves) is commonly put at 7 days (14 days for 2 moves) the wasted space is acceptable to progressive producers. (Editor).

**Media Report of Fatal Sow Disease Outbreak in Southeast Iowa:** Current information about the media report indicates that a more virulent than usual PRRS virus is the cause of the problem. Epidemiology studies have been conducted by APHIS/USDA for the past few months to elucidate the extent and spread of this strain of PRRS. A report will be published by ISU Extension when the APHIS data has been analyzed. (Dr. Kevin Petersburg, Area Veterinarian-in-Charge, APHIS/USDA, Des Moines, Iowa).

**Causes of Failure of the All-in/All-out Production System:** Failures are almost always associated with a break in the system, such as: 1. Keeping animals back because they have not reached the weight or age to move to the next building. 2. Having all-in/all-out farrowing and nurseries but not finishing. 3. Movement of workers from rooms or buildings housing older pigs to those with younger pigs 4. Common air spaces or fans from older animals discharging close to air intakes for younger animals. (Carlos Pijoan, DVM, PhD, CVM, University of MN., ISU Swine Disease Conference Proceedings, 1996).

**Segregated Early Weaning (SEW) and Clinical Disease:** SEW may promote the occurrence of clinical disease by organisms that have been in the herd all along but previously only resulted in subclinical infections. Prominent in this group are *H. parasuis*, *A. suis*, and *Streptococcus suis*. SEW may allow a higher percentage of pigs to avoid becoming infected while protected by colostrum. However, some pigs do become infected and transmit the disease to their susceptible pen-mates. (Brad Fenwick, DVM, MS, PhD, KSU, ISU Swine Dis. Conf. Proceed., Ames, Iowa, Nov. 14-15, 1996).