
"HOGG SENSE"

Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,
Editor
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MVP Laboratories, Inc
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PRRS and "Abortion Storms": A more severe form of PRRS has appeared mostly in southeast Iowa with occasional cases in Minnesota, Illinois, North Carolina, Colorado and Missouri. The syndrome in question is characterized by abortions at all stages of gestation involving 10-50 percent of sows in a one to five-week period. There have also been some increases in sow mortality, ranging from one to 10 percent in a five-week period. Epidemiology findings: 1. Many of the herds involved are large herds that do a poor job of acclimating females before introduction into the main herd. 2. Many of the herds get replacement stock from multiple sources. 3. Herds in an expanding phase have a higher percentage (45-70 percent) of gilts, thus a greater population of susceptible animals. (Pat Halbur, DVM, PhD, ISU Diagnostic Lab., Swine Health and Epidemiology Report, LCI, Winter 1997).

Emerging Swine Diseases: Currently a popular management tool for controlling swine diseases has been segregated early weaning (SEW). However, SEW has not always been successful because some producers do not strictly follow the SEW rules. For example, weaning pigs older than 15 days of age. Four of the emerging diseases causing the most concern, especially in SEW herds, are *Streptococcus suis*, *Haemophilus parasuis*, *Actinobacillus suis* and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. (Editor).

Controlling *Streptococcus suis*: There are 35 known serotypes of *Streptococcus suis*. When *Strep suis* emerges as a problem in larger herds using SEW, it becomes necessary for the attending veterinarian to monitor the *Strep suis* serotypes existing in the herd. Although not all serotypes of *Strep suis* are pathogenic, it is not yet known which serotypes are significant and which are of no significance. **Practice Tip:** When large numbers of *Strep suis* are cultured from brain, lungs or joints, the isolates are likely to be pathogenic. Isolations taken from tonsil or vaginal swabs in low numbers are likely to be nonpathogenic and not significant. Further, it is necessary that any *Strep suis* vaccine must contain the same serotype(s) as the serotype(s) causing the problem in the pig. This is true for both commercial and autogenous *Strep suis* vaccines. (Editor).

Controlling *Haemophilus parasuis*: There are eight known serotypes of *Haemophilus parasuis*. Although there is cross-protection between certain serotypes, it does not occur among all serotypes. Therefore, the attending veterinarian needs to monitor the serotype(s) that exist in the herd as in *Strep suis*. *H. parasuis* serotyping is difficult and expensive so many veterinarians are using autogenous *H. parasuis* bacterins as the best option. (Editor).

Controlling Mycoplasmosis: Vaccinate sows pre-farrowing and SEW at less than 15 days.