
"HOGG SENSE".....

Alex Hogg, DVM, MS
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What Every Swine Practitioner Should Know About Breeding Barn Blunders:

1. Move pregnant females within the first four or five days after breeding or wait until 30 days postbreeding. Do this to avoid the critical time of embryo implantation. 2. Emphasize doing twice a day estrus checks between days 18 and 24 and again around day 42 postbreeding. A boar must be present, and the back pressure method should be used. 3. Use boars to stimulate weaned sows shortly after weaning. This will shorten the return to estrus interval. 4. Give gilts boar contact at 140 days of age to allow gilts to be bred on their third or fourth estrus. 5. Gilts should either be full fed until breeding or flushed seven to 14 days prior to breeding. 6. Avoid rough handling of boars and sows. Animals and people should bond. 7. Have a boar nearby to stimulate the sow when using AI to improve poor mating quality. 8. Sows and gilts returning to estrus in the first five days postweaning should be bred AM/AM/AM. Sows returning on day six or seven should be bred AM/AM/PM. Those returning on day eight or later, AM/PM/AM. 9. During the last three days prefarrowing, cut feed intake to two pounds morning and evening to increase lactation feed intake. 10. Use a record system to identify costly nonproductive days. 11. The simplest way to meet breeding/farrowing targets is to practice overbreeding. (Tim Loula, DVM, St. Peter, MN., and Deborah Hyk, Hogs Today, April 1997, p. 8).

Collecting Alveolar Macrophages for Immunohistochemistry (IHC) Diagnosis of PRRS Virus: Alveolar macrophages are collected by lavaging the larger airways of the lung with phosphate buffered saline (PBS). MVP Laboratories routinely performs this test. Submit the "pluck" (both lungs and trachea) from small pigs and one entire lung of larger pigs. (Editor).

Mycoplasmal Pneumonia as a Devastating Respiratory Problem of 14 to 18 Week Old Pigs: *M. hyopneumoniae* is transmitted from the sow to the pigs during a 28 day lactation period. In SEW experiments, *M. hyopneumoniae* was not transmitted from seropositive sows to pigs weaned before 15 days. In this case, transmission depends on the passive antibody titers of the pigs. (L. Kirk Clark, DVM, PhD; Proc. ISU Swine Disease Conf., Nov. 14, 1996, pp. 64-65).