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# "HOGG SENSE".....

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**A Successful Vaccination Program:** 1. Vaccinate all pigs in a group. 2. Vaccinate young pigs after colostral antibodies have disappeared. 3. Vaccinate gilts and sows according to your goals. If the goal is to prevent gilts and sows from becoming infected during gestation, vaccinate gilts prior to breeding and sows at weaning. If the goal is to increase colostral antibodies to protect piglets against diseases, vaccinate gilts and sows prior to farrowing. (Sandy Amass, DVM, MS; SVM, Purdue University; Pork '97/ March, p. 58). (Editor's caveat: Because estrus can occur in sows in as little as three days after weaning and some vaccines may cause an increase in body temperature (fever), it would be prudent to take the rectal temperature of a representative group of sows two or three days after vaccination at weaning. A fever may affect conception rate. Remember that a thermometer is the most under-used diagnostic instrument in swine production).

**Porcine Respiratory Disease Complex (PRDC):** The pathogens commonly isolated from cases of PRDC are: Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae (MP), Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae (APP), Pasteurella multocida (PM), Swine Influenza Virus (SIV), Haemophilus parasuis (HPS), Porcine Respiratory Coronavirus (PRCV), Actinobacillus suis (A. suis), and Streptococcus suis (S. suis). Because there are so many pathogenic organisms involved in PRDC, swine practitioners are advised to determine which of the long list of pathogens are infecting the herd. This determination is done by gross lesions, culture and serology. To compound the challenge of PRDC, in addition to numerous possible pathogens, there are different strains and serotypes of the PRDC organisms. Because there are no commercial vaccines available that can successfully immunize all pigs in a PRDC situation, many swine practitioners are depending on well-adjuvanted, herd-specific, autogenous vaccines as an important cost-effective approach for controlling PRDC. (Editor).

**Clean Pigs and Early Weaning:** There seems to be a group of organisms that wants to become "clean pig diseases". (Carlos Pijoan, DVM, PhD; CVM, University of MN.).

**Calcium to Phosphorus Ratios:** When pigs were fed a diet with a calcium to phosphorus (C/P) ratio of 1 to 1, intestinal absorption of both elements was increased. When using low phosphorus diets for pigs, it is necessary to lower the calcium content to maintain a C/P ratio of less than 1.2 to 1. Fifteen lbs. of ground limestone (6 lbs. of calcium)/ton of feed. (Trygve Veum and J. Liu; Hogs Today/April 1997. p. 15).

**Philosophy:** "Very little is needed to make a happy life." (Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, Roman Emperor and Stoic philosopher, 121-180 A.D.).