
"HOGG SENSE".....

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Diarrhea Morbidity and Mortality in Piglets 4-14 Days of Age: Diarrhea increased with herd size, sow health problems, deworming sows in the farrowing crate, and routine use of supplemental milk for piglets. Diarrhea decreased with: all-in/all-out farrowing rooms, washing sows, TGE-free herd status, and vaccinating sows against *Escherichia coli*. Diarrhea mortality increased with: litter size, sow health problems, fostering piglets at 4-14 days of age, and sow mange/lice treatment while in the farrowing crate. Diarrhea mortality decreased with: fostering piglets out of the litter at 1-3 days of age, using supplemental iron, using a hired manager in the farrowing facility, and *Escherichia coli* vaccination. (Dewey, CE; et al: Ontario Veterinary College, Univ. of Guelph; Swine Health and Prod., 3:3, pp. 105-112). Editor's Note: Because the strains of *E. coli* affecting 4-14 day old piglets are usually different than those affecting 1-3 day old piglets, it may be necessary to use a herd specific autogenous vaccine on sows in which diarrhea is anticipated to start in the piglets later than 3 days of age (4-14 days of age).

Diagnostic Tips by James E. Collins, DVM, PhD, Diag. Lab., ISU:

1. Chill PRRSV samples because the virus is rapidly inactivated at high temperatures. Dr. Steve Henry, Abilene, Kansas Animal Hospital, has noted that centrifuges used in veterinary practices sometimes become quite hot after prolonged use. Inadvertent heating of serum might reduce the efficacy of isolating PRRSV.
2. Zinc, greasy pigs, and parakeratosis. When grow/finish pigs develop dermatitis, the problem is not likely to be "greasy skin disease." It is more likely to be zinc deficiency. Feed formulation errors are the usual cause of swine parakeratosis. Editor's note: Most parakeratosis is due to excess calcium in the diet and too little (or the right amount) of zinc.
3. Keep colon and small intestine in separate specimen containers, especially when submitting samples for *Clostridium perfringens* anaerobic culture. Culture of the jejunum is a useful adjunct to the diagnosis of neonatal *C. perfringens*, type A, diarrhea. *C. perfringens* is normal flora in the large intestine but should not be found in high numbers in the jejunum of nursing piglets.
4. Poor growth: Always examine the intestine. In a number of diagnostic cases, practitioners submit respiratory tracts and other internal organs when poor growth is being investigated, but exclude the intestine. Diagnostic studies that include intestinal specimens often reveal disease caused by coccidiosis, rotaviral diarrhea, proliferative ileitis or other enteric diseases.
5. Choosing your samples. Sample acutely affected, untreated, live, or recently dead pigs for diagnostic purposes. Following this basic principle of diagnostic pathology, whenever possible, will ensure greater diagnostic success.