

# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS):** PMWS is a new and unique disease of swine. It has been diagnosed in 25-30 herds in Canada. PMWS affects nursery and grower pigs (J. C. Harding, DVM; AASP Proc., 1997, p. 503). Gross lesions are markedly enlarged thoracic and mesenteric lymph nodes. Pigs are thin, pale and have fibrinous polyserositis, bronchopneumonia, cranioventral tan consolidation of the lungs and fibrinous colitis. (Pat Halbur, DVM, PhD; and S. Sorden, DVM, PhD, 1997 Leman Swine Conf. Proceed.). (Editor's Note: PMWS seems to be associated with pigs that have been exported from Canada. It is possible that PMWS will spread to U.S. pigs).

**Large Corporate Swine Farms vs. Small Swine Farms:** "The swine industry will be divided not by large vs. small producers but rather by good, efficient producers vs. poor, less efficient managers." (Roy Schultz, DVM, MS; 1997 Leman Swine Conf., p. 42).

**Causes of Coughing in 7-14 Day-old Piglets:** In 7-14 day-old piglets there are 12 causes of coughing. The 12 causes can be divided into common, less common and unlikely. The common causes of coughing are dust/gases, PRRS plus others, *Haemophilus parasuis*, and *Bordetella bronchiseptica*. The less common group consists of swine influenza, pseudorabies, *Actinobacillus suis* and threadworm larvae. Unlikely causes are *Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae* (APP), *Porcine respiratory coronavirus* (PRCV), and enzootic pneumonia (*Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*). (Muirhead, M., DVM; and Alexander, T., DVM; Pig International, September 1997, Volume 27, No. 9, p. 63).

**Tips for Improving Conception With AI:** 1. Poor estrus detection remains by far the biggest reason for AI failure. 2. One possible error in estrus detection is a late start. Sows should be checked from day 2-3 after weaning, not on day 4-5. 3. Use a boar to stimulate the sow during estrus detection. 4. Have sows in open pens rather than in single crates. 5. Provide stimulation while the sow is being inseminated such as applying back pressure and rubbing her flanks and vulva. 6. Do a twice daily estrus check on each animal morning and afternoon. 7. Sows in estrus at about day 5 should get 3 inseminations on 3 successive mornings. 8. Sows in estrus on day 6-7 receive 2 morning inseminations and one in the afternoon as the third dose. 9. Day 8 animals are put on an AM/PM/AM schedule. (Tim Loula, DVM, St. Peter, MN.; Pig International, Sept. 1997, Vol. 27, No. 9, pp. 67-70).

**The Cause of Aborted Litters:** Abortions can occur anytime from the 14th day of gestation to the 110th day. A one percent abortion rate is normal. Abortions can result from infectious, or more commonly, from noninfectious causes. Irregular returns to estrus, sick sows and fetuses in poor condition point to infectious causes. Among noninfectious causes of abortion are: 1. "Fall abortion syndrome" is associated with day length. The pig should have 16 hours of daylight. Solution: provide artificial lighting (150-watt bulbs spaced 5 feet apart) to sows in confinement. 2. Sows in poor body condition. This occurs when thin sows are exposed to cold temperatures. 3. Lack of boar exposure for the first 30 days of gestation. (Sandy Amass, DVM, PhD; Purdue Univ; Pork'97, Sept., p. 74).