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# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Iron and Milking Problems in Sows:** Two possible causes of milking problems that are often overlooked are: 1. Selenium deficiency, and 2. Excess iron in the drinking water. Solution: Add selenium to the gestation/lactation diet or inject sows with selenium prior to farrowing. Solution number two: Analyze sow drinking water for iron. Excess iron in the drinking water will interfere with the absorption of selenium in the feed. (B. Straw, DVM, PhD; CVM, Michigan State University).

**Gastric Ulcers - Finely Ground Feed or Fasting?:** Although small particle size (550 microns) can keep a gastric ulcer from healing, a short period of fasting may be causing the damage in the first place. The fasting period can be as short as 12 to 24 hours. Fasting occurs when pigs are weaned and take time to get started on feed in the nursery. Pigs go off feed again when they move on to a grow/finish facility. (Brad Lawrence, PhD, Swine Nutritionist; Pork'97/August, pp 42).

**Enlightened Breeding:** John Gadd recalled that tests in Guelph, Canada, 10 years ago established the minimum requirement for light intensity in breeding units as 350 lux (lumens). Gadd's studies of 90 farms found that the average light intensity was only 216 lux. Use a light meter to record light intensities in breeding units. (Peter Best, Pig International, October 1997, Vol. 27, No. 10, p. 6).

**Movement of Body Fat:** In a presentation at a pig science meeting at the University of Nottingham Easter School, Dr. John Black warned that the selection of pigs with low backfat at a single site has had an unfortunate result. The fat has been re-distributed from the measured site to the belly and the rump. This may even be leading to an increase in total body fat. Methods of selecting pigs must be used that reflect the composition of the entire body. (Peter Best, Pig International - October 1997, Volume 27, No. 10, p. 6).

**Stray Voltage - How Many Milliamps?:** Pigs can detect stray voltage of 0.25 milliamps but will still drink from problem waterers, if no other source of water is available. Three milliamps will negatively affect the pig's drinking time. Four milliamps reduced water intake and feed consumption. (Mike Brumm, PhD, Univ. of NE; Pork'97, October, pp 12-13).

**Too Much Lysine Slows Litter Growth:** Synthetic lysine can lower costs of sow lactation diets as long as the amount is restricted to 0.075 percent or less. When synthetic lysine increased beyond 0.075 percent, sow performance was reduced. (Univ. of MO; Pork'97/Oct. p 16-17).

**Philosophy:** Predicting the future should remain in the domain of the young and the foolish. (Al Tank, National Pork Producers Council).