

“HOGG SENSE...”

Alex Hogg, DVM,MS,
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What Every Swine Practitioner should know about the swine estrus cycle and gilt management: 1. The estrus cycle can vary from 17 to 25 days. 2. Gilts will often cycle earlier than 21 days. 3. Sows will stand for 2 to 3 days; gilts stand for 1 or 2 days. 4. Females stand for fewer days and/or show less signs of estrus during hot weather. 5. The proper light exposure should be 300 lux for a minimum of 12 hours per day (sufficient light to read a fine print newspaper at arms length). (Gibson, S.; International Pig Topics, 12:6, 1997). **Editors Note:** Most USA light meters measure in foot-candles. To convert 350 lux to foot-candles, divide by 10.76 = 32.5 foot-candles. This is roughly equivalent to what is found in most well-lighted offices. (Gerald R. Bodman, P.E., Ext. Agri. Engineer, Univ. of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE. 68583).

Why Swine Practitioners Use Autogenous Vaccines: 1. The strain or serotype of the antigen is specific for the herd. 2. Combination vaccines can be tailor-made for the diseases existing in the herd. 3. Unneeded antigens such as those in some multi-antigen commercial products are not included in autogenous vaccines. Unneeded antigens may dilute the efficacy of the immune response or interfere with the needed antigens. 4. Because autogenous vaccines use current field isolates, there is a low possibility of genetic drift. The chance of genetic drift is much higher in some commercial vaccines when the same seed is used indefinitely. (Editor).

PRRS and Mycoplasmal Pneumonia: A British veterinarian reports that herds have been very successfully controlling respiratory problems caused by PRRS. They implement a vaccination program for mycoplasmal pneumonia at 10 days of age and again at weaning. (Muirhead, M., DVM, PhD; as reported by Cate Dewey, DVM, PhD, Univ. of Guelph, Ontario, Canada). (Editor's Note: MVP Laboratories has the technology to make an autogenous mycoplasma bacterin that replicates *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* at $\geq 10^{8.0}$ organisms per ml). (Editor's Note #2: Because of the USA trend toward early weaning, the second vaccination should be administered 3 weeks or longer after the first dose).

Controlling *Salmonella typhimurium* Infection: *Salmonella typhimurium* is one of the salmonella group of intestinal bacteria and is capable of infecting pigs, man and other species. Disease involving *Salmonella typhimurium* is most common in young weaned pigs and occurs soon after introduction to nursery or growing pens. Affected animals lose condition and develop diarrhea which is brownish or greyish. There is depression, slight reddening of the skin, anorexia and fever. Some pigs may pass pinkish diarrhea containing whitish pieces of necrotic gut mucosa without mucus. Rectal stricture or necrosis of the tips of the ears may develop 4-6 weeks after the initial infection. (DJ Taylor, MA, PhD, Vet MB, MRCVS, Glasgow University, Scotland; PIGS-Misset, Vol. 13, No. 6, 1997).

One Size Pellet Fits All: One size pellet, 4 mm, provided the best gain/feed compared to 2-, 8-, or 12-, mm pellets. (J. Hancock, PhD, Nutritionist, KSU; Hogs Today, Nov/Dec '97).