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# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Most Common Tissues for Isolating *Streptococcus suis* Strains:** In a Kansas State University study, *Streptococcus suis* strains were isolated from the following tissues in descending order of prevalence: brain, lung, joint, and heart. There was no significant correlation among the numbers of *Streptococcus suis* strains isolated, the organ from which they were isolated, or the severity of the disease in pigs. However, isolates from the joint were most commonly associated with severe clinical signs. Eleven of 16 pigs from which *Streptococcus suis* was isolated from the joints were infected with highly virulent strains. (Staats, JJ, et al; Jr. of Clin. Micro., Jan. 1998; Vol. 36, No. 1, p. 15-19).

**Feeding Behavior in Suckling Pigs:** Immediately after parturition, milk is available from the sow's udder fairly continuously. About 10 hours after birth of the first piglet, milk becomes available intermittently for short periods only. A sucking bout is divided into 4 phases: the initial massage phase, an inactive phase, the "true" sucking phase, and a final massage phase. The initial massage phase lasts between 1 and 3 minutes and concludes with the release of oxytocin. Twenty seconds after oxytocin release, milk letdown occurs. The true sucking phase lasts about 10 to 20 seconds. (Worobec, E., MSc; Duncan, I., PhD; Compendium Supplement, Oct. 1997, p. S271-277).

**Rotating PRRS Vaccines:** According to a preliminary study, rotating PRRS vaccines can increase the response to different strains of the virus and even lead to broader protection against the disease. Eight gilts and 30 sows that had previously been vaccinated with one vaccine had their antibody response to 4 PRRS strains measured by serum neutralization. All of the animals were revaccinated with another PRRS vaccine. Three weeks later there were significant increases in antibody titers to all 4 strains, there was also a significant increase in the number of animals showing antibody response. (Wasmoen, T, DVM; Veterinary Forum, November 25, 1997, p. 18).

**Too Many Inseminations:** Studies at the University of Minnesota suggest that multiple inseminations-especially the later inseminations-were contraindicated. Females receiving a third insemination produced 1.1 fewer piglets on average and 1.4 fewer pigs born alive. (U. of M. Researcher Keven Rozeboom). (Editor's Comment: Dr. Mike Wilson, at the University of Guelph, reported similar results in a Canadian study a few years ago).

**PRRS: Eradication or Management?** Given currently available strategies of eradicating PRRSV from an infected swine herd, practitioners should focus on control of the disease, rather than elimination of the virus. A major problem with attempting to eradicate PRRS from a herd is that persistent infections occur readily within infected populations. A second problem is that it is difficult to keep the farm PRRS virus-free after eradication has been accomplished. (Dee, Scott A., DVM, PhD; Swine Health Center, Morris, MN; Large Animal Practice, Vol. 18, No. 5, p. 36-38).