

---

# “HOGG SENSE...”

Alex Hogg, DVM,MS,  
Editor  
Vol. 6, No. 2



Sponsored By:  
MVP Laboratories, Inc.  
Ralston, NE 68127

---

**Porcine *Serpulina pilosicoli*:** Porcine colonic spirochetosis (PCS) is a non-fatal, diarrheal disease affecting pigs during the grow/finish stage of production. Because four antimicrobial agents are commonly used to control swine dysentery, a disease caused by the related spirochete, *Serpulina hyodysenteriae*, the susceptibility of 7 *Serpulina pilosicoli* isolates was investigated. Results: The minimal inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the four antimicrobial agents indicated that all of the *Serpulina pilosicoli* isolates were susceptible to carbadox and tiamulin. Susceptibility to lincomycin was 66.6% and for gentamicin 50%. (Duhamel, GE, DVM, PhD; et al, UN-L; 1998 Nebraska Swine Report, pp. 17-19).

**Practice Tip:** "Delay clipping teeth for two days to make sure little pigs get a good drink of colostrum on their first day of life." (Pat and Murray Spicer, Bendigo, Australia).

**Advice from Australia:** We should rethink some of our attitudes about teeth clipping and tail docking. Our routine practice of clipping the teeth of every litter is overkill. This opinion is based on experience in Mexico, Denmark and Texas. (The Ausvac Newsletter, Vol. 42, Summer 1997-98).

**Causes of Mastitis in Sows:** Studies at the University of Tennessee revealed that mastitis affects up to 40% of lactating sows. The most common bacterium identified was *Corynebacterium* (42%). *Corynebacterium* also causes mastitis in dairy cows, where it is more an indication of poor sanitation than a contagious disease. This may explain why mastitis occurs in some swine farrowing barns and not in others. Other bacteria that were implicated in mastitis were *Staphylococci* (32%), *Streptococci* (13%) and *E. coli* (13%). Usually only a few glands of the udder are infected, however, the pigs that nurse the infected glands may not receive adequate colostrum. (Mathew, A. and Jagers, A., National Hog Farmer, Dec. 15, 1997, pp. 21-22). (Editor's Note: The practice of milking sows a day or so before farrowing begins, to predict the time of farrowing, should be avoided. First, this procedure is not accurate, and second, it removes the waxey plug that prevents infectious organisms from passing up the teat canal before lactation begins).

**Acute TGE and Feedback:** The highest concentration of TGE virus is in the intestines of suckling pigs 4 to 6 hours after diarrhea starts. This is the optimum time to sacrifice suckling pigs, macerate the GI tract, and naturally immunize the entire herd by feeding back the virulent virus. This procedure should be used only in herds that have not been exposed to the TGE virus in the past two years. The intestines of pigs that have died from TGE are not a good source of virus for feedback. (Connor, Joe, DVM; Hogs Today/Jan. 1998, p. 32). (Editor's Note: Remember that TGE is usually mild in the finishing barn. Think of other enteric pathogens that cause diarrhea in grow/finish pigs such as *Serpulina pilosicoli* and hemolytic *E. coli*. *Serpulina pilosicoli* infects an estimated 50% of U.S. swine herds).