

“HOGG SENSE...”

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Reducing Lagoon Odor: Murphy Family Farms has found that the most effective method of reducing odors from manure stores is by blowing chopped straw across the surface of the storage structure. The strands of straw vary between 2 and 9 inches in length. The layer of straw, which floats on the surface of the lagoon, is 8 to 12 inches thick. The normal working life of a wheat straw cap is about 6 months. A well managed straw covering is capable of reducing odors by 80-90%. (Pig International, Feb. 1998, Vol. 28, No. 2, p 35).

Common Causes of Swine Abortions: Although PRRSV is the most frequently discussed viral cause of porcine abortion, the most frequent cause of viral abortion submitted to the Nebraska Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory was parvovirus. In cases of porcine abortion due to bacterial infections, *Streptococcus* spp. were the most common bacteria isolated. (Wills, B. and Brodersen, B., NVDLS, UN-L, Vet. & Biomed. Sciences Extension Newsletter, Feb. 1998, pp 6-7).

***E. Coli* Vaccination of Sows is cost effective:** Enterotoxigenic *Escherichia coli* infections are commonly associated with diarrhea problems in neonatal piglets (1 to 14 days of age). Approximately one-half of all swine producers in the USA vaccinate gestating sows to provide lacteal immunity against *E. coli* infection in suckling piglets. The average swine producer who does not currently vaccinate sows against *E. coli* could expect to generate \$5.51 in additional annual profits by implementing an *E. coli* vaccination program. (Wittum, T.E., PhD and Dewey, C.E., DVM, PhD. Swine Health and Production, Volume 4, No. 1, pp 9-13).

***Streptococcus suis* Colonization of Piglets During Parturition:** To determine whether piglets were colonized with *Streptococcus suis* of sow origin during parturition, swab samples were collected from oropharyngeal and surface areas immediately after birth. *Streptococcus suis* was isolated from the dorsal surface and oral cavity of 13 of 43 piglets. It was concluded that the source of *Streptococcus suis* was the sows vaginal secretions. (Amass, SF, et al; Swine Health and Production, Volume 4, No. 6, pp 269-72). (Editor's comment: Because piglets can be infected with *Streptococcus suis* at birth, it is necessary to vaccinate the sows prior to farrowing in order to boost the colostrol antibody levels that will protect the newborn piglets from infection. For best results, the vaccination regimen for the sows should be two doses given at 5 or 6 weeks pre-farrowing and repeated 2 or 3 weeks pre-farrowing. Piglets should be vaccinated twice, 3 weeks apart, after weaning when the passive colostrol antibodies have waned).

The Formula for Buffered Neutral Formalin Solution:

100.0 ml 37% formalin
900.0 ml distilled water
4.0 g Sodium phosphate monobasic
6.5 g Sodium phosphate dibasic (anhydrous).