# "HOGG SENSE..."

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**Possible Adjunct Treatment for Swine Gastric Ulcers:** It has not been proved that swine gastric ulceration is caused by helical-like bacteria. However, the quest to prove bacterial-caused gastric ulceration in swine continues because of the discovery of *Helicobacter pylori* as a common cause of human duodenal and gastric ulcers. *Gastrospirillum suis* is a possible candidate for an infectious cause of swine gastric ulcers. Practitioners should now consider that there may be an infectious cause of swine gastric ulcers. Therefore, adding antibiotic therapy, such as tetracycline, to any ulcer treatment regimen may be a rational approach until more information is available. (Bruce Lawhorn, DVM, MS; CVM, Texas A&M).

**The Best of Crossfostering:** In order for crossfostering to be beneficial, colostral intake must be insured. The transfer of pigs should occur as soon as possible after farrowing. Litters should be evened out by transferring the largest pigs in the litter. First colostrum should be fed within 12 hours of birth or less. Provide a warm, draft-free environment with a temperature of 86° to 93° F. (R. Tubbs, DVM). Sort and size the piglets within 24 hours of birth. Place the smallest pigs on good milking, parity-two females with an excellent history. Place the largest pigs on old-parity sows. (J. Connor, DVM). Place piglets onto sows that have farrowed close to the time of their dam so that there is still adequate colostrum. Litters composed of all small pigs may not gain weight well due to their inability to stimulate the mammary glands to produce enough milk. (S. Amass, DVM, PhD).

***Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* and PRRSV:** The result of a recent study of porcine respiratory disease complex (PRDC) suggests that the control of *M. hyopneumoniae* infection may be important in decreasing the impact of PRRSV-induced pneumonia for swine herds and ultimately PRDC. (Thacker, E., DVM, PhD; Halbur, P., DVM, PhD; and Thacker, B., DVM, PhD; Proceedings, 1998 AASP 29th Annual Meeting, pp 351-54).

**Pigs, Primates, Lambs, Rats and Human Hepatitis E (HEV):** In 1997, a novel virus, swine hepatitis E virus (HEV), was identified in pigs by X. L. Meng, MD, PhD, et al; NIH, Bethesda, MD. Surveys done to date suggest that HEV is widespread in pigs. Swine HEV is closely related to, but distinct from, previously described human HEV strains. Clinical cases of human HEV are rare in North America. It is not yet known whether swine HEV is species-specific or if it is also circulating in the human population. (Halbur, PG, DVM, PhD; Meng, XJ, MD, PhD, et al; Proceedings, 1998 AASP Annual Meeting, pp 455-6).

**Glasser's Disease (Haemophilus parasuis - HPS):** Glasser's disease is caused by the bacterium *Haemophilus parasuis,* a small organism of which there are at least 15 different serotypes. In herds in which the bacterium is endemic, sows produce a strong maternal immunity which can persist in their offspring until 8 to 12 weeks of age. The pigs at this age usually become sub-clinically infected and develop their own immune response. In problem herds, the use of autogenous vaccines in the sows is recommended because of the large number of HPS serotypes that may not cross-protect. Sows and gilts should be vaccinated twice, 6 and 3 weeks pre-farrowing. (Muirhead, MR, UK).