

# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Valine and Good Milking Sows:** Lactating sows need to consume an adequate amount of the amino acid valine in order to milk well. Crystalline valine is available to add to the diet, but is currently too expensive. Soybean meal is a good source of valine. To ensure that the lactation diet contains a sufficient amount of valine relative to lysine, it is best to avoid substituting crystalline lysine for soybean meal in lactation diets. In most situations where corn-based lactation diets are fed, include at least 505 lb of 44% CP soybean meal/ton (> 475 lb of 46.5% CP soybean meal/ton). Introduce the lactation diet 3 to 5 days prior to expected farrowing. (Reese, D.E., PhD; UN-L, Lincoln, NE).

**Control of *Haemophilus parasuis*:** There are a number of serotypes of *Haemophilus parasuis* existing in the U.S. swine herd. Various U.S. biologics manufacturers include from one to several of the known serotypes of *H. parasuis* in their vaccine. Cross protection between serotypes is either questionable or nonexistent. None of the companies include all of the 15 possible serotypes in their *H. parasuis* vaccines. The bottom line: If your present *H. parasuis* vaccine is not performing effectively, it would be prudent to monitor the serotype(s) of *H. parasuis* currently existing in your herd and compare them with the serotypes in the vaccine you are using. MVP Laboratories has the capability of serotyping seven of the most common strains of *H. parasuis*. (Editor).

**Can MLV PRRSV Vaccines Mutate and Cause Disease?** We know from Danish, as well as U.S. experiences that some MLV PRRS vaccines have the ability to replicate and shed from vaccinated to unvaccinated animals and, with time, the MLV strain may progress throughout an entire herd. PRRSV is a highly mutable RNA virus. Reports from Denmark suggest that it would require multiple (but not many) passages of MLV to become virulent for breeding stock. (Osorio, F., MV, MS, PhD, UN-L, Nebraska Veterinary Newsletter, January 1998).

**More About PRRS: Gross Lesions:** Some of the gross lesions that practitioners can observe while performing field necropsies in suspected PRRS cases are: Fetuses with subcutaneous edema of the mesocolon, and segmentally friable and hemorrhagic umbilical cords; pigs from two days to five weeks old with mottled tan lungs that fail to collapse; enlarged tan lymph nodes, yellow fatty livers, arthritis, and polyserositis in older pigs; and both growing pigs and sows that have increased amounts of yellow pericardial fluid and yellow ascitic (abdominal) fluid. Diagnosis: Severe acute PRRS. (Halbur, Pat, DVM, PhD and Sorden, Steve, DVM, PhD; ISU, CVM, Swine Practitioner/Feb. 1998, Case Studies, p. 8).