

# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Dietary Fiber in Sow Gestation Diets:** Research has indicated that sows fed high-fiber diets during gestation weaned an average of 0.3 more pigs per litter than sows fed lower-fiber, grain-based diets. Gestation diets containing 45% wheat midds, 20% soybean hulls, 25% alfalfa meal, 30% sugar beet pulp, or 40% oats should increase weaned litter size by 0.3 pigs per litter. Feeding a diet containing these sources of natural detergent fiber would increase sow feed ingredient costs from 0 to \$3.30/sow/period (110 days) compared with feeding a corn-soy based diet. However, income from the additional pigs weaned/litter would offset as much as a \$6.00 increase in sow feed costs associated with feeding high fiber diets during gestation. Note: Both diets in this research (grain-soy based and fiber added) were supplemented with folic acid and biotin which are known to increase litter size. (Reese, DE, PhD, UN-L; 1998 Nebraska Swine Report, pp. 23-25).

**Practice Tip to Control Respiratory Disease:** Frequently *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* is the most important agent in respiratory disease. Vaccinating pigs at 3 and repeated at 5 weeks of age has been very successful in controlling respiratory disease. Recently, *Mycoplasma* vaccines have not been giving the complete protection that they did one to three years ago. This has led to the vaccination of sows pre-farrowing with *Mycoplasma* to reduce sow-to-pig transmission. (Connor, Joe, DVM, Hog Health; Hogs Today, Nov/Dec. 1997, pp. 36).

**Synergism between PRRSV and *Salmonella choleraesuis*:** Five-week-old segregated early weaned pigs were inoculated with *Salmonella choleraesuis* (SC), PRRSV, or treated with dexamethasone (DEX). Groups of pigs received either one of the treatments or a combination of two or three treatments. Pigs that received all three treatments (SC, PRRSV and DEX) were the most adversely affected. The results of this study provided evidence to support field observations that clinical outbreaks of PRRS are the result of interactions among concurrent infections and stressors. (Wills, RW, DVM, PhD, et al; 1997 Nebraska Swine Report, pp. 12-14).

**Ascarid Infection and Respiratory Health in Feeder Pigs Raised on Pasture or in Confinement:** Despite ascarid infection, outdoor pigs had better average daily gain compared with indoor-raised pigs, probably because of lower population density on pasture. Intensive anthelmintic treatment has a low efficacy in pigs raised on worm-infested soil. Pasture management is required to control parasites in outdoor pigs. Outdoor feeder pigs should be treated for internal parasites prior to co-mingling with indoor pigs. (Jolie, R, DVM, MS; Backstrom, L, DVM, PhD; et al; SH & P, AASP., Vol. 6, No. 3, pp. 115-120).

**Effect of Blood Collection Protocol on PRV Serologic Test Results:** Five mL of blood was collected from each of ten 6.5-month-old finishing pigs that were naturally infected with PRV, using a syringe and needle. One of three different protocols were used. Protocol 1--A new needle and syringe for each of the ten pigs. Protocol 2--A single needle and syringe was used on all 10 pigs and rinsed with water between pigs. Protocol 3--No rinse. A single needle and syringe was used to bleed all pigs. **Results:** All pigs in the study were PRV serologically positive. The authors recommend using the rinsing needles and syringes protocol. (Rumsey, CW, DVM, Amass, SF, DVM, PhD, et al; SH & P, AASP, 6:2, pp.80).