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# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Insemination Can Cause Problems if Timing is Wrong:** Semen deposited in the uterus induces an influx of immune cells beginning 6 hours post-breeding. Maximum inflammatory response will be observed at 12 hours post-insemination and declines significantly thereafter. The inflammatory response is strongest when gilts are inseminated during late estrus (36 hours after the onset of estrus). Late insemination decreases litter size by 1.1 pigs and farrowing rate by up to 20%. (Rozeboom, K., et al; Taken from NPPC Tech Talk, 3:2; as reported by UNL Vet. and Biomed. Sci. Ext, Newsletter, Oct. 1998).

**Endotoxin from Poor Ventilation:** Endotoxin in pig barns results from bacteria that collect on dust particles. Poor ventilation comes from poor air mixing and is the most common problem encountered in swine facilities. (Thacker, B., DVM, PhD; CVM, ISU).

**Probiotics:** A. Probiotics are consistently inconsistent. **B. Fat and Dust:** The addition of a vegetable oil, such as soybean oil, or fat at the rate of 1 to 2% of a complete diet will reduce the amount of dust in the environment. **C. Mold and Mycotoxins:** Mold counts are not a good test for mycotoxins. (Johnston, L., PhD; Nutri, Univ. Mn, West Central Sta).

**Virus-induced Reproductive Diseases of Swine:** Viruses that are either known or believed to be associated with porcine reproductive failure are porcine enterovirus, encephalomyocarditis virus, swine influenza virus, porcine cytomegalovirus, porcine adenovirus, blue eye disease virus, porcine reovirus, BVD, IBR virus, hog cholera virus, Japanese B encephalitis virus, pseudorabies virus, porcine parvovirus (PPV), and PRRSV. Fortunately, only a few of these viruses have a major impact on the swine industry in this country. The two most important viruses are PPV and PRRS. (Mengeling, WL, DVM, PhD & Lager, KM, DVM; NADC, USDA, Ames, Iowa; Geo. Young Swine Conf, 1997).

**Immune Status of Gilts:** The robust immune status with immunity specific to the team of sows that the gilt will join, takes time. Nearly all the important immunity in the sow herd comes from the life experience of the gilt and not from a bottle of vaccine. The failure of the veterinary biologics industry to produce predictable, efficacious, and safe products for sows is regrettable, but very real. With those lessons learned, we believe in the need to leverage the maturation time and herd experience to develop effective immunity for the female lifetime. (Henry, SC, DVM, Dipl. ABVP; Abilene, Ks.; Proc. 1998 Lemman Swine Conference, p. 100). (Editors Note: Another possibility is the use of herd specific autogenous vaccines that contain well adjuvanted current antigens that have been isolated from the farm in question).

**Laboratory Specimens for Bacterial Isolation:** The best specimen is an acutely-ill, live, untreated pig. Alternatively, tissues should be removed from a euthanized pig. Submit whole lungs from pigs that weigh less than 40 lbs., not frozen and packed in ice. (Editor).