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# “HOGG SENSE...”

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**Improving Litter Size with Vitamin A Therapy:** The injection of vitamin A, or *B-carotene*, about 5 days before the onset of estrus will increase the size of the subsequent litter in sows. This increase is thought to be due to increasing the survival of early embryos. The following practices are appropriate: 1. Provide normal dietary levels of vitamin A. 2. Inject sows at weaning with 200 mg. of *B-carotene* (or 1 million IU of vitamin A). 3. Inject gilts only if they can be injected about 5 days prior to breeding, preferably at the 2nd or 3rd estrus after puberty. 4. Do not inject vitamin A repeatedly over a short time period (monthly or less) to avoid toxicity at these doses. (Britt, JH, PhD, NCSU, GAY Swine Conference, August 2-3, 1993, Lincoln, NE, pp. 245-30).

**Notes from the AHI Endotoxin Workshop, Sept. 25, 1998, ISU, Ames, Iowa:**

1. There is no correlation between endotoxin levels and field problems.
2. Not vaccinating poses a greater risk than endotoxin.
3. Lipopolysaccharide (LPS, endotoxin) may be a primary antigen.
4. Endotoxin sensitivity is not well understood.
5. Endotoxin is suggested as a cause of adverse reactions from vaccination.
6. One must balance reactions vs. the efficacy of the vaccine.
7. The pulmonary reaction (edema) to endotoxin is severe. The GI reaction is less severe.
8. Factors affecting endotoxin response: a. Individuality of the pig. b. Route and dose of exposure. c. Current endotoxin load (environmental, endogenous). d. Genetics of the host. e. Concurrent stress (temperature, health). f. Prior exposure to a low dose of endotoxin. g. Prior exposure can be from the aerosol (dust) route. h. Older animals are less sensitive than younger animals. i. Mycotoxins (from moldy feed) in the blood stream can potentiate endotoxin reactions. (McGonigle, J., QC, MVP Laboratories).

**Iron Strategies Change in Denmark:** In Denmark there is not an increased amount of injectable iron being used. Instead there has been a change in iron supplementation over the last 3 years. Only 2-3 years ago, 100% of the piglets had one iron injection on day 3. Today only 50% of the piglets get an iron injection. The other 50% will get an iron supplement, either an iron paste or as a 2% "drinking-iron." The oral products cost 2 1/2 times the price of an injection so there must be some extra benefits from oral iron. In many herds, veterinarians have observed that iron triggers arthritis due to "iron overloading." When oral iron is used, arthritis is gone. Drinking-iron products are acidified and also have a strong anti-diarrheal effect. (Hansen, RB; Pig Inter. Oct.'98).

**Trimming Expenses Around the Clinic:** Save on office lighting by using fluorescent lights. When installed directly into incandescent light sockets, these lights save as much as 75% of electricity and maintenance expenses. Fluorescent bulbs usually last 11-20 times longer than incandescent bulbs. Change fluorescent bulbs every three years. Five years after installation, illumination from fluorescent bulbs may be diminished by as much as 70 percent. (Whitford, RE, DVM; Veterinary Forum, October 1998, p. 15).