
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

Alex Hogg, DVM, MS
Editor
Vol. 6, No. 12

Sponsored By:
MVP Laboratories, Inc.
Ralston, NE 68127

Tele: 402-331-5106
Toll-free: 800-856-4648
Fax: 402-331-8776

Four Gilt Management Tips for PRRS: 1. Buy only naive, uninfected animals. 2. Don't rely solely on natural exposure. Field data have shown that only 50% of negative gilts exposed to infected nursery pigs for 30 days tested positive to PRRS. 3. Gilts may need to be vaccinated at day 50 of gestation to prevent the formation of susceptible animals. Duration of MLV PRRS vaccines has been demonstrated to be four months. 4. Document with diagnostics the point of infection of the suckling pig before starting control strategies. Use molecular diagnostics to randomly sample suckling pigs from day 1 up to weaning. (Scott Dee, DVM, PhD; National Hog Farmer, Nov. 15, 1998, p. 21).

Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) in Swine (Porcine Circovirus Infection): This syndrome is most common in pigs 2 to 3 weeks after weaning. Clinical signs include anemia, icterus, unthriftiness, pneumonia, diarrhea and death. Morbidity may be as high as 40% and mortality can reach 10%. Lesions at necropsy may include icterus, lymphadenopathy, interstitial pneumonia, hepatomegaly (enlargement of the liver), splenomegaly, chronic nephritis and nonspecific enteritis. (Doster, AR, DVM, PhD & Brodersen, BW, DVM, PhD, Veterinary Diagnostic Center, Univ. of Nebr., Lincoln, NE).

Opportunities for Veterinary Practices in the Global Marketplace: Three areas that can provide potential opportunities for swine practitioners. 1. Super specialization of veterinary practices. 2. Herd food safety certification and audit programs. 3. Animal welfare certification and audit programs. (Wetzell, T., DVM, Wells MN; Swine Practitioner, November/December, 1998, p. 5).

Measuring Reproductive Efficiency: 1. Wean-to-service interval; the average should be five to six days. The percent bred by seven days should be 90%. 2. Entry to first service interval; gilts should be entered into the herd records the day they would have otherwise been marketed. 3. Pigs born alive per litter. 4. Farrowing rate. 5. Litters per sow per year. Herds with hand-mated, individually housed sows and lactations of 21 days should have greater than 2.3 litters per sow per year. 6. Non productive days. 7. Pigs weaned per lifetime female. 8. Sow inventory. 9. Pigs weaned per sow per year. (DiPietre, D., PhD; Swine Practitioner/November-December 1998, pp. 14-15).

PRRS Challenge Getting Tougher: PRRS is an RNA virus known for its ability to mutate and adapt readily to its environment. Recent studies have established that the unusually high incidence of abortion, and sometimes sow deaths, were caused by new hotter strains of the PRRS virus. In order to deal with what could be a never-ending parade of new PRRS strains, it may be necessary to periodically alter the strain content of vaccines. (Mengeling, W., DVM, PhD, NADC; Nat'l Hog Farmer, Nov. 15, 1998, pp. 20-22).