
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Mycoplasma Pneumonia: *Mycoplasma pneumonia* is considered to be one of the most important respiratory diseases of swine. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* is a fastidious, obligate parasite that is spread via aerosol or contact with infected secretions from a carrier sow or pig to susceptible pigs. *Mycoplasma pneumonia* is maintained in many herds as a result of sow-to-pig transmission as the sow infects the pigs during the first few weeks of life. The incubation period is variable. Overt clinical signs and lesions are usually not observed until 4-to-6 weeks after infection. Affected animals demonstrate a chronic nonproductive cough. *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* destroys the cilia of the tracheobronchial mucosa and interferes with pulmonary clearance mechanisms. Gross lesions consist of purple to tan areas of consolidation which involve primarily the anteroventral portions of both lung lobes. Gross and microscopic lesions are diagnostic. (Doster, AR; DVM, PhD; Univ. of NE).

Controlling the time of Parturition in Sows: Before implementing a farrowing induction program, first confirm a viable reason for doing so: Do records indicate intervention levels for apparent stillbirths? Is induction to be employed in association with increased farrowing supervision? Is the turnaround time on farrowing crates such that long gestations must be avoided? If farrowing is to be induced, do not use book values for gestation length; rather, determine gestation length on the individual farm and do not induce more than 2 days before the due date. Calculate gestation length from the first breeding. The administration of PGF_{2a} has long been known for inducing parturition in sows, but a considerable range in the interval between treatment and parturition can still be expected. The intravulval injection of PGF_{2a} at half the manufacturer's recommended dose is as effective as an IM injection at the full recommended dose for inducing parturition in sows. (Kirkwood, RN; DVM, PhD; Swine Health and Production, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp. 29-35).

Severe Acute Erysipelas Outbreaks - How to Proceed: a. Investigate personally all cases of sudden death in market pigs, condemnations or in-transit deaths. b. Consider doing whole blood cultures when limited by diagnostic budgets or appropriate necropsy specimens. c. Tissues with slight autolysis are preferred over tissues from antibiotic treated pigs for bacterial culture. d. Healthy appearing pigs can die within 4 to 6 hours. Treat all pigs with penicillin. Antiserum and supportive care are essential for severely affected pigs. (Karsten, A; DVM (Norway, Iowa), et al; Proceed. IVMA Annual Meeting, 9-11-99, pp. 133-34).

How many times should we breed the sow in a single estrus period? Double mating should be used for gilts and single mating for sows (if a qualified breeding is guaranteed). A successful mating requires sperm and ova to meet at the oviduct at the right time. To achieve high fertilization results, the optimal time to inseminate is within 24 hours before ovulation. Insemination and fertilization is an inflammatory procedure. Excess semen and inflammatory products must be eliminated from the uterus. There is no benefit to breeding females three times, and it can be detrimental to breed females more than 3 times. (Swine Health and Production, Volume 6, Number 6, p. 295).