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# “HOGG SENSE . . .”

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**New Strain of Swine Flu in the USA:** Until recently, the previously known strain of swine flu, H1N1, was the only strain of swine flu known to exist in the USA. The new strain, H3N2, has previously been identified in Europe. The H3N2 strain of flu has been isolated in North Carolina, Iowa and Minnesota. In a 2,000 sow herd in North Carolina infected with strain H3N2, the sows were very sick with temperatures up to 160°F and some were dying. In the end, a total of 27 sows aborted and 56 sows died. Dr. Gene Erickson of the North Carolina Microbiology Testing Laboratory was the first to isolate H3N2 in the USA. (National Hog Farmer, February 15, 1999, p. 15).

**Fish Meal Can Replace Spray-Dried Plasma:** Using fish meal to replace part of the spray-dried animal plasma in nursery pig diets can save \$56.00 per ton in feed costs. Five per cent fish meal added to the diet can reduce the blood-plasma supplement from 6 per cent down to 4 per cent. The reduction in feed costs was \$56.00 a ton. (Trygve Veum, PhD, Univ. of Mo., Pork '99/March p. 21).

**The Relationship Between PRRSV and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*:** *M. hyopneumoniae* can act as a cofactor in PRRS-virus-induced pneumonia. Activating the immune system by *M. hyopneumoniae* may contribute to the pneumonia. *M. hyopneumoniae*'s attraction to inflammatory cells may produce an ideal environment for the PRRS virus. The bottom line: Infection with *M. hyopneumoniae*, regardless of when it occurred in relationship to the PRRS-virus infection, prolonged and increased the severity of PRRS-induced pneumonia. (Thacker, E., DVM, PhD; et al; Pork'99/March, pp. 42-44).

**Advantages and Disadvantages of PCR:** Because PCR detects a portion of the genome (a complete haploid set of chromosomes) of an infectious agent, you do not have to wait for a host immune response to the infectious agent to detect it. Even though PCR is much quicker than other tests, it is also a very tedious and labor intensive test. When PCR procedures are performed correctly, the test is beneficial for its sensitivity, specificity and rapid turn around time. (Hennings, J., DVM, PhD; 1999 AASP Proc., pp. 443-448).

***Haemophilus parasuis*:** Over the past several years, *H. parasuis* has been classified as an emerging swine disease along with *S. suis*, *A. suis* and *M. hyopneumoniae*. *H. parasuis* has been identified as a serious problem in older naive animals when introduced into "infected" herds. This disease has been identified as one of the major problems associated with mixing swine from various herds. In these situations, the classical polyserositis/arthritis findings are often not present. Gross lesions may include: fibrinous polyserositis and arthritis, or septicemia/toxemia, or no gross lesions. Fifteen serovars of *H. parasuis* have been recognized in the USA and Canada, with serovars 2, 4, 5, 12, 13 and 14 being the most prevalent. Several serotypes may be isolated from the same herd, and even from the same pig. (Gaylan, J., DVM, PhD, et al; 1999 Proc. AASP, pp. 487-88. (Editors note: MVP Laboratories, Inc. has the capability of serotyping 7 common serovars of *H. parasuis*).