
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Maternal Antibody Protection Against *Hemophilus parasuis*: Vaccinate gilts and sows at 5 and 3 weeks pre-farrowing to produce maternal antibody in young pigs. Pigs from control gilts (not vaccinated) may have severe signs of *H. parasuis* infection. Gross lesions include polyserositis and pneumonia. *H. parasuis* can be cultured from the infected pigs. The key to successful protection is to vaccinate gilts or sows against *H. parasuis*. Immunity after vaccination is dependent on whether the serovar(s) in the vaccine are the same as the serovar(s) on the farm. (Solono-Aguilar, G., et al; AJVR, 60:81-87, 1999; ISU, as reported in UN-L, Vet. Sci. News, Vol. 28-Issue 5, May 1999). (Editor's comment: Because 15 serovars of *H. parasuis* exist, autogenous vaccines are often necessary).

Seasonal Infertility: Seasonal infertility affects any gilts or sows that are bred during July to October. Measures to improve seasonal fertility: Install timers in barns to turn the lights on and off. Example: Maintain a 16-hour period of barn light by using timers to turn the lights on at 5 a.m., and off at 9 p.m. Use this light schedule in both the breeding and gestation barns. Environmental control: Reduce the temperature with tunnel ventilation, evaporative coolers, drip coolers and fans. (Yeske, P., DVM, PhD; St. Peter, Mn., Pork '99/May, p. 58}. (Editor's Note: Subject boars to the same regimen regarding cooling).

Feeding Sows Nursing Large Litters (12 pigs): Sow diets should contain normal energy (fat content above 2-4% is not necessary) and higher than recommended levels of protein intake (about 14% or more than 800 grams of crude protein and 50 grams of lysine per day) should be fed to sows nursing large litters. (McNamara, J.P. and McGuire, M.A., Wash. State and Idaho Universities; TechTalk, Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 1999).

Diagnostic Tips that are Aids in Diagnosing Colibacillosis: Pre-weaning colibacillosis is caused by either hemolytic or non-hemolytic *E. coli*. Post-weaning colibacillosis is almost exclusively caused by hemolytic organisms. Only hemolytic cultures from weaned pigs should be considered significant. However, the intestines of weaned pigs frequently harbor hemolytic non-pathogenic *E. coli*. Not all hemolytic organisms isolated from these animals cause diarrhea. The normal *E. coli* found in nursing pigs is rarely hemolytic, whereas non-hemolytic isolates from these pigs may not be pathogens. In a healthy pig, the small intestine is essentially devoid of bacteria. A large concentration of bacteria in the small intestine of a freshly euthanized pig suggests an infectious condition. When culture of the distal ileum yields a heavy growth of *E. coli*, the diagnosis must be colibacillus. (Francis, D.H., PhD, Univ. of SD, and Moxley, R.A., DVM, PhD, Univ. of Nebraska; AASP Newsletter, Nov.-Dec. 1991, Vol. 3, No. 6, pp. 18-20).

Practice Tip: Gloves for necropsy. Think about the safety of your hands when performing necropsies on pigs. The use of a fillet glove on one or both hands can help reduce the risk of cuts. These gloves are made of Kevlar, stainless steel, and nylon. They are washable and can be worn under vinyl exam gloves. Fillet gloves are available in many hunting and fishing stores. (King, T.B., DVM; AASP Newsletter, Vol. 1, No. 2, Sept.-Oct. 1989).