
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Editor
Vol. 7, No. 7

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Crisis in the Pig Industry in Scotland: Recently Scotland has experienced the same disastrous pig economic crisis as the USA. There are a number of causes to the current problems. These include: the substantial pork oversupply in Europe stimulated by the high prices of 1997; the decline in EU export markets such as Russia and the Far East; the expansion of the British breeding herd; and increased live pig imports into Britain because of a fire at a processing plant in Northern Ireland. All of this resulted in Scottish pig prices hitting their lowest real level in history. (International Pig Topics, Vol. 14, No. 3, 1999). (Editor's note: Sounds like DÉJÀ VU all over again).

Oral Iron is Less Stressful for Day-old Pigs Than Injectable Iron??? Not according to British and Dutch researchers. They found that there was little difference in stress between oral iron and injectable iron. However, the handling of the animal represents an acute form of stress. The one measurable difference was in the time needed to complete a treatment. Handling alone took a total of 36 seconds per pig. This was increased to 41 seconds with iron injection, but rose to 44 seconds when administering oral iron. (Pig International, June 1999, Vol. 29, No. 6).

Practice Tip: A recent survey of callers put on hold for 30 seconds showed that 78 per cent perceived that they were on hold for two minutes. (Veterinary Forum, May 1999, p. 14).

World Pig Markets: Another 40 million pigs were marketed worldwide in 1998. This sets a new record annual total of 1.1 billion animals. (Pig International, June 1999, Vol. 29, No. 6, p. 11).

***Streptococcus suis* Infection in Neonatal Pigs:** There are at least 35 serotypes of *Streptococcus suis*. Many of these serotypes have been associated with septicemia resulting in meningitis, pneumonia, arthritis, endocarditis, and polyserositis. The source of *Streptococcus suis* in neonatal pigs is the sow. The dam-to-pig transmission occurs before the pig is 7 days old. The use of antimicrobial susceptibility testing due to the variability in sensitivity between isolates is recommended. Because pigs can be infected very early after birth, sows should be vaccinated twice prior to farrowing in order to protect neonatal pigs from *Streptococcus suis* with colostral antibodies. Pigs are vaccinated twice after weaning. (Amass, SF; et al; Swine Health & Production, Vol. 3, No. 5, pp. 189-193).