
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Another Iron Source: Field studies in Denmark and France suggest that an organic iron compound linked to an amino acid is improving litter size by 0.77 pigs per litter and heavier weights at 28 day weaning of 1 to 1.5 kg. (90 ppm of organic iron per ton is fed to the sows from 14 days pre-farrowing until weaning). Apparently, these improvements are in addition to the current routine of injecting iron dextran. The cost of the organic iron is \$1.21 per sow per year (\$600.00 per year for a 500 sow unit). The return on the extra outlay would be \$50.00 per sow per year. (There has been one negative trial in which no benefit was gained [Purdue University, 1999]). (Gadd, John; Pig Progress, Vol. 15, No. 3, 1999, pp. 19).

Hog Farmers to Receive Payments in August: For the second time this year, most US hog farmers will receive direct payments from the USDA to soften the financial impact of low market prices. Payments of up to \$10 per marketed pig for a total cost of \$100 million. The payments are limited to \$5,000 for any one producer. (Feedstuffs, July 26, 1999; Vol. 71, No. 30; p. 5).

The Cause of Tail Biting: Factors that have been associated with tail biting are: poor ventilation, crowding, hunger, thirst, deficiency in diet, and genetics. The three stages of tail biting are: 1. The recreation stage in which pigs nibble one another's tails that does not result in tail injuries. 2. The second stage of tail biting is called traumatization, in which tissue damage and bleeding occur. Pigs will tolerate a lot of tail chewing. 3. The final stage is called escalation. Many pigs have bitten tails and pigs are incessantly pursued by persistent biters. The attraction to blood is pig dependent. Whereas some individual pigs are very attracted to a bloody tail, others are indifferent to it. Pigs fed a diet deficient in salt are more attracted to ropes soaked in blood than in plain ropes. Increase the salt in the diet to 0.8%, provided there is free choice water available. (Frazer, D.; International Pigletter, Sept., 1989).

Progressive and Nonprogressive Atrophic Rhinitis: A disease condition in pigs referred to as “atrophic rhinitis” (AR) has been recognized for nearly two centuries. This disease is now classified as either nonprogressive atrophic rhinitis (NPAR), caused by toxigenic *Bordetella bronchiseptica*, or progressive atrophic rhinitis (PAR), caused by toxigenic *Pasteurella multocida*, alone or in combination with other agents (e.g. *B. bronchiseptica*). Nasal hemorrhage is rare in NPAR but it is characteristic in PAR.