
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Editor
Vol. 7, No. 11

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PCR (Polymerase Chain Reaction) to Differentiate *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* from *Mycoplasma hyorhinis*: MVP Laboratories has developed a protocol to differentiate *M. hyopneumoniae* from *M. hyorhinis* by using PCR. The ability to differentiate these two species of mycoplasma is necessary in the production of autogenous mycoplasma vaccines. Furthermore, because there are a number of strains of *M. hyopneumoniae* in the field, it is often worthwhile to produce an autogenous *M. hyopneumoniae* vaccine that is farm specific for the swine herd in question. (Editor).

Dead Semen for Uterine Priming Gilts: Recent research in Australia has indicated that a uterine primer of dead semen during the first observed estrus followed by a normal insemination increased litter size in treated gilts. The litters from treated gilts were about 9.5% larger than from control (untreated) animals and nearly 14.5% better for the number of piglets born alive. (Best, Peter, Pig International, October 1999, Volume 29, No. 10, p. 4).

One Injection of Iron (200 mg of iron dextran) May Be Enough: One injection of iron dextran given to baby pigs from well-nourished sows fed diets containing adequate vitamin E and selenium, seems to be adequate to sustain normal hemoglobin levels and average daily gain from birth through the nursery phase. (Jr. of Animal Science, Vol. 77, No. 7; as reported in Feedstuffs, Oct. 25, 1999, p. 26).

Practice Tip: Carcass and Tissue Preservation: Most diagnostic test procedures are much less reliable on autolysed tissue than on fresh (non-decomposed) tissue. The following advice excerpted from the Arizona VDL September, 1999 Newsletter provides valuable information on carcass and tissue preservation. The AzVDL routinely bags smaller carcasses and most tissues in plastic (prevents water logging) and promptly packs them in ice to cool them down rapidly. Tissues can usually be held for several days if the ice is periodically replenished. The ice should be replaced by ample leak-proof “cool packs” when the specimens are shipped in an insulated container. The “icing down” method of preliminary cooling is preferable to refrigeration in a conventional household refrigerator, which is usually neither cold enough nor cools rapidly enough to prevent decomposition. (By T. H. Noon).

Practice Tip #2: Submit large pieces of tissue to the diagnostic laboratory. Tissues are usually fired with a torch to eliminate external contaminants. If a small section of tissue is fired, the firing is likely to kill the pathogens in the interior. (Editor).