
“HOGG SENSE . . .”

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Emerging and Foreign Swine Diseases: Foreign swine diseases that would devastate the United States pork industry are: Classical Swine Fever (Hog Cholera), African Swine Fever, and Foot-and-Mouth Disease. Other concerns are emerging swine diseases such as Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Postweaning Multisystemic Wasting Syndrome (PMWS) and the new strain of swine influenza (H3N2), as well as international examples such as Nipah virus in Malaysia. (Lautner, Beth, DVM, MS; Proceedings, Swine Disease Conference, Nov. 11-12, 1999, CVM, ISU, pp. 7-12).

3-nitro toxicity in 4 to 5-week-old pigs: In this case, there was a clinical history of paddling, stiff gait, hunch back, dog sitting, opisthotonos (spasm of the muscles of the back) and diarrhea. The development is slow and progressive over seven days. One hundred percent of 1,000 pigs were affected and mortality was 5 percent. 3-nitro is an organoarsenical added to swine feed as a growth promotant. 3-nitro is more toxic compared to other organoarsenicals and is recommended at lower levels in the feed. Diagnosis is dependent on the demonstration of characteristic lesions in the cervical and lumbar spinal cord and clinical signs. (Rossow, K., DVM, PhD; Swine Practitioner/Nov-Dec. 1999, pp. 18-19).

Looking Into Lights: Substantial savings can be made by conserving electricity. The most common comparison is between fluorescent tubes and incandescent bulbs. Using tubes instead of bulbs can cut electricity consumption by 60-70%. In addition, tubes should last for up to 7,500 hours compared with the 1,000-2,000 hours of bulbs. Furthermore, lighting fixtures need to be kept clean. Dirt on bulbs and shields or reflectors will reduce their light by 25-30%. Lack of regular cleaning could mean that almost one-third of the electricity supplied to the fixtures is wasted. (Best, P., Pig International, Nov. 1999, Vol. 29, No. 11, pp. 4-5).

Mycoplasma Displaces PRRS: Earlier it was assumed that PRRS virus came first and left the pig's immune system open to secondary bacteria including *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae*. However, recent research trials have shown that it was the mycoplasma that causes the PRRS induced pneumonia to worsen. (Thacker, E., DVM, PhD, ISU; National Hog Farmer, Nov. 15, 1998, pp. 24-25).

Controlling PRRSV in grow-finish pigs with *M. hyopneumoniae*: Vaccination with two doses of *M. hyopneumoniae* vaccine. (Halbur, P.G., DVM, PhD, ISU).