

NUTRITIONAL NOTES

Water and Lactation Weight Loss: Lactation weight losses for sows on low-flow drinkers or nipples in the summer months worked out to be about 3 times the weight losses of sows on adequate water (700 ml/min) in winter. Note: Why do so many managers think that the most important and least costly nutrient (water) is unimportant?

Colostrum ELISA Test for Mycoplasmal Pneumonia: An ELISA colostrum test has been developed in Switzerland for mycoplasmal pneumonia. The ELISA test is more efficient than the blood serum test and the collection is easier. The milk (colostrum) sample must be collected while the sow is farrowing or immediately after. This test is useful for diagnosis and for eradicating MP from a herd.

Eradication of *M. hyopneumoniae* from Infected Herds without depopulation: In a Danish study on six farms which were infected, eradication of *M. hyopneumoniae* from all six herds was successfully accomplished with a medication program using Tiamulin or a combination of Tiamulin and Chlortetracycline.

Excess Calcium in Swine Diets: Excess calcium interferes with the metabolism of zinc which results in zinc deficiency. Zinc deficiency causes poor growth, poor appetite and parakeratosis.

Inadequate Nutrition: Inadequate nutrition causes secondary immunosuppression as does limit-feeding which occurs when pigs are fed unpalatable feed such as in diets containing excess calcium or vomitoxin.

Nutritional Influences on Immunity: Malnutrition may result in the impairment of immune function and, therefore, increased susceptibility to disease due to deficiency or imbalance of trace minerals. It is very important to immune function that the diet be formulated optimally. Key trace minerals include copper, zinc, magnesium, manganese, iron and selenium. The balance of these constituents is especially important because an excess or deficiency of one component may influence the availability or requirement of another.