

FARROWING HOUSE TIPS

Avoiding Second Litter Slump: Lactating gilts require 55 grams of lysine daily (1.3% lysine) and 16.0 Mcal of digestible energy (DI) to avoid smaller litters during her second parity. This means that lactating gilts need to be fed a different diet than that fed to second and higher parity sows. (Roger Campbell, PhD, Pig International, 25;10, P.25; Oct. 1995).

Milk Replacer Substitute: Oat protein concentrate (65.9% crude protein and 18.2% fat) was used as a substitute for 25% of the dried skim milk in diets fed for 4 weeks. Weight gains and feed efficiency were not affected. (Univ. of Laval, Quebec; Pig International, Dec. 1991, P.10).

Gentamicin Overdose: Gentamicin is nephrotoxic when overdosed in young piglets. The correct labeled dose is 1ml (5 mg.) injected IM one time only into piglets up to 3 days of age. Overdosing this aminoglycoside antibiotic or using multiple doses may cause kidney damage that may show up later in the pig's life. (Editor).

PCR Test for PRRS: A new polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay has been developed at the Department of Veterinary Science, SDSU, Brookings, SD, for identifying the PRRS virus RNA in boar semen. PRRS virus RNA has been detected in boar semen up to 92 days following experimental inoculation of the virus. (Jane Christopher-Hennings, et al; Swine Practitioner, July 1995, p.4).

Overdosing Oxytocin: An experimental overdose of 3 ml (60 units) of oxytocin will affect the uterus of a sow for up to 6 hours. (Gary Dial, DVM, PhD; CVM, Univ. of MN). (Editors Note: The correct dose of oxytocin for the sow is 1/4 to 1/2 ml. (5 to 10 units).

The Causes of Gastric Ulcers: The major causes of ulcers in pigs are: Feed: Heat during pelleting gelatinizes starches. This may aggravate ulcers when other factors are present. Particle size: the greater the percentage of particles present with less than 300 microns, the greater the risk. Low fiber: crude fiber levels should be 4% for pigs weighing 65 to 150 lbs. and 5.5% for pigs from 150 lbs. to market weight. Corn: new-crop or damp (high moisture) corn is a cause of ulcers. Vitamin E/selenium: Feed adequate levels of E/selenium. Management: letting self-feeders run out of feed is thought to be a cause of ulcers. Ulceration incidence will vary from 3 to 28% (John Gadd, PIGS< 11:5, 1995, p.21).

Influence of Herd Size on Swine Vaccination Practices: A national study by NAHMS indicated that swine herds with 200 or more sows were more likely to use vaccines than herds with 199 or fewer sows. This is contrary to popular opinion. It was also found that the larger herds reported more health problems. (Animal Health Insight, Spring/SUM.1994).