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LITTER LETTER

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Sow Mortality and Prolapses:
Sow mortality associated with pelvic-organ prolapse (POP) has been increasing over the past five years, raising both sow welfare and production concerns. However answers are in short supply as the current POP epidemic has offered little in terms of root causes or patterns.

In the search for answers, the Pork Checkoff's animal science and animal welfare committees have committed a combined $1 million in 2018 to research system-wide pig survival, with sow POP as the top priority. Iowa State University has been awarded the first project, which will work to identify what is causing the increase in sow POPs. A team of researchers will oversee the following objectives:

1. Establish a network of industry partners and sow farm managers to collect data on severely-affected, moderately-affected and unaffected sow farms from different geographic locations and production systems.
2. Develop a herd and individual sow survey to objectively collect, and then analyze, sow-farm data to identify contributing factors to sow POP.
3. Establish a POP-associated communication and advisory network of producers, allied industry and university swine specialists.
4. Establish a repository of data, samples and information related to sow POP for use by scientific communities interested in developing and evaluating mitigation strategies and solutions

"This first research project is designed to provide periodic updates, with the goal of having a final report by mid-2018," said Chris Hostetler, animal science director for Pork Checkoff. "What we learn from this first project will direct future studies, but producers can be confident that sow POP research will continue to receive attention

Efficacy of an Inactivated Mycoplasma Hyorhinis Vaccine in Pigs [Abs.]

Jan 3, 2018 – From AASV Newsletter:

Lameness and polyserositis in pigs caused by Mycoplasma hyorhinis are generally treated with antibiotics and may require multiple doses. The costs of these antibiotics combined with economic losses from culling and reduced feed conversion due to lameness are hardships to the swine producer. In this study we have demonstrated efficacy of an inactivated M. hyorhinis vaccine administered to three-week old caesarian-derived colostrum-deprived piglets. Three doses of vaccine (high, medium, and low) were evaluated and compared to a placebo control. Mycoplasma hyorhinis challenge occurred three weeks after vaccination. Pigs were observed for lameness and respiratory distress for three weeks following challenge. Pigs were then euthanized and a gross pathological evaluation for polyserositis and arthritis was performed. This vaccine provided significant reductions in lameness and pericarditis compared to the placebo control group. A significant increase in post-challenge weight gain was also achieved with this vaccine, with an average daily gain (ADG) of 0.92 lbs/day compared to 0.57 lbs/day in the placebo group.

Martinson B, Zoghby W, Barrett K, Bryson L, Christmas R, Minion FC, Kroll J; Efficacy of an inactivated Mycoplasma hyorhinis vaccine in pigs. Vaccine. 2017 Dec 5. pii: S0264-410X(17)31660-2. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.11.063. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 29221894 DOI: https://doi.org/10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.11.063 10.1016/j.vaccine.2017.11.063

SHIC Monitoring Bat-Sourced Coronavirus Variant in China

Nov 1, 2017 - Paul Sundberg
A bat enteric coronavirus called HKU2, identified in Guangdong and Hong Kong in 2004 and 2006, has recently moved from bats to pigs in China, causing severe piglet diarrhea and mortality. Some specific mutations in the spike protein of the novel virus, compared to that of HKU2, are presumably responsible for it being able to jump from bats to pigs. The Swine Health Information Center (SHIC) has gathered information to inform the SHIC Monitoring and Analysis Working Group to help them reach a consensus for guidance for next steps.

Prima Tech Syringes:
The Prima Tech syringes are semi-disposable. Therefore, the usage life is about 2000 head/doses. An overhaul with the "O" ring kit may then be helpful in order to keep the syringe properly functioning.

PRRS/PED Insurance: A new product in the insurance market became available in December 2017. This insurance policy is designed to offer varying level of financial loss protection for PRRS, PED or both. The policies are written by James Allen Insurance Company and underwritten by Lloyd's of London. For breed to wean units, the coverage is for sow and pig death loss. For wean to finish or nursery/finisher the insurance is written to cover loss of pounds sold. Farrow to finish operation could have a combination of the policies. The outbreak does have to be confirmed by a lab and cannot be an ongoing virus that is present at the time the policy is initiated. Also, the policy must be in force for at least 30 days before any claim could be made. The level of coverage for breed to wean can be customized and is priced on a per sow basis, depending upon the protection selected. All coverages have a self- insured retention or deductible that would have to be met before claims are paid. For further information, contact independent agent Chris Moore at 317-650-4519.

Tonisity Starter Packs:
Tonisity is a new isotonic protein and electrolyte mixture that can be used to help supplement pigs with viral diarrhea in the farrowing and to encourage water and feed intake post-weaning. The product is highly palatable. We have available some starter packs if you would like to try this product. We believe that it may have some application for litters in the farrowing room with early rotavirus diarrhea. Also, because of the palatability we are recommending producers try it on the post-weaning sort pens; first in the small water pan and secondly with the gruel to help get the "failure to thrive" pigs to begin eating. This is not a product that is used through medicators. It is important that it be utilized as soon as problems are noted. (at the onset of scour or as soon as pigs are detected that are not eating post- weaning) If you have further questions feel free to discuss with the vets.

New Influenza Vaccine
Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica recently released a live attenuated Influenza vaccine. Ingelvac Provenza is administered intra-nasally and can be given to piglets as young as 1 day of age. This is the first modified live Influenza vaccine approved for swine. Some training on proper administration is required prior to purchasing. Also personal protective equipment is necessary to reduce human exposure to the vaccine. Closeout data from some beta testing should be coming soon to help determine cost effectiveness of this new vaccine.

2017 Sow Farm Benchmarks
Some highlights from the 30 farm SHS database in PigKnows for 2017 production year, more details in next newsletter. Average weaned pigs/mated female increased almost 1 pig from 2016 to 21.4, the top 5 farms averaged 27.6! Most of this increase is the result of increased total born pigs per litter. The top 5 farms averaged 14.6 TB, 13.2 BA, 11.4 W, and 14.6% PWM.

Congratulations to Brandon Gaskill of Oracle Pork Farms on his recent engagement.

Condolences to Mr. and Mrs. Gary Birkemeier (Legan Livestock and Grain) on the loss of their granddaughter.