

NECROTIC ENTERITIS OF SWINE

by
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Wherever pigs are raised in large numbers some show evidence of necrotic enteritis, the disease commonly spoken of as "Necro". The organism most commonly isolated from the diseased tissue is *Salmonella suispestifer*. This same organism at times causes an acute disease which may cause a heavy death loss.

To further confuse the diagnosis at times it is impossible to differentiate the disease produced by hog cholera virus, the erysipelas organism and the *Salmonella* organism.

As a rule in "Necro" there is a gastro enteritis. The walls of the stomach and intestines are thickened and on the inside of the intestines are gray to yellow patches of a superficial membrane which may come off leaving ulcer-like lesions.

As a rule the pigs, usually 2 to 4 months old show a diarrhea and failure to grow. They frequently get thinner and thinner and eventually die.

Pigs suffering from necrotic enteritis should not be vaccinated with the double treatment for either hog cholera or swine erysipelas.

Swine pellagra due to a deficiency of nicotinic acid is frequently very similar to necrotic enteritis. In pellagra, however, the disease is chronic and there is no fever.

Treatment of swine with necrotic enteritis has been rather disappointing, however the sulfa drugs, sulfaquanidine, sulfasuxidine, sulfathalidine and sulfaquinoxaline have been of some value when given early in the course of the disease.

Preventive Measures

Preventive measures have in general been fairly effective. Breeding stock should not be selected from droves in which necrotic enteritis has been present. Healthy appearing animals are apparent carriers of the disease.

Young swine should be fed a complete ration. Necrotic enteritis is much more prevalent in swine restricted to a strictly grain ration than it is in well fed swine. The ration should contain an animal protein and either hay, leaf meal or pasture as well as minerals.

The hog lot should be rotated the same as for other crops. Use at least four lots and raise a cereal crop on each one for three years.

Many piglets become infected in the farrowing houses. Use extreme care in cleaning and disinfecting the farrowing houses.

The same general plan used to prevent round worm infestation is quite effective in the control of necrotic enteritis. The main points are to have disease-free breeding stock and to prevent the young pigs from becoming infected by keeping them away from contaminated ground.