



swine care and sanitation

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NORTH DAKOTA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

SWINE CARE AND SANITATION

Most of our swine diseases are the result of poor sanitation and management. Good sanitation and management costs little and can save the producer many dollars from animal losses, drugs and veterinary service.

Purchase of Swine

When purchasing swine select a reputable breeder as well as good animals. Avoid swine from droves having a history of losses from disease. In most instances information of the disease and parasite status of the swine can only be obtained from the breeder.



When new additions are made to an established drove of swine, they should be isolated from the established drove for at least 30 days and examined by a competent veterinarian before exposure to the swine already present on the farm. All new additions should be vaccinated for hog cholera and erysipelas.

The seller should be required to provide a recognized health certificate indicating that the swine have been examined by a licensed veterinarian and found free of any infectious or contagious diseases. All swine should have a negative blood test for Brucellosis (Bang's) and leptospirosis.



The above statements particularly apply to the purchase of breeding boar.

Gestation Period

Sows that have not been vaccinated for hog cholera and erysipelas should be vaccinated not later than 6 weeks previous to farrowing.

Many swinemen find it a good practice to have all sows blood tested for Brucellosis several days before they are brought into the farrowing pens or stalls. Sows having positive tests are isolated or sold. This practice provides a means of combating an acute outbreak of Brucellosis in the swine drove.

If an internal parasite problem exists, all sows should be dewormed previous to entering the farrowing barn.

Farrowing

Before bringing the sow in the farrowing pen, thoroughly clean the pen to remove all manure from the floor and walls. Scrub the entire pen with a lye solution of one pound of lye to 6 gallons of warm water. Use extreme caution when applying lye solution to provide protection to the worker's eyes, face, and hands. Remove excess lye solution from the pen floor, and apply in time so that pen will be completely dry before the sow enters. This will eliminate the possibility of lye burns to the sow and the baby pigs.

The use of lye will eliminate most infectious disease organisms that may be present in the pen as well as some internal parasite eggs that may infest new born pigs.

Before the sow is placed in the farrowing pen, wash the teats and abdomen with a mild soap and warm water. This will eliminate soil and fecal material that may contain numerous bacteria that are potential diarrhea producing agents for the nursing piglets. In addition, this procedure will eliminate ascaris (round worm) eggs that would serve as a source of infection to the nursing piglet.

When each piglet is born, clip the needle teeth immediately with a sharp, well disinfected clippers. The naval cord should also be cut approximately one inch from the abdomen. Always leave the scissors used for clipping the cord in a good disinfectant when not in use to prevent navel infection. A good disinfectant would

be one of the phenol disinfectants, (Lysol), that will not destroy the cutting edges of the scissors. Dip the navel in a tincture of iodine immediately following cutting to prevent navel infection.

Baby pigs raised on cement or wood floors without access to soil require anemia preventatives. The injectable iron preparations should be administered at one week of age and may be repeated at 3 weeks. If parasite free soil or oral preparations are used, give them at weekly intervals beginning at one week of age.

The process of castration, and vaccination for hog cholera are frequently carried out at the same time as weaning. This should be avoided if at all possible. Castration and vaccination should be carried out separately and at least a week before or a week following weaning to avoid placing undue stress on the little pig.

Castrate with a sharp knife that is well sterilized before being used on each animal. Have a large incision located as near as possible to the underside of the pig to provide good drainage. When drainage is not provided, swelling, infection, and stiff or dead pigs are often the end result. Clean surroundings with plenty of clean straw bedding should always be provided for the castrated animal as a means of preventing infection. The entrance of manure and soil laden with bacteria into the castrate wound is an ideal means of causing wound infection.

Vaccination for hog cholera and erysipelas should always be carried out under veterinary supervision. Many losses could be avoided if swine had received professional examination before vaccination. When sick animals are vaccinated, extensive losses frequently occur. The untrained person usually cannot see or diagnose diseases such as hog cholera in their early stages.



At the first sign of disease isolate the suspected animal or animals from the rest of the drove. Obtain veterinary service immediately--remember, an ounce of prevention is worth many dollars worth of cure.

Extension Service, North Dakota Agricultural College and U.S. Department of Agriculture Cooperating. E.J. Haslerud, Director, Fargo, North Dakota
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