

Swine Diseases

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SWINE DISEASES

Hog Cholera

Hog cholera exists in any area where swine are raised. It is spread by contact with infected swine, such as new additions to the established swine drove, the shoes of man, automobile tires, feed sacks, hog crates, uncooked garbage such as raw pork scraps, and contaminated hog houses or lots. It may be spread by blood-sucking insects. Birds and rodents may also serve as a means of spread.

Hog cholera may appear in two forms, chronic and acute.

In the acute form the temperature is usually elevated, and the animal is usually depressed, dehydrated, off feed and may have diarrhea. The eyes often appear sore and may be glued shut. The infected pigs often hide under straw and in the darkest corner of the pen or hog house. Death is usually the end result.

Hog cholera in the chronic form usually has the symptoms of acute hog cholera but in a milder degree. They usually occur at intermittent periods with periods of appearing nearly normal existing in between. The animals usually do not do well. Losses through death is much lower than in the acute form.

There is no good treatment for hog cholera. Prevention is the only means of control. This is accomplished through good management, sanitation and vaccination.

The use of live virus and anti-hog cholera serum (double treatment) has been outlawed in most states as a means of preventing the spread of hog cholera.

The vaccines most often used today consist of a virus that has lost its ability to produce hog cholera, but continues to have the ability to produce immunity. Anti-hog cholera serum should still be used with this vaccine. The main advantage of this vaccine is that it does not serve as a means of spreading hog cholera.

Erysipelas

Erysipelas is a bacterial disease usually seen in swine, but may infect turkeys, sheep and cattle.

Erysipelas may be transmitted to swine by contact with infected swine, pigeons, turkeys, mice, man and contaminated hog houses, hog lots, hog crates, or feed sacks.

Erysipelas may be seen in either of two forms, acute or chronic. Swine having the acute form of erysipelas will have an elevated temperature, depression, pneumonic symptoms, diarrhea, swollen or painful joints, off feed, red patches and sloughing of skin, vomiting and death. Because the symptoms of hog cholera and erysipelas are so similar, it is often difficult to tell them apart.

The chronic form of erysipelas is usually seen in the form of a skin disease (diamond skin), and lameness (arthritic form). Swine having the chronic form usually are poor "doers".



Treatment is often unsuccessful and at best an expensive procedure.

Vaccination and sanitation are the better means of prevention.

Navel infection

Navel infection (umbilical infection) may be caused by several organisms which gain entrance through the severed navel cord at delivery. The navel cord serves as a blood connection between the mother and the piglet. Thusly, infection can rapidly spread to all parts of the piglet's body.

Symptoms include weak baby pigs, diarrhea, pneumonia, off feed, and depression. The symptoms of navel infection usually occur within one week of birth, but may show several weeks or even months following birth.

Navel infection is the result of the entrance of organisms from soil or farrowing pens, womb infections, contamination during manual



removal of the piglet, and/or failure to disinfect the navel immediately following delivery.

It is usually impossible to correct navel infection by medication. Prevention can be best achieved by navel disinfection following delivery and having the sows farrow in clean, well disinfected pens.

Leptospirosis

Leptospirosis is rapidly becoming an important disease of swine. Several forms of the *Leptospira* organism may infect swine.

The prominent symptoms are abortion, weak pigs and breeding problems. However, this disease may be seen as an acute infection with a temperature elevation, weight loss, off feed and death.

The organism is spread by contact with infected swine, dogs, rats, and through stagnant water. Swine may be immunized against leptospirosis.

Recently a blood test has been developed for leptospirosis. Because the incidence of this disease is becoming higher each year the intelligent swine man will have any new additions to his drove tested before bringing them in. It is also a wise practice to test all breeding stock at least once a year.

Infectious rhinitis

Infectious rhinitis (dystrophic or atrophic-rhinitis) is an infection of the cavity of the nostrils, by any of a number of different types of organisms.

The usual symptoms are cracked noses, sneezing or in some instances blood passing from the animal's nostrils.

It is spread by contact with infected animals, contaminated permanent hog houses and lots, footwear and rats.

No successful treatment has been found for rhinitis. Infected swine should be isolated from the rest of the drove and marketed as soon as possible. Selection of swine exhibiting no symptoms of rhinitis, good sanitation, and the elimination of swine exhibiting symptoms is usually the most successful way of eliminating rhinitis from the swine drove.

Brucellosis

Brucellosis (Bangs disease) may be present in swine as well as cattle. This disease may be spread from either cattle to swine or swine to cattle. Swine that follow infected cattle in the barn yard often abort or become infertile.

Brucellosis is an untreatable disease. In swine it can be prevented by blood testing all new additions to the drove and the entire drove at least once a year. Once an outbreak has occurred, the productivity of the entire swine drove may be lost.

Infected swine may serve as the source of infection to humans (undulant fever).

Anemia

Anemia is a deficiency in quality and quantity of red blood. The usual cause is a lack of iron or copper or both in the diet of the baby pig. Both of these mineral elements are necessary for the formation of hemoglobin, the red coloring matter in blood that serves as the means of transportation for oxygen from the lungs to the rest of the body. In turn it serves as the means of transportation of carbon dioxide from the body tissues to the lungs so that it can be expelled as waste.

When the red blood cells are deficient in number or hemoglobin the means of transportation are lacking and the baby pig slowly suffocates.

Anemia can be prevented by providing iron and copper for the baby pig. Preparations are available that may be injected into the



piglet. These preparations should be administered at one week of age and may be re-administered at 3 weeks of age. The necessary elements may also be provided to the baby pig through parasite free soil or oral solutions of iron. These should be given to the pig at weekly intervals beginning at one week of age.

See your County Agent for other swine circulars:

- A-132 Stop Swine Brucellosis
- A-149 Good Hog Pasture
- A-212 Pig Profits
- A-213 Feeding for Profitable Pork
- A-245 Medication and Sanitation
- A-278 Your Hogs from Weaning to Market
- A-279 Pelleting of Rations for Swine
- A-286 Leptospirosis
- A-305 Swine Care & Sanitation
- AE-29 Save a Pig With an Electric Brooder
- AE-65 Portable Plywood Farrowing House

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