



PASTEURELLOSIS of hogs

D. F. Eveleth
Veterinarian
Agricultural Experiment Station

F. M. Bolin
Veterinarian

CIRCULAR A-428

SEPTEMBER 1963

PASTEURELLOSIS (HEMORRHAGIC SEPTICEMIA) OF HOGS

Pasteurellosis, also called hemorrhagic septicemia, or swine plague, is usually a highly acute infectious disease. The same organism produces a similar disease in cattle, sheep, poultry and rabbits, and also in other animals.

The organism causing this disease is found frequently in normal animals. The organism from various cultures varies greatly in disease producing capacity.

Weakening factors, such as worm infestations, poor feed or changes in feeding programs, all tend to contribute to outbreaks of pasteurellosis.

Infection may be by way of the respiratory or digestive tracts.

The disease may infect only a few animals in a herd, or nearly an entire herd may become sick.

The extent of death losses depends on many factors such as medication, vaccination, nursing and improving of environmental conditions.

The clinical signs vary greatly. They usually include fever, labored breathing, loss of appetite. The course may vary from peracute to chronic. In the peracute cases the hogs are usually not observed to be sick, they are found dead. The acute cases last 3 to 5 days and the signs just mentioned develop. The acute cases may be prolonged into the chronic form in which some animals survive but usually show stunting weakness and often a continuous cough.

The post mortem examination in acute cases shows small hemorrhages (bleeding) in nearly all of

the organs. Congestion of the lungs is almost always observed. The diagnosis of pasteurellosis is usually made from the history and the post mortem findings, but confirmatory diagnosis should be made in a diagnostic laboratory in order to eliminate other diseases.

Control of pasteurellosis is based, to large extent, on good management practices:

- New hogs or hogs returning to the farm from shows should be isolated for at least 30 days before being allowed with other hogs on the farm.
- Make changes in feed gradually.
- Follow effective programs for the control of roundworms and lungworms.
- Provide hogs with dry housing in which adequate air exchange is possible but without drafts.
- Vaccinate hogs against cholera.
- Eradicate brucellosis from the herd.

Vaccination with pasteurella (hemorrhagic septicemia) bacterins is of doubtful value in producing immunity to this disease.

Pasteurella (hemorrhagic septicemia) antiserum is useful to protect hogs exposed to or likely to be exposed to animals infected with pasteurella.

This immunity is of slight duration and does not protect animals longer than two weeks.

Treat animals showing signs of pasteurellosis with the anti-pasteurella serum and any of the sulfonamide drugs recommended for the treatment of pasteurellosis.

NDSU LIBRARIES