

Clostridium perfringens Type C is year round threat to swine

DES MOINES, Ia. — Clostridium perfringens Type C enterotoxemia is not a problem for every hog producer. Although it does not share the notoriety of diseases such as TGE, it does threaten any hog operation's profit.

"Like TGE, Clostridium perfringens Type C enterotoxemia is a year round threat to swine herds," says Hal Sinclair, Manager of Technical Services at Diamonds Laboratories, Inc. "It usually occurs in baby pigs one day to one month of age. And notably, treatment of animals with either disease is of little value and recovery is very rare.

"Only passive or temporary immunity can be developed against either TGE or enterotoxemia. To provide immunity for baby pigs, it's necessary to develop immunity in the sow. In the case of these two diseases, that means developing immunity in the sow prior to each time she farrows," Sinclair states.

"Immunity is most often developed through a regular vaccination program," Sinclair advises. "Administering a combination vaccine such as TGE-Vac C to pregnant sows prior to each farrowing can help provide protection against both TGE and enterotoxemia."

Sinclair points out

Clostridium perfringens bacteria live in soil. Once the bacteria become established in soil, it is particularly difficult, if not impossible, to rid the area of the disease.

Unattended, the disease can then develop into a year round problem of longterm duration. However, since spores of the bacteria only multiply in animals, the disease is not as easily spread as the TGE virus.

"These bacteria produce a toxin which will eventually kill younger pigs," says Sinclair. "Older animals appear to be better equipped to handle the disease, but pigs that completely recover from the clinical signs of Clostridium perfringens are rare."

In most cases the enterotoxemia strikes pigs less than one week old. "Often the first sign of hemorrhagic enterotoxemia is sudden death in the best conditioned animals. Other clinical signs may include excitement, incoordination and convulsions," says Sinclair.

"Diarrhea is almost always associated with Clostridium perfringens Type C enterotoxemia," advises Sinclair. "Only in cases of overwhelming infection where the pig suddenly collapses and dies is the diarrhea absent. In acute cases of the disease, bright red watery feces are usually evident. In less severe cases

diarrhea may be characterized by reddish brown liquid feces. Long duration cases usually have colorless liquid feces with some gray particles present.

"Death loss within a litter is variable," continues Sinclair. "It may range from a single pig to the entire litter. But most commonly only a portion of the litter is affected."

"Regardless of whether it is a single pig, a couple of pigs or the entire litter, any death loss to the disease is

another strike against the profit potential of the herd."

Stressing the fact that the disease can be disastrous economically and that immunity developed to enterotoxemia is only passive, Sinclair advises a multifaceted approach to control.

"First, it is important to try to keep the disease out of the operation from the very start. Careful sanitation of facilities, screening incoming animals and restricting access to humans, rodents and pets

are all important in keeping enterotoxemia and TGE out of the hog operation.

"The second part of any control program should include a vaccination schedule," says Sinclair. "Enterotoxemia can strike a swine herd at any time, so vaccinating each sow with a vaccine like TGE-Vac C is inexpensive protection when you consider the possible alternatives TGE-Vac C administered through two intramuscular injections

given at one month intervals with the second injection recommended from 7 to 30 days prior to farrowing offers the advantages of positive dose accuracy.

"TGE and Clostridium perfringens Type C enterotoxemia are deadly killers of baby pigs," concludes Sinclair. "Controlling both is essential to protecting the profit picture of any hog operation."

Entry forms for Keystone Classic available at Farm Show

HARRISBURG — Entry forms for the 2nd Annual Keystone Classic, an all-breeds swine show and sale, will be available at the 1981 Farm Show, announced Harry Bachman, sale manager and auctioneer.

Bachman stated interested swine breeders can get in touch with the different breed secretaries or himself for the forms.

The Keystone Classic will be held in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Farm Machinery Exposition on March 5, 6, and 7, 1981. All animals will arrive on

Thursday, with the show scheduled for Friday and the sale to be held Saturday.

"This swine show pits breed against breed in competition for the grand championship. They'll be

shown by age not color," he said.

The Keystone Classic is co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Swine Breeders Cooperative and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.



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