

## PRV Update, Piglet Diseases

(Continued from Page E2)  
another piglet disease moving into Pennsylvania. Caused by a bacteria, it occurs in acute and chronic forms and usually gains a foothold within the first week of life.

In the acute form, the disease produces diarrhea and the baby pigs excrete blood very early. As the disease progresses the farmer may see the buttocks smeared with blood or a tar-like substance.

Conversely, "The farmer may even find pigs dead in the litter and they may not have shown any signs," said Ingalls.

The disease's chronic form is the harder of the two to diagnose. It strikes at about one or two weeks of age. The piglet begins to lose condition, becomes unthrifty, and its hair gets rough. It may not ever

get diarrhea. In addition, it could strike only one or two pigs in the litter, causing the farmer to believe their deaths resulted from starvation.

Here again, as in the coccidiosis, prevention is the best treatment. Putting sows on a vaccination program is a good idea so that the piglets can receive antibodies through the colostrum immediately. Ingalls suggests putting them on antibiotics about two weeks before farrowing.

Piglets should receive an anti-toxin after farrowing and be put on creep feed with antibiotics.

On rare occasions Clostridium Prefinges infects older pigs. Sometimes sudden death will occur, but usually the animals develop a chronic condition.

The last disease that Ingalls discussed that affects piglets was Mastitis Metritis Agalactiae (MMA), which causes a lack of milk in the sow. There is no one common cause for the condition. Rather it can be one or a combination of: endocrine disturbance, genetics, infection, environmental stress, dietary deficiencies, ingestion of mold toxins, and constipation.

A preventative program would include measures such as good sanitation, proper bedding, good genetic resistance, anti-infectives, and vaccines.

**Transmissible Gastroenteritis**  
Transmissible Gastroenteritis, or TGE, was the topic discussed by Craig Pfeifer, D.V.M., from Minnesota. A disease that strikes all

types of hog units, including confinement or outdoor facilities, it is worse in confinement units because of the cycling that takes place on this type of operation.

TGE is caused by a virus that can be destroyed by detergent, heat, drying, and sunlight. It spreads from pig to pig through fecal matter as well as orally. Diarrhea occurs within 18 to 30 hours after exposure. Vomiting and severe dehydration follow as the disease progresses.

The acute form occurs in the

### Voluntary Restraints Keep Meat

#### Imports Below 1988 Trigger

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Agriculture Richard E. Lyng recently announced that the United States will not have to impose meat import quotas for calendar year 1988 because meat imports are projected at 1,525.4 million pounds—100,000 pounds below the level that would require quotas on imports.

Lyng said that the United States will not have to impose restrictions because Australia and New Zealand, the two largest suppliers of imported meats, have voluntarily agreed to limit their meat

first few days, whereas the chronic form strikes piglets that are about three to four weeks old.

"Immunity begins with the colostrum," said Pfeifer. "Also with milk that contain antibodies from vaccinated or exposed sows." Farmers can help prevent TGE also by vaccinating the piglets within two to three days.

Through work he has done, Pfeifer finds that a killed vaccine is more effective than the modified live vaccine.

exports at 800 million and 445 million pounds, respectively.

The Meat Import Act of 1979 requires the President to restrict imports of certain meats — beef, veal, mutton and goat — if the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that annual imports will equal or exceed a trigger level set at the beginning of each calendar year. The trigger level, determined by formula in the Act, is 1,525.5 million pounds for 1988.

The trigger level and first quarterly estimate for 1989 will be announced on or about January 1, 1989.

### HAVING SOIL PROBLEMS?

Here's A Timely Tip...

#### Apply lime on frozen ground

Lime can be applied almost anytime, however winter months are ideal, because the ground is firm and the freezing and thawing action helps to disseminate the lime in the soil



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