

Swine Management News



WHEN HOGS GET SICK
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 Agricultural Agent
 University of Delaware

Just like people, hogs get sick. The illness can take the form of a mild fever or a high one, a respiratory disease such as pneumonia, a gastric disease such as ulcers, lameness, and any number of other disorders.

In many instances, hogs are treated similarly to people — a little tender loving care and medication is necessary to bring them back to good health.

A successful hog business requires keeping your animals healthy. But when fate deals you a different situation, you must be able to recognize when one of your animals is not acting normally, investigate and, if required, treat the animal.

The decision to treat an animal with an antibiotic or other medication must be based on several criteria. First, the hog producer needs to know what the problem is, either from previous experience or through consultation with the veterinarian. In cases in which the symptoms are unfamiliar, it may be necessary for the producer to call the veterinarian to their farm to examine the animal or animals in question.

Antibiotics and other medicines are valuable tools available to livestock producers; however, care must be exercised to avoid the improper use. The entire livestock industry is working hard to avoid the presence of drug residues in the products they produce.

Take care to adhere to label restrictions of a particular drug. If a drug is not labeled to be used for swine, then don't use it to treat swine. Always use a drug at the rate prescribed on the label.

All drugs have specific withdrawal times listed on the labels to avoid residues. It is imperative that producers record when a drug is used and which animal it was used on, so that treated animals will not be sold prior to the withdrawal period.

All producers have a legal obligation to use these medicines properly. Since the label is the law, failure to abide by drug labels can result in prosecution.

It would be nice if everything was as simple as observing problems, consulting with the veterinarian, and using a prescribed medicine, but there are other things producers should look at to ensure the health of their animals.

The introduction of new animals into a herd has the potential to introduce disease as well. Actually, the introduction of anything, even new people, to a herd can result in a disease outbreak.

Pseudorabies Spreads Outside Lancaster

NAZARETH (Northampton Co.) — Some of you may be aware that pseudorabies has recently spread to counties outside of the northern Lancaster County area.

Because many producers are unsure as to what precautions to take, Dr. Larry Hutchinson, PSU,

offers the following recommendations to help reduce the chances of spreading the disease further.

- Any producer within a 5 mile radius of the communities listed below should seriously consider testing their herd and starting a vaccination program. This will *Not* prevent the herd from getting pseudorabies, but it will likely reduce the initial losses if the herd does become infected.

- The herd test is statistical sampling — that is, a maximum of 30 animals are tested. The costs of taking the blood sample and the laboratory test must be paid by the producer.

- One of the gene deleted vaccines should be used. This will enable the producer to continue marketing animals without subject to quarantine. The producer must obtain the vaccine through a

licensed veterinarian, who will advise the producer on proper use. The veterinarian will also officially request the use of vaccine from the Bureau of Animal Industry. At present, Dr. Max Van Buskirk is requiring a letter from the local pork producers organization supporting the use of vaccine outside the Lancaster area. (Such a letter has already been accepted for the Franklin County area, and another is being sent from the State Pork Producers to cover all of Pennsylvania.)

- Any producer outside a 5-mile radius of the communities listed below should continue using strict biosecurity measures to prevent his herd from becoming infected with the disease.

The counties and communities affected are as follows:

| County | Town |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Berks | Fritztown |
| Berks | Oley |
| Bucks | Gardenville |
| Columbia | Rohrsburg |
| Dauphin/Lebanon/Lancaster | Bellaire |
| Franklin | Duffield |
| Juniata | Millerstown |
| Montgomery | Harleysville |
| Northampton | Hellertown |
| Northumberland | McEwensville |
| Susquehanna | Dimock |

There are also some additional herds south of route 30 in Lancaster County that are now positive. Contact Ken Kephart at (814) 863-3671 or Dr. Larry Hutchinson at (814) 863-2160 for more information.

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