

Study Reconfirms Ileitis As No. 1 Swine Disease

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. — A new study finds agreement among pork producers, veterinarians, and feed industry representatives that ileitis is the most-targeted disease on farms today. The finding confirms an ongoing, deep concern about ileitis and its negative effects on performance, mortality, and pig flow.

Part of the reason for ileitis' number-one ranking may center on its pervasive nature, as earlier studies found 96.2 percent of U.S. tested herds were positive for the bacteria causing ileitis — *Lawsonia intracellularis*. Ileitis commonly strikes pigs from 50 pounds up to market weight.

Of the 200 participants surveyed in the new study, underwritten by Elanco Animal Health, more reported having current on-farm battles against ileitis than respiratory disease, including mycoplasma. This was also true for salmonella and hemorrhagic bowel syndrome. Another finding from the study showed 86 percent of the respondents viewed Tylan® Premix as the best product for ileitis control. In addition, study participants rated Tylan highest in overall satisfaction compared to other products.

Previous studies, which asked swine veterinari-

ans about ileitis, may also shed light on why the industry appears to be unified in its fight against the disease. Some of these findings included:

- Ileitis-caused variation translates into average losses of \$8.11 per head.
- 99.2 percent of veterinarians observe increased variation due to ileitis.
- 80.2 percent of veterinarians think ileitis is as bad, or worse than it was five years ago, while 14.9 percent say ileitis is less of a problem.

Dr. Tom Marsteller, swine technical consultant for Elanco, says producers can limit the negative impact of ileitis by implementing a comprehensive herd-health program developed with cooperation between the producer, veterinarian and feed supplier.

For many operations, he recommends the prudent use of Tylan Premix in swine rations at 100 grams per ton for 21 days for the prevention and control of ileitis. Marsteller also points to the product's zero withdrawal as a benefit in complying with Pork Quality Assurance guidelines.

Additionally, Marsteller reminds producers they can use Paylean®, as indicated, while using Tylan to

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