Tavistock Veterinarians
PORCINE POST

25 Hope St. E. P O Box 119 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0 Ph: 519-655-2421 Fax: 519-655-2025

Family Day

The Tavistock and Hickson Veterinary Clinics will be closed for Family Day on Monday, February 20th.

Pharmacy Corner

We have been informed of price increases for the New Year from both Pfizer and Merck (formerly Intervet/Schering). There are too many price increases to list in the newsletter. Most of Pfizer's increases are a few percent. Merck had price increases that averaged 5%, but on some products the increases were as high as 8%. These increases will come into effect on February 01, 2012. We have changed from Borgal to Trimidox to keep the increase down for this product.

We have been informed by Novartis that they have discontinued manufacturing Denagard injectable. Denagard water soluble and feed grade premix is still available.

In last December's newsletter we received different deworming programs. We discussed alternatives to Atgard C, because Boehringer was going to stop the manufacture of Atgard C. Last week we sold the last Atgard C in inventory and no Atgard C is available any longer.

An alternative to Atgard C was Safeguard. There are different forms of Safeguard, a 20% Premix, a 20% crumble, and a 10% liquid suspension. There are two different deworming programs, the full program at 9mg/kg over 3 to 12 days (the less days the better) for higher challenge farms; and the low dose, at 3mg/kg once. For the lower dose program a sow would receive 6ml of the suspension once or 27gm/45kg of the crumbles once.

The suspension is the cheapest way to treat a sow, at the lower dose it would be $0.88 while the

crumbles would be $1.02. (The 20% Premix would be used to deworm the whole herd at the full dose).

The 3.78L jug of suspension will treat almost 600 sows at the low dose, for smaller herds use either 1L of Panacur Suspension (identical product to Safegard Suspension) or the crumbles. Intervet will supply a dosing syringe for the 3.78L jug.

Remember to do sows two weeks before farrowing, so they are not shedding in the crate.

National Farm Biosecurity Program

We are holding our first Biosecurity training on February 07th. This course is full but if you are still thinking of taking the course please contact Kim or myself and we will see if enough producers are interested in a second training course.

Disease Summary for 2011

In looking back over 2011, overall it was a year of less than average disease challenges. PRRS still remains our biggest challenge. This year, we had fewer breaks than the average year. We saw breaks in the spring, earlier in the fall than normal but then PRRS was quiet through the rest of the fall till December. Each case was different. A few breaks were in negative herds. The majority of the breaks were in "positive" herds but many of these herds did not know if PRRSv was still circulating in the herd before the new break. A few breaks were in larger herds that have endemic PRRS that is continually circulating and flares up occasionally. In 2011, more of the breaks were reproductive with a large number of sows farrowing prematurely, with high rates of stillbirths and mummies. A few herds had PRRS strains that caused high preweaning mortality. In previous years the PRRS strains we saw often caused less reproductive problems but higher mortality in the nursery. In 2011, for the first time we had PRRSv sequences that matched other strains in the OSHAB Database. One case showed the possibility of area spread, the other case the strain was similar to a strain from a gilt supplier.

We saw more ileitis cases this year. This may be because during the downturn many herds discontinued using feed grade antibiotics in the grow/finish rations. Often, when herds stop using in-feed antibiotics it will be 1-2 years before ileitis appears.

This was more of a challenging year for swine influenza (SIV). Some herd were hit early in the fall and have had another flare-up in the grow/finish pigs in the winter. We are not submitting diagnostics so we don't know what strains we are dealing with.

We saw a few outbreaks of mycoplasma pneumonia. Most of these breaks were mild. All occurred in vaccinated herds. In previous years we saw more severe breaks but these were in herds that had stopped vaccinating. This year, the milder breaks often happened during extreme weather fluctuations. Often these breaks were in barns with a bigger age variation sharing the same airspace. Most of these myco breaks were brought under control with Lincomix in the feed. A few also required water soluble antibiotics.

We saw more cases of what we suspect are arthritis caused by mycoplasma hyosynoviae. This arthritis often affects pigs shortly after arrival in the finisher barn or gilts on arrival in the GDU. There is usually no swelling of the joints, and the arthritis appears higher up in the hips, stifle and shoulders. It can be prevented with high levels of Lincomix or Denagard in the feed.

Overall, we saw less pre-weaning diarrhea, and we continue to see less E coli diarrhea. Clostridium Perfringens type A diarrhea continues to be the most common diarrhea we diagnose. Rotavirus seems to be increasing but that could be because of new tests available. Coccidiosis would be the third most common diarrhea we diagnose.

The "suiside" diseases, Strep suis, Glassers (H parasuis), and A suis are still common. We are seeing more A suis causing arthritis in nursing pigs.

Hemorrhagic Bowel Syndrome (HBS) and intestinal accidents are common finding s especially in liquid fed barns and in hot weather.

Some veterinarians have reported seeing PCV$_2$/PCVAD in vaccinated herds. We have not found this in our clients' herds. We did have one case in nursing pigs because immunity had dropped in a gilt herd.

Question of the Month

What can I use to treat coccidiosis?

When a pig has diarrhea from coccidiosis, the disease has progressed far enough that treatment has no effect. The infection starts high up in the first part of the small intestine and progresses down the length of the small intestine. The diarrhea does not occur until the course of the disease is advanced. The only treatment that might have some effect is sulphas, but some veterinarians do not believe that the sulfa is working on the coccidia but instead is targeting secondary bacteria such as E coli. When the disease is advanced the pigs own immune system will clear the disease.

If you are dealing with coccidiosis, prevent other litters from breaking by using Baycox, given at 3 days of age, 1 ml/2.5kg BW. Also, concentrate on washing to remove as much of the challenge as possible. Allowing crates to dry down is important. You can also disinfect with bleach, 1 part:4 parts water but remember bleach is inactivated by organic material so it must be applied to clean surfaces.

Newsletter

If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically please contact Sarah at sgregory@tavivets.ca. Also, if you have an employee or know someone else who would like to receive this newsletter, please let us know.