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Swine Newsletter
August 1, 2014

Summertime Stories

Last summer I was called to a large finisher barn to investigate an outbreak of slow growth and coughing. Mortality was up abit (4% vs the usual < 2%) but the main concern was the time it was taking to get the pigs out the door and the less than stellar feed conversion.

A couple of pigs were post mortemed. A hodge podge of respiratory organisms were found. I really thought that Mycoplasma hyopneumonia was the primary agent as slow growth, low mortality but high morbidity, husky cough, lesions in the front lower portion of the lungs are all suggestions of a mycoplasma pneumonia problem.

The pigs were vaccinated once at weaning time with a Circovirus and mycoplasma combination vaccine.

We treated the water for five days with Aivlosin (tylvalosin tartrate) as a snap, quick therapeutic treatment. This is off label as it is licensed for use against Ileitis. But I have found it works well against mycoplasma infections too. And it only has a one day withdrawal period so it is useful in finishing barns. This would cost about \$1.60 per 110 kg pig for the five day pulse of medication. It worked well though. We also medicated the feed with 110 mg/kg of lincomycin for three weeks and then dropped the level to 44 mg/kg. There is no withdrawal period for this feed medication at these levels. To feed a pig the 44 mg/kg of lincomycin in the feed all the way from 25 kg to 110 kg is over \$1.25 per pig.

I have wondered if pulsing the water with Aivlosin for the first five days in the grow-finisher barn wouldn't be cheaper and more effective than the feed additive route.

Note: a 25 kg pig should drink about 13 L of water over five days. Treated with Aivlosin, this would cost \$0.40 per pig and it does a nice job on Ileitis and mycoplasma pneumonia.

Ultimately, I recommended a second mycoplasma vaccination be given three weeks after the first one (\$0.25 plus labour). We discussed population density and ventilation. The problem resolved.

The Penicillin and Cull Sow Problem Gets Worse

In the swine newsletter, dated December 1, 2013, I wrote about penicillin residues in cull sows. You can look it up on our website www.mitchellvets.ca if you don't file these letters at home. You will need to register to get into the newsletter area.

Some of my clients have told me that they have problems even with the 51 day withdrawal period that I suggested. Consequently, they have decided to quit using injectable penicillin in sows. So what can you use instead?

- A non-prescription choice would be Oxymycine LP @ 1 ml/10 kg (approx. 20 ml for a 400 lb sow or 25 ml for a 500 lb sow) once a day for 3, 4, or 5 days. Withdrawal period is 18 days.
- Or, similarly, a favorite of mine, because the treatment period is longer is Liquamycin 200 LA or Oxyvet LA 200 @ 1ml/10 kg (same as above) once every other day for three treatments. Withdrawal period is 28 days.
- A prescription choice would be Borgal or Trimidox @ 3 ml/100 lbs once a day for 3, 4, or 5 days in a row. Withdrawal period is ten day.

Yours truly,

R.G. Reed
RR/cp