



Mitchell Veterinary Services

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Swine Newsletter
May 1, 2016

New Vaccine for Ileitis Protection

Dear Pork Producer,

Merck Animal Health has recently released a new vaccine called PORCILIS ILEITIS, to offer long-lasting protection for ileitis control. Details are:

- Industry leading 20 weeks (5 month) duration of immunity.
- One-dose, ready to use injectable vaccine.
 - As the only injectable vaccine available for ileitis, Porcilis Ileitis allows for vaccination of pigs at 3 weeks of age or older – an age when they are easier to handle.
- A single bottle vaccine means no mixing.
- No need to remove feed grade antibiotics during vaccination.
- This is an inactivated vaccine with a very good adjuvant.

It has been well documented that hogs in most finishing barns have some level of ileitis (an intestine infection of a bacteria called *Lawsonia intracellularis*) and that even sub clinical infections will decrease Average Daily Gain (ADG) and increase Feed Conversion (FC).

It is estimated that this disease costs producers somewhere from \$2.73 and \$19.76 per pig in the U.S. annually.

Lawsonia intracellularis infections are spread by feces. Pigs can be infected from their mother, the environment, and rodents. The higher the challenge, the higher the infection rate resulting in more shedding of bacteria from the cells lining the intestines into the intestinal contents and the worse the clinical signs. At low infection levels there may be no signs of disease (subclinical). As infection progresses the stools will become soft and pudgy, brown-grey in colour. There will be streaks from the anus down the backside of the pig. In acute cases, the pig becomes pale from blood loss, the stools become tarry and black and often there is death.

Pigs can become infected from 6 weeks of age all the way to adulthood. Replacement gilts and young boars often become infected when they move into a new barn, and develop acute clinical signs.

Obviously tools, especially vaccines against this scourge of the starter-grower-finisher pig are very welcome.

We have this new product at the clinic. Call Glenn or myself if you think it might have a place in your strategies. We will talk it over.

Good luck with all of your spring work.

Reg