Canadian Swine Health Intelligence Network
Quarter 1 — 2017: PRODUCER REPORT ON SWINE HEALTH

May 10, 2017

Period January 1st to March 31st, 2017
53 practitioners: Québec (20), Ontario (11), West (22)

This information is provided as a service to Canadian hog producers to improve the health of their herds. The information was obtained from a survey of the clinical impressions of participating practicing veterinarians with input from other swine health specialists. Information contained in this report is an approximation of the reality at the farm level. Please contact your swine veterinarian with any questions about this report.

Senecavirus A
No farms with the virus have been identified in Canada however assembly sites in Ontario and Manitoba are considered positive. A protocol for testing and managing positive animals has been effective and resulted in no refusals at the USA border during this quarter.

Influenza A:
More cases of influenza A in pigs are being genotyped and the results are interesting. In western Canada, several are from human influenza virus origins causing problems in pigs. Autogenous vaccines are being used for control as the commercial vaccines do not have these specific subtypes. The finding reinforces the benefit of vaccination of barn staff for influenza protecting both the workers and their families as well as the pigs.

Erysipelas
Erysipelas continues to be reported at high levels in western Canada and Ontario but observations in Quebec have dropped. Based on veterinarian reports, the percentage of farms vaccinated in Ontario was 78% for sow farms and 22% for growing pigs. A case in the Maritimes resolved when the vaccine was changed. This question will be asked of the other regions during the next quarter. The costs related to this disease include clinical cases on farm as well as demerits at slaughter.

Post-weaning Diarrhea
Diarrhea in the nursery has been a growing problem right across Canada. The increase appears to be correlated with the elimination of porcine plasma from piglet and nursery diets however this has not been proven. While a reduction in the use of antibiotics due to 'Raised
Without Antibiotic' production may be contributing, the use of antibiotics continues to be one of the primary means of controlling the disease.

The cause of the actual diarrhea is usually a strain of E. coli but, more frequently now, rotavirus is also involved. It is important that untreated pigs are submitted to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory to determine the cause to ensure that the best control measures are used. Discuss the following and other options for preventing and controlling post weaning diarrhea with your veterinarian if you are experiencing problems:

- **Preweaning:**
  - Wean age – older heavier weaned pigs have fewer problems
  - Biosecurity – E. coli strains new to the farm can cause diarrhea in weaned pigs so review biosecurity protocols that keep new organisms out.
  - Vaccinate gilts and sows – with the appropriate vaccine using proper protocols. When vaccinating gilts or sows for the first time a booster is needed 3 weeks after the initial vaccine dose.

- **Weaning day**
  - Variation in the air temperature (due to drafts or poor temperature control) has been demonstrated as an important risk factor for post weaning diarrhea. Automatic temperature control is needed.
  - The environment must be warm, clean, disinfected, and dry. Adhere to the Code of Practice for stocking density requirements.
  - Do not restrict feed to the newly weaned pig – feed *ad libitum*, not just twice a day.
  - Ensure that the weaned pig diet is properly formulated and manufactured for the age of weaned pig to be sure that it can be digested.
  - Consider using zinc oxide (2500 ppm per tonne) in the first diet(s). High and prolonged levels are an environmental concern as elevated soil levels of this heavy metal is considered toxic.
  - Acidify the drinking water with organic acids
  - Ensure that there is adequate access to feed and water.

- **After weaning**
  - Learn to recognize, as early as possible, dehydrated and gaunt pigs that are not eating. Treat and segregate these and alter the environment and nutrition.
  - Diagnose diarrhea cases: submit untreated pigs with diarrhea to the veterinary diagnostic laboratory to determine the cause of the disease. Vaccines and treatments are based on the causative agent. Seek help from your veterinarian. The pigs could even have TGE or PED, a diagnosis that you would want to know as soon as possible.
  - Provide oral electrolytes to scouring pigs.
Consider the use of appropriate antibiotics on individuals or groups based on laboratory antibiotic sensitivity results or recent history of successful treatment on the farm.

**Strep. suis and Pleuropneumonia infections**

Strep. suis, always a common or very common problem increased significantly in western Canada this quarter. MAPAQ laboratories diagnosed more Actinobacillus pleuropneumoniae cases. The increases were attributed to variable weather this winter and the challenge in adjusting ventilation for the cold / warm fluctuations.