



Four Star Veterinary Service - Stoney Creek Office

Newsletter March 2016



From the Desk of Dr. Daniel:

Just returning from the American Association of Swine Veterinarians annual meeting there was a lot of different topics being discussed. The one that stood out the most to me was a study done on the proper amount of iron and timing of injection. If you took a poll about how much iron to give a pig and when to give it, you would get many different answers. Some people give 200 mg with in the first couple days, some give 100 mg at day 1 and again day 8-10 and then there are many other protocols being used. The study showed that by the time they are weaned that pigs should have around 275 mg of iron. This would minimize the percentage of pigs that are anemic and pigs could gain up to 2 more pounds through the nursery stage. We will now be recommending that you give pigs 1.5 cc of 100 mg of iron at day 1-2 and then again at day 8-10. We feel that it is best to split the iron between 2 different shots because giving over 150 mg at one time the pig cannot absorb that much iron and will excrete the excess. This change in protocol will only increase the cost of the iron around \$0.07 to \$0.08 per pig.

Dr. Daniel Hendrickson



From the Desk of Dr. Daren:

Rotavirus causes diarrhea in pigs on the sow and in the nursery. It is similar to PED and TGE in how it blunts the villi in the small intestine but it is not near as severe and mortality is usually minimal. It is very important to treat them for a secondary bacterial infection and keep them hydrated. It is also important to keep them warm and dry. There are 3 major serogroups that effect the pig. Group A is the most prevalent but C can also cause outbreaks. Most Rotavirus outbreaks can be controlled by thorough cleaning and disinfecting and reducing the viral load in the environment. Consistent breaks of Rotavirus in the nursery means that sanitation and disinfecting should be improved. Most Rotavirus breaks can be controlled with a really good fecal feedback and proper sanitation. There are some vaccines available but are limited. The vaccines that are available are for Group A but not B or C because they are very hard to grow. If you have Group B or C than vaccine will not do any good because there is no cross protection. Harris vaccines can make a vaccine by comparing what they have to the sequence of the Rotavirus strain that you are dealing with. Protection from the sow is a suckling immunity so if the sow is off feed or they are not nursing than they are not getting protection and then become more susceptible to getting Rotavirus.

Dr. Daren Miller