

Swine Dysentery

Swine dysentery is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria, *Brachyspira hyodysenteriae*. Pigs have poor growth but death is not common. A healthy looking pig can carry the bacteria but not showing signs of disease and pass it on to healthy pigs. Rats, mice, and dogs can also be carriers of the infection.

Clinical Signs

- Early signs of soft, yellow to gray feces are present.
- Within a few days, the diarrhea becomes watery with small amounts of mucus or blood in it.
- Over the next several weeks, pigs may show an arched back, a rough hair coat, and thin condition. The feces become red, rust-colored, or black and vary from semisolid to watery.

Diagnosis

The bacteria can be cultured from feces of a sick pig or samples of intestine of a pig at necropsy. False negative culture results can occur if pigs are on antibiotics.



Treatment

Antibiotic treatment should be considered a short term remedy. Long term, this disease can be eliminated by either, depopulation, whole-farm disinfection, and repopulating with documented negative animals, OR mass medication, whole-farm disinfection, medicated early weaning, strict isolation of weaned piglets, and vigorous pest control.

Prevention

If new stock must be brought in, purchase only documented negative pigs, or quarantine, test, and treat with an appropriate antibiotic before exposing the herd to new stock.

Porcine Proliferative Enteropathy (PPE)

PPE is a bacterial inflammation of the intestine caused by the bacteria *Lawsonia intracellularis*. Stressing the pigs can trigger the onset of PPE. PPE can be passed from pigs by feces to mouth contact.



Clinical Signs

- Pigs develop **bloody diarrhea**, within 1-2 weeks following a stressful event.
- 50-90% of PPE pigs may die.
- Chronically infected pigs develop weight loss, poor weight gain, and diarrhea.

Diagnosis

The bacteria can be cultured from feces of a sick pig or samples of intestine of a pig at necropsy.

Treatment

A variety of antibiotics can be used in the feed or water to treat pigs. Chronic pigs are best culled due to poor performance. For all cases of diarrhea, provide clean water to drink and electrolyte solutions free choice.

Prevention

PPE outbreaks signal a management or environmental problem that triggers stress and leads to sick pigs. Correcting the cause of stress (movement, chilling, etc.) will help to prevent this disease.

Salmonellosis

The microorganism *Salmonella choleraesuis* causes inflammation of the intestine and/or bacterial infection of the blood. Salmonellae in the grower-finisher pig's intestinal tract can contaminate pork products, resulting in food borne disease of humans. Salmonellae can be passed by feces to mouth contact.

Clinical Signs

- Fever (104-107⁰ F)
- Reluctance to move
- Diarrhea
- Cold extremities

Death can occur as a result of septic shock from the bacterial infection



Diagnosis

The bacteria can be cultured from feces of a sick pig or samples of intestine of a pig at necropsy.

Treatment of salmonellosis in pigs requires early detection and isolation of sick animals. Frequent cleaning of pens and restricted movement of pigs and personnel may limit spread. Feed should be cultured and contaminated feeds should be discarded. Antibiotics for pigs is intended to limit the spread of the organism while the intestinal tract heals. Provide free-choice water and water-electrolyte mixtures to decrease dehydration.

Prevention

Vaccinate with modified live oral vaccines against *Salmonella*, but these vaccines are only partially protective. Proper sanitation, ventilation, stocking rate, nutrition, handling, and transport are necessary to limit exposure. Cleaning facilities is important to limiting outbreaks.

Swine Diseases of the Gastrointestinal System (Diarrhea)

Pig diarrhea can lead to major economic losses for a producer. Pigs can have minimal weight gain during and after episode of diarrhea and in some cases death. As a producer you can create a program in your herd that can minimize the exposure of diseases to your herd and increase healthy productive pigs.



Pig diarrhea is associated with many types of intestinal diseases. Each disease has different signs and characteristics. Many diseases can be prevented thru preventative programs that you can enforce on your farm. Some of the following guide lines can help you determine what type of diarrhea that is affecting your herd and preventive measures to take to decrease exposure to other pigs. As always, seek your veterinarian's advice in diagnosis and treatment of your animals.

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Gastrointestinal Diseases in the Adult Swine

