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THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE EXTENSION SERVICE

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Extension Circular 224

Synopsis of the Diseases of Swine

By the Department of Animal Pathology and Hygiene

NAME	CAUSES	NATURE AND SYMPTOMS	SPECIAL PREVENTION AND TREATMENT	GENERAL HYGIENIC MEASURES
Abortion	Often an accompaniment to other acute infectious diseases. Most commonly caused by the germ which causes the disease in cattle.	The sows lose their pigs before they are fully developed, with or without evidence of disturbance of the general health.	After first abortion, remove all pregnant sows to entirely new ground or premises on which no hogs or cattle were kept. Divide the sows in as many small groups as possible. Only feed pasteurized milk in case connection with cattle abortion is suspected. Do not buy pregnant sows unless they come from abortion free herds.	
Actinomycosis	Due to same germ which causes lumpy jaw in cattle. Germ admitted by abrasions and the penetration of beards of barley, rye, and other grasses.	Usually affects the mammary glands. Large tumorous masses, hard and containing many pus cavities.	Surgical removal by good veterinarian, followed by doses of potassium iodide under his direction.	
Bronchitis	Dust, germs, worms. Poor ventilation, overheated stables, dampness.	Cough, unthriftiness.	Remove unsanitary conditions and increase feed ration. Use more milk in the case of young pigs or shoats.	
Constipation	Too much dry feed or roughage. Lack of exercise.	Hard, dry feces, difficult of passage.	Feed in the form of slops. Add flaxseed meal and green feed to ration. Addition of Glauber or Epsom salts to feed (one ounce for every 100 lbs.).	
Hairless pigs or congenital goiter	Lack of iodine content in ration of pregnant sow. Rare in Nebraska.	Pigs born with goiter and without hair. Do not survive.	Give pregnant sows a daily dose of one or two grains of potassium iodide during last three months of pregnancy.	
Heat prostration	Overheating during transportation, by injudicious handling, and during close confinement on hot days.	Respiratory distress and weakness of heart action. Great prostration. Convulsions. Sudden death.	Cool water, changing gradually to cold, over entire body surface.	
Hog cholera	Infection by ultra-microscopic virus. THE PRINCIPAL SWINE DISEASE IN NEBRASKA.	Fever, loss of appetite, diarrhea or constipation. Cough, weakness of hind parts. General prostration. Purplish discoloration of the skin.	Prompt and timely use of anti-hog-cholera serum. Segregation and quarantine. Read Nebraska Extension Circular 223.	
Hog-flu	A communicable disease of the younger swine due to a germ which has not yet been identified.	Sudden onset of fever, marked depression, rapid respiration, cough, pneumonia. Heart weakness. Sometimes diarrhea. Average mortality about five per cent.	Make hogs comfortable. Reduce grain in ration and substitute milk. Keep hogs in airy place and out of the sun. Do not disturb animals. The less they are meddled with the better the chance of recovery. Do not expose swine less than one year old at shows, fairs, etc.	
Infectious diarrhea of pigs or pig-typhoid	Bacteria of the colon-typhoid group.	Affects mostly young pigs. Wasting disease. Diarrhea. Intestinal ulcerations. Pneumonia common. High mortality. Often associated with foul yards and pens.	When disease makes its appearance remove all pigs as well as any pregnant sows to new ground. Segregate in small groups. Clean concreted feeding lots will prove valuable in prevention. Avoid old hog lots. Read Nebraska Extension Circular 221.	
Lousiness	Contact with lousy swine. Promoted by filthy, unsanitary quarters.	Itching, unthriftiness.	Clean quarters. Use of kerosene emulsion prepared as follows: Dissolve about one quarter of a pound of common laundry soap	

			in one gallon of soft water by boiling. When the soap has an dissolved and the solution is still hot pour into it two gallons of kerosene and stir the mixture vigorously. Of the resulting creamy emulsion, one part is added to eight or ten parts of warm soft water. This mixture can be used as a spray or applied by means of a stiff fiber brush.
Mange	Mange mites carried by mangy swine.	Itching, scabby, wrinkled skin. Unthriftness.	Treatment with crude Texas petroleum or sulphur ointment. Disinfection of yards and premises.
Necrobacillosis, bull-nose, sore mouth	Specific germ, associated with unsanitary surroundings and introduced thru abrasions of gums by teeth.	Swelling and gangrene of lips, gums, etc. Enlargement of nose and face. High mortality.	Early removal of diseased tissues. Disinfection of parts with tincture of iodine. Clean and drain yards. Move pigs to clean ground. Read Nebraska Extension Circulars 221 and 225.
Paralysis	Causes unknown. Suspected to be due to faulty nutrition and lack of certain materials in ration.	Hogs unable to use hind legs. Lie about and linger for a long period. Rarely recover.	No specific treatment known. Use animal for butcher purpose while still in good condition.
Pig-eating sows	Perverse appetite. Lack of animal food in ration. Cannibalistic habits of species.	Sow devours offspring.	Give meat scraps and tankage in ration during gestation. Remove pigs from sow when not sucking and for a time supervise this act. Allow room for pigs to escape. If sow incorrigible dispose of her to butcher.
Pneumonia	Many kinds of bacteria. Exposure to inclement weather and dust. Filthy stable and yard conditions. Close, damp, unventilated hog houses. Worm embryos passing thru lungs.	Labored breathing, weakness, fever, cough. Mortality sometimes quite high.	Provide clean, warm and airy quarters. Judicious feeding. Do not annoy animals by giving medicine.
Rabies	The bite of rabid animal (dog, coyote, hog, etc.).	Great excitement and irritability. Animals run about aimlessly, scratching and biting parts where they were bitten. Squealing. Inability to swallow. Later paralysis.	Control of disease in dogs.
Rheumatism	Localization of certain bacteria in joints. Previous disease or infections. Promoted by bad stable and yard conditions as well as by lack of exercise.	Lameness. Swollen joints.	Change to better quarters. Feed sour milk. Give in ration, once per day, 15 grains of sodium salicylate for every 100 lbs. of live hog.
Rickets	Lack of bone forming ingredients in the ration of pregnant sows and young pigs.	Enlarged bones and joints. Crooked limbs. Unthriftness.	Give bone meal and phosphate of lime in sow's rations. Sanitary stabling and a run at pasture.
Staggers and fits	Disturbance of central nervous system of unknown origin. Parasites or dietetic errors may be factors.	Spasmodic movements or convulsions. Pig moves in circle. Blindness. Froth at mouth. Distressful squealing.	Keep quiet in a dark place and withdraw solid food. If outlook discouraging, kill for food.
Swine plague	Described as acute infectious disease, due to a bipolar bacillus and difficult to differentiate from hog cholera. Probably uncommon in Nebraska.	Said to affect the younger animals. Respiratory disturbances. Cough, fever, loss of flesh.	Removal of healthy animals from infected pens and lots. Make sure that the disease with which you are dealing is not hog cholera.
Thumps	Nature of disturbance not understood. Probably most commonly caused by worm migrations thru the lungs.	Sudden spasmodic movements of flanks. Jerky respiration.	Reduce feed, leave pig undisturbed but with opportunity for exercise.
Tuberculosis	Tuberculosis germs, originating in tuberculosis cattle.	Signs usually absent or obscure. Unthriftness and enlargement of glands of neck. Diagnosis by tuberculin test.	Eradicate tuberculosis from cattle.
Worms	Worm eggs and embryos picked up in filthy yards and contaminated drinking water.	Symptoms very obscure. Unthriftness and periodic disturbances. Worm pneumonia among young pigs.	Improve sanitary conditions of yards, pens and stables. The use of santonin and calomel (5 grains of each for every shoat weighing from 50 to 75 lbs.). Yards in which treated hogs have left their droppings should either be disinfected or should not be used for at least one year. Practice sanitation and pasture rotation. Read Nebraska Experiment Station Circular 7 and Nebraska Extension Circulars 221 and 222.

Cleanliness of yards, pens and stables. Drainage. Ventilation. Concrete floors in stables, pens and yards. Opportunity to exercise. Avoidance of contact with animals affected with or exposed to disease. Segregation of animals returning from shows or procured from unknown sources. Do not have hog lots on the same piece of ground for too long a period. Change lots from time to time. Careful selection of rations. Periodic disinfections. Read Nebraska Extension Circular 5. Avoid the use of medicines when animals are not sick. Abandon use of stock foods, conditioners and unwarranted biologicals.