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UK Farm

Dear

We discussed in some detail the problems over the last 6 months.

There are two major problems.

1. The litter size of the gilts following repopulation. The gilts only weaned a very disappointing 7 per sow. However, the farrowing rate is exceptional above 85% and the litter size of the 2nd litter is greatly improving. It is hoped that the litters will improve to 9.5 weaned per litter.

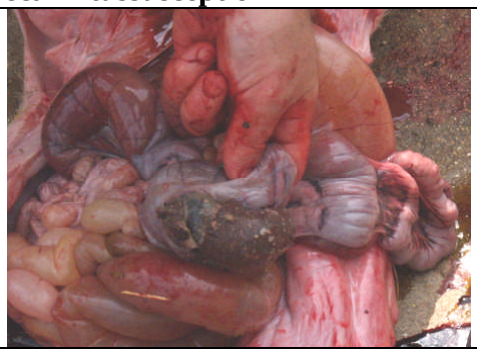
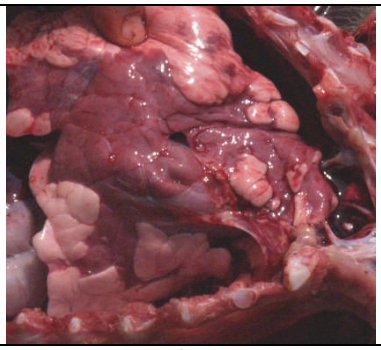
2. The high post-weaning mortality, in excess of 10%, which occurs primarily two weeks into the 2nd stage nursery accommodation – predominately in the straw wet fed new yard building.

Examination of the problem has revealed a variety of pathogens but have excluded PRRSv and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (Enzootic pneumonia) – the source pigs are also negative for these pathogens.

During the visit pigs were examined, including three pigs whom were post-mortemed.

The post-mortems revealed one pig with a caecal intussusception and pneumonia – resembling Swine Influenza and two pigs with PMWS complicated with Swine Influenza and Salmonelosis.

Caecal intussusception

	
Intussusception into the caecum	Checkerboard Swine Influenza lesion complicated with Pasteurella and Streptococci – resembling enzootic pneumonia

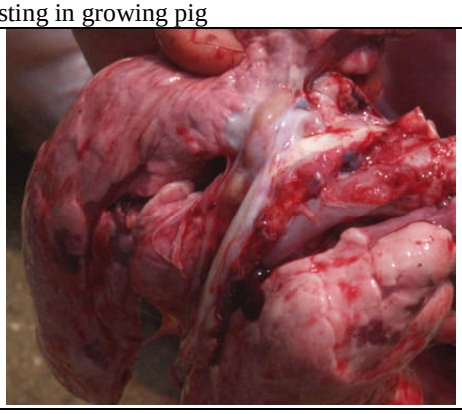
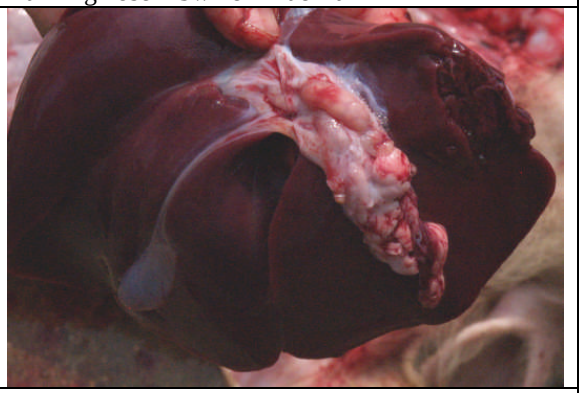
PMWS

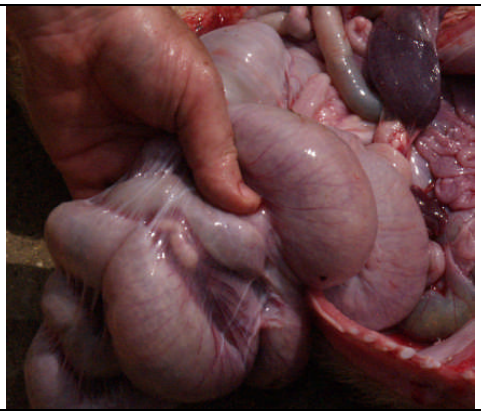
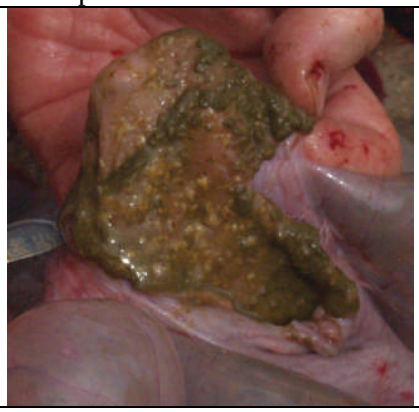
The other two pigs presented with:

Multiple enlarged lymph nodes through the carcase - PMWS,

Apical pneumonic consolidation of the lungs- Swine Influenza with secondary pasteurella and streptococci

Necrotic colitis – Salmonellosis.

	
Wasting in growing pig	Running nose – Swine Influenza
	
Lymph node enlargement - bronchial	- hepatic

	
- mesenteric	- within loops of colon
	
Salmonella – enlarged colon note checkerboard SIV lesion lung	Necrotic colitis – *Salmonella typhimurium*

Examination of the pigs around the farm indicates that majority of the piglets looked well at weaning. An occasional cough is noted in the lactating piglets.

First Stage Nursery

A post-weaning sneezing was noted in pigs in the cosikennels and the 1st stage nursery. Otherwise the pigs looked well in the first stage nursery.

Second Stage Nursery

The secondary stage nursery two forms of accommodation was provided the main straw building where the pigs were introduced to wet feed. In this area the air conditions were poor with a lot of dust and the air within the pens were very stale. It is imperative that the ventilation in these buildings are improved, ideally I would use smoke bombs to investigate the ventilation and demonstrate that changes made result in better air movement without draughts.

	
The new straw grower yards were very dusty with limited air movement within the yard. The air flow in these buildings needs urgent enhancement	During the examination the UK was experiencing an exceptional heat wave – which was causing additional stress on the pigs.

The pigs in the straw shed demonstrated coughing and sneezing with numerous pigs having runny noses – characteristic of swine influenza. Several pigs in this area demonstrate wasting and they need to be removed to the hospital area.

The pigs placed in the Beacon house appeared to perform better, despite being the compromised group. This needs to be investigated in more detail with records kept of the pig's history. However, I believe this demonstrates that the Beacon buildings are providing generally a better overall environment for the pigs and with the effect of PMWS they are better able to cope.

Grow/finish
After the second stage buildings the pigs move into the ARM finishing buildings. At this stage, they appear to recover and perform reasonably well until slaughter.

Post-weaning health
A variety of treatment regimes have been tried. However, the success has been limited. Unfortunately this is not uncommon in cases of PMWS.

A couple of suggestions to help the situation

The situation regarding the post-weaning mortality has started to stablise. However, with cases of PMWS, it is essential to minimize the stressors on the pig over the critical 6-week period. I have sent an advice sheet on PMWS for your consideration. I clearly appreciate that some of the following suggestions may be difficult to achieve in the short term.

Ideally I would reduce the movement of pigs around the farm. I would not move the pigs from weaning to 30 kg.

I would monitor the relative success of each building with regard to growth and survivability.

The pigs in the hospital pens should be critically evaluated. While pigs with PMWS can recover several pigs in the hospital area should be euthansed.

The straw wet feed building should have its ventilation critically assessed and improved.

Obviously the refurbishment of the Trowbridge and ARM buildings needs to progress urgently not only to provide the needed finishing space but also to assist in reducing stocking densities were possible – this appears to be key element in surviving PMWS.

I would consider utilizing lime-washing as part of the terminal disinfection of buildings where possible.

I would cover all water tanks and start a water disinfection programme utilizing vircon S or formaldehyde 1/1000.

Rodent control programmes need to be enhanced to reduce as many rodents as possible, the likely *Salmonella typhimurium* source.

I would instigate a feed-back programme to help stabilise the influenza around the farm – this needs to be done before winter.

Many thanks again for inviting us to the farm. I hope the ideas during the visit and in this report help resolve the health issues.