RHINITIS IN HOGS

At the meeting of the Western Oregon Livestock Association held in McMinnville in January, 1952, the Extension Service was requested to prepare a statement regarding the latest information available on rhinitis in swine. In complying with this request, the following material from the 1942 U.S. Department of Agriculture Year Book, which has been checked and approved by the Veterinary Department at Oregon State College, is offered for your information. This department's records do not indicate that this disease is yet a serious disease in Oregon swine.

NECROTIC RHINITIS

Necrotic rhinitis, or so-called bull nose, is most frequently observed in growing pigs. It is characterized by swelling and enlargement of the tissues of the nose and face, including the bony structures, which results in more or less deformity. There are also necrosis, or destruction, and sloughing of the tissues of the snout, lips, and other parts of the mouth.

The condition is infectious and is caused by a micro-organism, Actinomyces necrophorus.

Rather widespread in nature, the organisms gain entrance to the tissues in the region of the nose or mouth through wounds or abrasions that may result from blows or fights, or they enter the lips and gums through injuries caused by certain types of rough feed or by foreign objects such as wire. Filthy surroundings or generally insanitary conditions are very conducive to bull nose infections.

One of the first symptoms noted is a partial loss of appetite. The affected pigs may root in their feed but eat very little. Because the pigs sneeze repeatedly, the condition is commonly referred to by hog owners as sniffles. In sneezing, a certain amount of bloody discharge mixed with clumps of dead tissue may be expelled from the nasal cavities. Many of the affected pigs make a peculiar blowing sound that is considered one of the characteristics of the disease. The snout is enlarged, and lumps or swellings may be seen on some parts of the face. When some of these swellings are opened they are found to contain a cheeselike material which has a disagreeable odor. In many cases the bones of the nose and face are destroyed. In the late stages of the infection the pigs eat with difficulty and gradually become weak and emaciated. If the infection is permitted to continue, it will eventually result in the death of the animals.

Treatment

Treatment may be undertaken in the very early stages while the swellings on the face are still small or before the infection becomes deep-seated. The swellings should be opened, and as much as possible of the pus-like material should be removed. Half-strength tincture of iodine should then be injected into the cavity. It should be understood, however, that after the infection is fairly well established, treatment is in most cases very unsatisfactory or of little avail, largely on account of the involvement and destruction of the bones of the nose and face. In such cases the affected pigs should be destroyed.
If the affected pigs are not destroyed, they should be placed in separate quarters. Occasionally a pig may recover, but as a rule it is advisable to destroy all pigs showing well-marked evidence of infection. The noninfected pigs should be removed to clean sanitary surroundings to prevent the further spread of the infection. The quarters previously occupied by the pigs should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, with particular attention to mudholes or damp insanitary parts of the hog lots. The use of open pens or hog lots that have been left unoccupied and exposed to direct sunlight for a considerable period will also prove helpful in overcoming such infection.

**STOMATITIS**

Necrotic stomatitis, a type of sore mouth in suckling pigs, is thought to be due to the same cause as necrotic rhinitis. The affected pigs are observed to suckle with some difficulty, and on examining the mouth ulcerated areas with reddish borders and yellowish-white centers are noticeable on the gums, lips, and palate. There are necrosis and sloughing of the tissues, with which a disagreeable odor is associated. Owing to the difficulty of eating as a result of soreness and pain, the affected pigs soon become weak and emaciated.

**Treatment**

Treatment of infectious sore mouth, as of necrotic rhinitis, is usually unsatisfactory after the infection has become well established, and in both these conditions primary attention would be directed toward prevention by proper sanitation.

**COMMENTS**

In addition to the above material, Dr. John B. Herrick, veterinarian, Iowa State College, suggests that when rhinitis appears in a herd:

(1) Sell every hog in herd whether they appear infected or not. Then disinfect all feeders, waterers, and buildings with a steam jenny, flame thrower or chemicals. Rebuild with stock from clean herds and place them on clean ground. Do not return hogs to infected premises for at least a year.

(2) Buy carefully when selecting boars or extra gilts. A hog that does not show symptoms of the disease can be a carrier if he comes from an infected herd. Examine entire herd before buying and avoid the producer who markets diseased pigs and keeps those appearing normal. Feeder-pig purchases from public sales are risky.