

Training Vets

So many of the problems seen on pig units today are management related. Management changes in all areas can often hold the key to resolving a 'disease' problem, and it is essential that as vets we have a full appreciation of the various techniques used on farms. A practical working knowledge of pig production on-farm techniques is built into the course.

Part 1 - Pig management and appreciation of stockmanship

Part 1 (Week 1) of the course provides the opportunity to obtain practical training in all common farm procedures. Three days will be spent on a local farm unit with a very experienced manager with extensive involvement in education. The aim is to achieve an empathy with the requirements of the normal healthy pig, to appreciate the complexities and difficulties in managing a pig unit and to see how good production is achieved and disease controlled.

The syllabus of Part 1 includes:-

Farrowing area:-

- Preparation for farrowing
- Teeth clipping, tail docking, iron injection
- Management to reduce stillbirths and pre-weaning mortality
- Feeding of the lactating sow to improve productivity

Service and breeding area:-

- Feeding the pregnant sow
- Gilt management to optimise breeding potential
- Oestrus detection
- Service management techniques
- Pregnancy diagnosis
- Infertility

Weaner management:-

- Feeding and environmental requirements of the weaner
- Post-weaning management to minimise post-weaning losses
- Controlling post-weaning diarrhoea

Finishing management:-

- Feeding and environmental requirements
- Selecting for slaughter
- Selecting future breeding stock
- Managing the system for disease control
- Maximising growth

Principles of hygiene:-

- Pressure-washing techniques
- Cleaning procedures
- Drug storage
- Pig movement

Vaccination policies

A further day will be spent on a modern outdoor farrow to weaning unit with particular emphasis on farrowing policies and service management.

Some veterinarians may feel that the above part of the course is basic, but all participants have informed us of its great value

Part 2 - Principles of disease management

Part 2 (end of week 1 and week 2) will build upon the skills learnt in part 1 and your existing veterinary experience.

There will be a balance between theory, practical's and farm visits.

Farm visits

Clinical examinations of herd and individuals

How to approach and investigate specific farm problems

Procedures for routine herd health examinations and the herd health report

The art of communication

Practical skills

Post-mortem techniques.

Laboratory medicine.

The role of DNA analysis in pathogen investigations

Slaughterhouse examinations

Blood testing.

Artificial Insemination.

Real time ultrasound.

Vasectomy techniques.

Analysis of records without computers.

Analysis of records using computers.

Pig medicine update

Body systems (skin, nervous conditions, respiratory tract, intestinal tract, reproductive tract , locomotor, urinary tract).

International diseases.

Environmental analysis

Analysis of air, feed, flooring, water supply.

Assessment of stocking rates and ventilation.

Preventative medicine update.

Disease control strategies (strategic medication, vaccination, segregated early weaning, partial depopulation, repopulation).

Biosecurity on the farm.

Practical Aspects of therapy on the farm.

Economics

Economics of disease and the cost of prevention/treatment.

An introduction to farm economics and costs of production.

If you are interested and would like to discuss the course further, please contact:

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