Common 4-H Pig Health Issues

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Internal Parasites

- Roundworms
- Whipworms
- Nodular worms
- Stomach worms
- Lung worms
- Kidney worms
- Threadworms
Roundworms

- Most common internal parasite of swine
- Large, white, round worms that are ~8" long
- Compete for nutrients from the pig in the small intestine
- Females lay up to 1,000,000 eggs per day
- Eggs are sticky and hard to get rid of in the environment
- Eggs survive in the environment for years
Roundworms

Life cycle
- Eggs are shed in feces (can survive for years in soil)
- Eggs requires 2 weeks to become infective
- Eggs ingested by pig
- Eggs hatch in gut
- Larvae travel through gut mucosa and blood stream to liver (liver migration leaves scarring - milk spots)
- Larvae travel through bloodstream to lungs
- Migrate up trachea (coughed up) and reswallowed to get back into gut
- Mature to adult stage in small intestine
Roundworm Life Cycle

- Adult Worms in Large Intestine Laying Eggs
- Larvae Migrate Through Liver & Lungs
- Eggs in Feces
- Embryonated Eggs are Consumed
- Eggs Embryonate (1-2-14 Days)
- Ascarid egg
Liver Milk Spots
Whipworms

- Another important worm
- Small (~2”), whitish worms that are shaped like a whip and live in the cecum
- Adults burrow into the wall of the cecum and large intestine, damaging the gut
- Results in a bloody scour
- Eggs survive in the environment for years
**Whipworm Life Cycle**

**The Life Cycle of Trichuris spp. (The Whipworms)**

- The adult males and females occur in the host's large intestine.
- Eggs are passed in the host's feces.
- The juveniles within the eggs mature into infective juveniles.
- The eggs are ingested by the appropriate host.
- The eggs hatch in the host's small intestine.
- The juveniles migrate into the large intestine.
- Males and females reach sexual maturity and mate.

*(Parasites and Parasitological Resources)*
### Dewormers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WORMS CONTROLLED</th>
<th>Safe-Guard®</th>
<th>Ivomec Pour-on</th>
<th>Ivomec Injectable</th>
<th>Banminth®</th>
<th>Levamisole / Ivermectin</th>
<th>Algard®</th>
<th>Pyrantel</th>
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<th>Administration Withdrawal Period</th>
<th>Feed</th>
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<td>3 days</td>
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*For use as an aid in the prevention of migration and establishment of large roundworm infections*
When To Deworm

- When clinical signs are seen
  - Coughing
  - Weight loss
  - Scour
- Every 6-8 week on heavily infected lots
- Can monitor with fecal exams
External Parasites

- **Mange**
  - Mites burrow under the skin
  - Causes severe skin irritation and itching
  - Itching results in hair loss
  - Small, red bumps on the skin - particularly between the legs, on the neck/jowl area and inside the ears
External Parasites

- Lice
  - Similar clinical signs as mange
  - Itchy pigs
  - Can actually see lice on the pigs
  - Like mange, lice are host specific and are normally transmitted from pig to pig.
Lice and Mange Treatment

- Ivermectin is the most common treatment
  - Injectable or feed grade
    - Also effective for internal parasites
- Pour-ons also available
Respiratory Problems

- Viral
  - PRRS
  - APP
  - HPS

- Bacterial
  - Pasteurella multocida
  - Bordetella
  - Mycoplasma

- Others
  - PCV2
  - SIV
  - PRRS
Clinical Signs

- Cough
- Thumping
- Lethargy
- Off-feed
- Fever (>104°F)
Risk Factors

- Mixing pigs from different sources
- Exposure to other pigs at shows
- Cold weather with inadequate bedding
- Change in environment
- Mixing pigs from different sources
Prevention

- Buy pigs from a single source
- Medicate pigs when mixing from different sources
- Vaccination
- Good husbandry
Treatment

- Consult your veterinarian
- Antibiotics for bacterial pneumonias and for secondary bacterial components to viral pneumonias
- Aspirin and/or Banamine-S for fevers
Erysipelas

- A systemic disease more common in summer months
- Classic diamond-shaped red lesions on skin
- Swollen joints, lameness
- Treat with penicillin
- Prevent with vaccines
Ileitis

Common in grow-finish pigs
Loose stools with undigested feed.
Gauntness
Acute form can be loose, bloody stools
Ileitis

- Treat/Control with Tylan, Linco or Denagard
- Vaccine available, but not commonly used in club pigs
Swollen Joints/Lameness

- Joint infections
  - Strep. suis, HPS, Erysipelas
- Trauma/injury
- Degenerative Joint Disease/Osteoarthritis
Gastric Ulcers

- Ulcers very common in pigs
- If severe enough, will erode through the lining of the stomach and pig will bleed out into the stomach
- Pale skinned
- Dark, tarry feces (digested blood)
Gastric Ulcers

**Causes**
- Often initiated by going off-feed
- Incidence may be higher with pelleted feed

**Once ulcer starts, acid in stomach continues to erode the stomach lining**

**Treatment**
- Not very effective
- Feed easily digestible feedstuffs (oats, alfalfa meal, grass)
- Tagamet?
Rectal Prolapses

- A portion of the inside of the rectum inverts and protrudes outside of the anus
- Predispositions may include coughing, scours, cold (piling)
- Can be fixed with a rectal tube or surgically – call your veterinarian
Disease Prevention/Biosecurity

- A good disease prevention booklet can be found on Ohio State’s website: