



A Solution to Mulberry Heart----Minnesota DVM- Case Study 2010

Below are excerpts from a letter received from a swine veterinarian in Minnesota:

“ A farrow to wean sow farm in south central Minnesota that weans 1100 pigs on a 28 day batch farrow has experienced Mulberry Heart Disease 7 to 14 days post wean the last two years. Weaner pigs averaging 20 days are distributed to three nursery sites. Two of the three nurseries had virtually no problems post wean.

The one smallest nursery of 400 head received pigs every two months representing only 20 percent of total pigs weaned; but lost 8-12 pigs per 400 head to Mulberry Heart Disease. This happened for every batch for 12 batches.

Various steps were taken to reduce the incidences:

- 1. Inject 3cc of Vitamin E 300 at weaning.**
- 2. Reduce Fe injections at 3 days of age from 200 mg to 175 mg.**
- 3. Increase Vitamin E in gestation lactation site to 120,000 IU/ton.**
- 4. Supplementation of EMCELLE® TOCOPHEROL in the water at weaning for 10 days.**

It was suggested to compare Vitamin E-300, Agri Labs to Vital E® 500, Stuart Products Inc. in 18-20 day nursing piglets. Two parity 3 sows were selected that were nursing 19-day-old piglets.

Six piglets were selected, four normal weights and two small pigs.

Six pigs were randomly bled and injected with either 1.7cc Vital E 500 or 3cc Vitamin E-300.

Piglets were bled 22 hours later. Results indicate on almost two fold increase with the Vital E 500 versus the Vitamin E-300.

After receiving this information it was decided to inject the pigs going to the 400 head nursery with 1.7cc of Vital E 500 at weaning. Piglets were also placed on water Emcelle at day 5. This batch of 412 piglets reported one death loss total at day 18 post weaning. The piglet that died was not posted but was a good doing piglet at 11 days post wean.”

CONCLUSION: “ It appears that injectable Vital E 500 at weaning dramatically reduces post wean mortality to an acceptable level.”