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**Observation and Remedial Action During Routine Care is First-Line Defense!**
- Animal Health
- Equipment function
- Facility repair
- Environmental deficiencies

**Barn Walk-Through**

**Observation and Remedial Action During Routine Care is First-Line Defense!**

- Animal Health
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**Barn Walk-Through**

- Gestation, Farrowing, GDUs, etc...
- Animal caretakers and manager
- During routine care as well as separate visits
- Helpful to have task and to-do/repair lists
- Training and observation of caretakers is key

**Barn Walk-Through**

- Focus on:
  - Animals
  - Environment
  - Records
- Identify:
  - Items needing immediate attention
    - Can individual resolve or is assistance required
  - Items that should be completed soon
    - Place on to-do/repair list

**Animals – Farrowing Room**

- Careful observation of piglet behavior and body condition is the best method of determining if a sow is milking well
  - Observe at least twice daily
  - Quick responsiveness to lactation failure will greatly increase chances of sow recovery and improve litter survival and health
  - Observations indicating adequate milk production
    - Healthy, well nourished piglets run around and play, especially when the sow rises to eat
    - After a successful nursing, piglets will settle down / sleep
      - Milk is frequently seen around their mouths
    - Well-nourished piglets have tight, shiny skin and a thrifty look
ANIMALS

Behavior

- Anxious and/or squealing

- Anything that may lead to a reduction in milk production or consumption, chilling or exposure to disease organisms compromises the health and well-being of newborn piglets!
  - Importance of pre-farrowing and farrowing management to minimize environmental factors
  - Recognize the difference between normal and disadvantaged piglets

ANIMALS

- Normal pigs:
  - Born quickly, and get to their feet within a minute or two
  - Suckling within 15 minutes of birth
  - Move from teat to teat, taking a disproportionately large share of the most concentrated, immunoglobulin-rich colostrum

- Disadvantaged pigs:
  - Lightweight
  - Less likely to survive weaning
  - Weakened by rigors of birth process
  - Congenital defect(s)
  - Slow reaching the sow's udder
  - Chilled
  - Order of birth

ANIMALS - BEHAVIOR/HEALTH

Convulsing/CNS signs

- Pseudorabies (PRV)
  - Signs will soon begin to appear, including trembling, excessive salivation and incoordination
  - Piglets may sit like dogs, circle or lie down and leg paddle
  - Diarrhea and vomiting may occur

- Streptococcus suis
  - Piglets are convulsing or depressed
  - Other signs similar to PRV

- E. coli septicemia
  - Apparently healthy piglets become listless, lie down, possibly convulse or paddle and sink into unconsciousness
  - May occur with or without diarrhea and can resemble hypoglycemia

ANIMALS

- Normal pigs:
  - Born quickly, and get to their feet within a minute or two
  - Suckling within 15 minutes of birth

ANIMALS – BEHAVIOR/HEALTH

Sneezing

- Sneezing at any age can be caused by environmental contaminants such as ammonia or dust
- In piglets over 1 week of age, may be caused by atrophic rhinitis or PRRS
**ANIMALS - POSTURE**

Good-performing, thrifty piglet  
Poor-doing, depressed piglet

**ANIMALS - POSTURE**

Comfortable piglets – thermal requirements being met

**ANIMALS - POSTURE**

Chilled piglets – thermal requirements not being met

**ANIMALS**

- **Stool**
  - Diarrhea/scouring

  Normal, bright yellow, solid piglet fecal material

  Diarrhea in a piglet

**ANIMALS**

- **Vomiting**
  - Piglets observed vomiting are likely infected with coronavirus (TGE), rotavirus, or PRV

  Vomiting

**ANIMALS**

- **Physical appearance**
  - Injuries
    - Cuts
    - Abrasions / abscesses
ANIMALS – PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

- Dehydration

- Hemorrhagic diarrhea (bloody scours)
  - Likely infected with *Clostridium perfringens* types A and C

- Rough hair coat
  - Can be caused by any number of infectious diseases or may be a consequence of detrimental external influences (chilling, born weak, starvation, etc.)

- Swollen, painful joints
  - *Streptococcus* infection is common cause
  - Occurs later (10 – 14 days of age)
  - May be *Haemophilus parasuis*
  - Procaine penicillin can prevent
  - Presence should be confirmed before instituting routine penicillin administration

- Splay-legged piglets

- Greasy Pig Disease
  vs. Mange

ENVIRONMENT

- Feeding system
  - Feed appearance/smell
  - Presence of feed in feeders
  - Artificial milk systems
ENVIRONMENT

- Water systems
  - Quantity/flow
    - Acceptable access to water
    - Water pressure too high?
    - Access for piglets
  - Leaking waterers
  - Stray voltage?

- Cleanliness/hygiene
  - Can be indirect indication of piglet comfort and health
  - Subclinical disease issues

- Temperature
  - Air temperature is not an accurate indication of thermal environment by itself
    - Don’t measure drafts or “wind chill”
    - Observation of piglets’ behavior in undisturbed state is best indication
  - Use zone heating to reduce chilling of piglets
    - Provide newborn piglets access to an area that provides a temperature of 85 – 95°F
    - Minimize draft (use of mats or hovers)
    - Too hot or cold increases piglet mortality

- Air Quality – Ventilation System
  - Daily observation***
  - Correct setting/operation
  - Maintenance
    - Immediate
    - Periodic/scheduled

- Facility condition
- Rodent/bird control
- Other

- Records
  - Individual sow cards
    - Feed intake
    - Treatments
  - Water usage
  - Temperature (hi/low)
    - Room as well as under heat lamps/mat surface?
REVIEW – DAILY WALK THROUGHWS

- Daily observation
  - Animals
  - Environment/equipment
  - Records

- Immediate vs. To-do Tasks/solutions
  - Maintain Fix/To-do list

- Develop training program for all caretakers
  - Establish checklist/SOP of items to be observing