



We hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer and welcome to our September edition.

Pharmacological synchronization of oestrus

There are various management methods and pharmaceutical products that may be used to manipulate swine reproduction. Their major objective is to optimize the number of piglets delivered and weaned. Those methods can be used either to increase the number of ovulating follicles or for oestrus synchronisation. They also can be used to maintain stable technological groups of the breeding herd and thanks to that uniform groups of piglets, weaners, fatteners, and the proper organization of the hygiene protocols (all in- all out).

Group weaning of lactating sows on a single day is the most successful method of oestrus synchronization in adult sows with oestrus typically occurring 4–6 days later. During lactation, follicular development is inhibited primarily by pig nursing activity.

Synchronization of oestrus in gilts.

Control of the oestrous cycle in sows can be achieved through the predictable suppression of the follicular phase using a progestogen. Progesterone is produced by the ovary when the sow is in the middle of the oestrus cycle or pregnant. It suppresses oestrus in the non-pregnant female if it is given daily and when it is removed the sow or gilt will come into heat.

There are several available products containing a progesterone substance (altrenogest) examples are: **Regumate**, **Altresyn** and **Virbagest**. Altrenogest is an orally active progestogen which can be fed to pigs to achieve this suppression and

thus allow control of the porcine reproductive cycle.

The altrenogest treatment period is fixed at 18 days to cover the whole luteal phase, even if the treatment has started in the follicular phase. At the time of hormone withdrawal, all gilts are at the same physiological stage. Follicular growth will start again after the break in inhibition of gonadotropin hormones associated with the withdrawal of altrenogest. The follicular phases of all gilts receiving the treatment will be synchronised and oestrus will appear with ovulation over the next 5-7 days.

It can only be administered to the gilts that have shown first heat, the product should be administered at the same time every day. The dose is 5 ml, it is important to make sure that gilts received the full dose to avoid cysts and decrease in efficiency of the treatment.

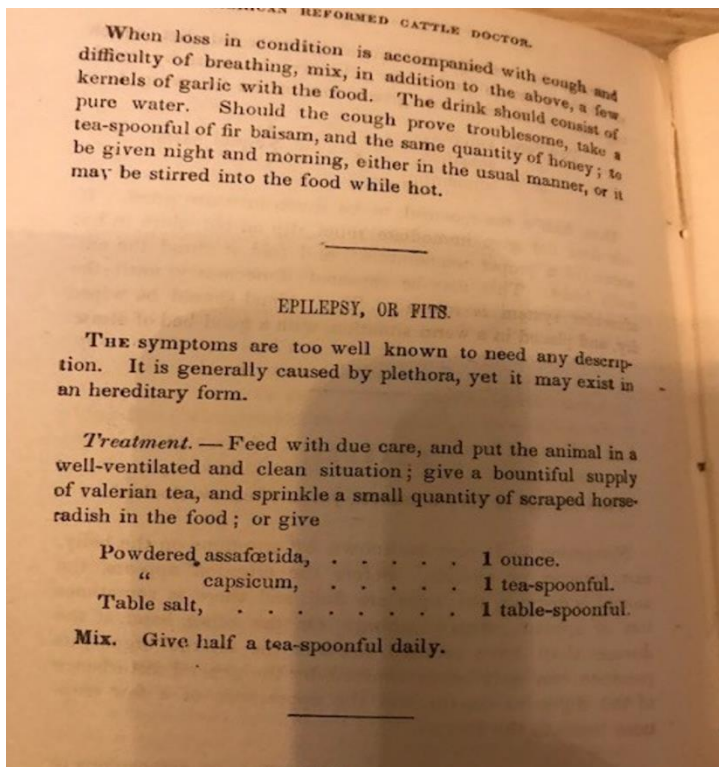
Advantages of oestrus synchronisation:

- bringing gilts and weaned sows into oestrus together. Ideal for strict All-In All-Out batch management
- increased percentage of successfully introduced gilts through well-planned oestrus stimulation of gilt groups. This allows to plan the culling and replacement of older or less productive sows and maintain the target herd parity profile.
- improved oestrus and fertilisation management due to increased ovulation and subsequent pregnancy rates,
- more predictable number of piglets

It can also be used in sows at weaning time to synchronise oestrus, but this should not be necessary at a commercial level. In weaned sows it can be used to postpone the ovulation and insemination to give additional time to improve sow's body condition. In weaned sows it can also be used to assist the creation of batching programs.

The Pig In History

The image below shows a recipe for treatment of epilepsy in pigs taken from a text of 1890. Epilepsy will almost certainly be meningitis which we now treat with anti-inflammatories and penicillin.



Assafoetida is the dried gum from the root of several species of a herb, capsicum is a pepper extract. Neither are likely to be effective! Despite this pigs survived. Why? if one looks at the rest of the treatment it emphasises NURSING—warm valerian tea is ensuring these pigs got fluids, note the importance of placed on putting in clean, well ventilated area. Well before antibiotics pig keepers were saving pigs with due attention to care. Simply jabbing a pig and forgetting about its aftercare is only half the battle. A successful recovery comes from good nursing in the hospital pen.

Bite into British



We still have a few banners spare, which we will make available at *half price* to the first 6 takers – the dimensions are 1150mm x 4500mm. It would look great on a shed wall.

We can also arrange for more full price banners to be printed if there is the demand.

If you are interested, please contact Rachel at Garth – 01262 488323.

Let's keep spreading the word!

Webinar “Funding for Farmers” September 6th

The Farming & Countryside Programme team is holding a webinar for farmers to find out about the payments available in England. Policy leads working on the Sustainable Farming Incentive, the Farming Equipment and Technology Fund and the Animal Health and Welfare Pathway will explain the offer and answer your questions. This webinar will also be recorded if unable to attend.

The webinar will take place on the 6th September @ 11:30 – 12:30. To join the webinar please register here:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/defra-funding-for-farmers-webinar-tickets-703251854227?aff=oddttdtcreator>