



PED? Is there anything that you can do?

By: Bob Lantz, Monogastric Business Manager, North America

of over \$40 per head marketed for this summer, and in the high \$20s this fall. Finally, I believe that we can also make a pretty good assumption that a pig or sow which has survived PED has most likely suffered some kind of damage to its intestinal tract. Let's further assume that it costs \$2.75 to add BioPlus® 2B to a ton of complete feed.

Through micro flora modulation, *bacillus subtilis* and *bacillus licheniformis* may "assist" in the repair of damaged villi, improving the odds of those that survived PED becoming viable pigs going forward.

So how do you use BioPlus® 2B and what are the economic implications of its use?

First, in the Farrowing Room:

Part of the life cycle of the bacillus spore includes the bacillus being excreted from the host animal via the feces. Research has shown that while in the farrowing crate, a pig will eat approximately 5 grams of the sow's feces per day. Further research conducted by Chr Hansen has demonstrated that when sows are fed BioPlus® 2B, the bacillus spores can be found in fecal samples that are taken from the pig...not because the pig was eating sow feed, but because the pig was consuming the sow's manure. So it may be possible to impact the digestive tract of a very young pig by feeding BioPlus® 2B to a sow in the farrowing crate. To figure the economics of this, consider that BioPlus® 2B costs approximately \$2.75 to add to a ton of feed. If we could get a sow to average consuming 15 lbs of feed per day for 24 days while in the crate, she would consume 360 lbs of lactation feed, or 18% of a ton of lactation feed. So the cost per sow of adding BioPlus®

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is easy to see that the potential ROI is quite high. If feeding BioPlus® 2B can help keep 1 pig out of approximately 140 litters from dying, then you will break even. I am not saying that BioPlus® 2B is a preventative, a treat-

ment, or a cure. It is none of these. What I am saying is a relatively small investment in BioPlus 2B for your sow herd could have a sizeable payoff for your checkbook.

Let's take a look at the economics of trying to help PED afflicted pigs and sows. I will start by making a few assumptions. As of this writing (5/20/14), a weaned pig is worth \$90 per head and market forecasters (of which I am not) are projecting margins

of over \$40 per head marketed for this summer, and in the high \$20s this fall. Finally, I believe that we can also make a pretty good assumption that a pig or sow which has survived PED has most likely suffered some kind of damage to its intestinal tract. Let's further assume that it costs \$2.75 to add BioPlus® 2B to a ton of complete feed.

The pig is not all that is affected by PED. It is very likely that the sow has suffered as well. Farms that are facing PED outbreaks should consider adding BioPlus® 2B to the gestation feed, as well as the lactation feed. If the villi of the sow's digestive tract have been harmed due to the effects of PED, wouldn't it make sense to provide assistance to the sow to help the villi regenerate? You have a substantial investment already in the sow; you need her to get back into

condition as quickly as possible. Assuming \$2.75 per ton, adding BioPlus® 2B to gestation feed will cost approximately \$.62 per sow per turn (about \$.05 per pig). If BioPlus®

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2B can help her get back

into condition quicker, so that she remains productive for another parity or two, that is another financial victory for you. Again, not a treatment or cure but rather BioPlus® 2B could be used as a tool to help bring the digestive tract back to its proper condition.

In summary, feeding BioPlus® 2B in both gestation and lactation costs just about \$.10 per pig...a relatively small investment when you consider the value of the sow and the profit potential of the pig.

Second, in the Nursery:

When PED impacted pigs are weaned, you can be fairly confident that they have had some damage done to their digestive tracts. This is where BioPlus® 2B really shines. If we assume that a pig will eat approximately 50 lbs of feed in the nursery, then each pig will be consuming 2.5% of a ton of feed. If BioPlus® 2B costs \$2.75 to add to a ton of feed, then the cost to add BioPlus 2B to the first 50 lbs of feed that the pig consumes is just \$.0275 per pig. This pig will probably eat another 600 lbs of feed in its lifetime, so it makes sense to get the digestive tract back to normal as soon as possible. If accomplishing "normalcy" sooner can impact wean-finish feed conversion by just .01 on 250 lbs of gain, then you have saved 2.5 lbs of feed per hog marketed. It may not sound like much, but 2.5 lbs of feed saved (approximately \$.375 given today's feed costs) is a really nice return on the \$.0275 that you invested in BioPlus® 2B... better than 13:1! Again, not a preventative or treatment for PED, but potentially a big win for you.

Summary:

BioPlus® 2B is not a preventative, treatment, or cure for PED. However, BioPlus® 2B gives you, the pig, and the sow a better chance of success as you work through a PED break. The ROI on adding BioPlus® 2B to gestation, lactation and nursery feeds can be quite high.

I am often reminded that it wasn't that many years ago that you were virtually guaranteed a loss when a pig was born. Today, the tables have turned. This is a time to attempt everything possible to save pigs, and get them off to the best start possible. If there was ever a year for BioPlus® 2B in sow and nursery diets, 2014 is that year.

Water Soluble Option

Weaned pigs that have survived a PED challenge need supportive care. They need to be properly hydrated, and need help in getting their digestive tracts back to a normal state. A water soluble probiotic with electrolytes and acidifiers may be the ideal "solution" for newly weaned PEDv survivors. Swine BlueLite® 2Bw, from TechMix, combines the strains of bacillus found in BioPlus® 2B, along with *Enterococcus faecium* (a lactic acid producing bacteria), electrolytes and acidifiers. Providing supportive care to these challenged pigs is a great strategy. Adding Swine BlueLite® 2Bw for 5 - 7 days post weaning is a great way to accomplish this.

BlueLite® is a Registered Trademark of TechMix, LLC.