International Pig Topics'

Pighealth BYTES

YOUR OWN REFERENCE SOURCE ON PIG HEALTH

38 – Influenza IV

Immunity

The immune response in swine influenza involves both the generation of antibodies and cell mediated immunity. Maternal immunity will protect young piglets against infection with the same or a closely related strain of the virus.

After a primary infection with swine influenza virus there is a solid protection (immunity) against infection with the same or a closely related strain of the virus.

Diagnosis

A clinical diagnosis can only be presumptive because none of the presenting clinical signs are pathognomonic and swine influenza needs to be differentiated from a variety of other respiratory diseases.

A definitive diagnosis requires virus isolation, detection of viral nucleic acid (PCR) or demonstration of swine influenza antibodies.

Prevention and control

Vaccination is the way of preventing swine influenza in pigs and typically vaccines are inactivated ones which are given by injection. Primary vaccination consists of two doses 2-4 weeks apart with biannual booster vaccinations for sows and boars in the breeding herd. Pre-farrowing booster vaccination of sows enhances both the titre and duration of maternal antibodies in piglets.

Vaccines should contain the strains of swine influenza virus found in the areas that they will be used in. Thus, in some parts of the world autogenous vaccines are used.

Vaccination has been complicated by the emergence of several novel swine influenza virus subtypes and lineages.