

HANDS ON HEALTH MANAGEMENT

**Sandra F. Amass, DVM, PhD, Dipl ABVP
Department of Veterinary Clinical Sciences
Purdue University**

CASE STUDY

700 sow farrow-to-finish operation in Indiana, March 22, 2002.

HISTORY

Bruce owns a 700 sow farrow-to-finish operation in Indiana. It is a family operation. Bruce has five young children. To date, Denver, his 3-year-old son, is destined to be a pork producer. Denver will grab hold of the pen gates and scream if you try to take him out of the barns.

Bruce was primarily concerned because an increased number of sows and gilts were aborting. Recently, three sows from a group of 20 had aborted giving him a 15% abortion rate for that group. Additionally, two sows in other breeding groups had aborted. The females would go off feed the day of the abortion, but otherwise appeared healthy before and after they aborted. The females were fed a non-medicated ration. All females had been vaccinated with Farrowsure to protect them against leptospirosis, porcine parvovirus, and erysipelas. Bruce performs all the vaccinations himself according to farm protocol: Each gilt received 5 mLs of Farrowsure by injection in the neck muscle at 5 and 2 weeks prior to breeding. Sows received 5 mLs of Farrowsure by injection in the neck muscle at weaning.

Bruce also mentioned that baby pigs in the farrowing house have started scouring. Scours was a common problem in the past but had been controlled for the last few months through *E. coli* vaccination with Litterguard LT, 5 and 2 weeks before farrowing.