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Myoclonia congenita (trembling piglets)

Abstract
An epidemiologic survey was conducted on ten swine farms in Kansas and two in Nebraska (1878 piglets in 251 litters) to determine the incidence, clinical signs, and cause of myoclonia congenita. The percentage of litters with myoclonia congenita was 37.45%, ranging from 4.35% to 100%. Morbidity rate was 37.5%, which is lower than rates in previous surveys in the United States. Mortality rate in all pigs was 17.73% while the fatality rate of affected pigs was 47.2%; Swine Day, Manhattan, KS, November 9, 1978

Keywords
Swine day, 1978; Kansas Agricultural Experiment Station contribution; no. 79-105-S; Report of progress (Kansas State University. Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service); 342; Swine; Myoclonia congenita; Trembling piglets

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An epidemiologic survey was conducted on ten swine farms in Kansas and two in Nebraska (1878 piglets in 251 litters) to determine the incidence, clinical signs, and cause of myoclonia congenita. The percentage of litters with myoclonia congenita was 37.45%, ranging from 4.35% to 100%. Morbidity rate was 37.5%, which is lower than rates in previous surveys in the United States. Mortality rate in all pigs was 17.73% while the fatality rate of affected pigs was 47.2%.

Generalized tremor was the principal clinical sign observed on ten of the farms, which agrees with previous observations. Spraddle-legged piglets were seen on eight of the farms. All farmers interviewed had recently purchased boars, and affected litters were the first sired by the recently purchased boars. Six Duroc boars siring affected litters on three farms were purchased from the same breeder. Stillborn piglets and malformed piglets were problems on seven and eight farms, respectively.

A more localized tremor involving only head and neck in lateral and vertical, uninterrupted movements was seen in piglets on two farms. In

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