

Construct your electronic library on pig health

To receive your regular updates please send your email address to:

pigbytes@positiveaction.co.uk



CHR HANSEN



Animine

Denkavit

Life Technologies

Norel

Innovad • Waste Spectrum
Socorex • Rotem
Lubing • Gepork
Genesis • Waldo
Tecnovit • Ag World
Ryu Arm
Alliance Genetics

Introduction

Infestation with lice is known as pediculosis.

The swine louse

The swine louse, *Haematopinus suis*, is easily seen as it is one of the largest lice known and it has a worldwide distribution. Pig herds routinely treated for sarcoptic mange rarely carry noticeable louse populations as lice and mites are susceptible to the same treatments.

H. suis is a sucking louse and the females are some 6mm long, with the males being slightly shorter.

Introduction to the herd

Swine lice are very host specific and the only animals that can introduce them into the herd are other pigs. *H. suis* can not survive more than three days away from their porcine host.

Life cycle

The whole life cycle of *H. suis* takes place on the host. The mature female lays three or four nits (eggs) a day, which equates to 90-100 over a laying cycle of about a month's duration. Each nit is 1-2mm long and is attached to a hair.

Nymphs hatch 12-20 days later and then develop through three blood sucking instars. The third (final) instar moults into an adult 23-30 days after the nit was laid.

Diagnosis

It is prudent to always consider lice in the differential diagnosis of pruritus (itching) in pigs.

Treatment and control

This is greatly helped by the fact that all stages of the life cycle occur on the pig. Chemical treatments can be applied as sprays, pour ons or dusts.