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Genesis

Mosquitoes

Mosquito attacks can be significant and can occur inside well managed intensive housing. Mosquito bites cause discomfort and irritation to the pig and can be the means of transmitting certain viral diseases.

Mosquitoes require water to lay their eggs in and the resulting larvae and nymphs live in an aquatic environment. Pig producers need to know which species of mosquito are involved and the specific aquatic habitat they like because a key aspect of mosquito control is removal of the water to disrupt their lifecycle.

Mosquitoes have been implicated in the transmission of Japanese B encephalitis as well as the mechanical transmission of PRRS virus and Mycoplasma suis.

Flies

Flies are important for a few reasons. Firstly, they are an indication of the general hygiene of the pig unit. Secondly, some flies and gnats bite can cause irritation and discomfort. Thirdly, flies cause myiasis when their developmental stages eat through the pig's flesh. Finally, flies can be vectors of certain diseases – for example, the housefly (*Musca domestica*) has been associated with the transmission of salmonella, anthrax, E. coli, swine fever, Streptococci Spp. and worm eggs.

The stable fly (*Stomoxys calcitrans*) is an annoying biting fly which, in moderate to large numbers, can be associated with depressed feed intake. The stable fly has been associated with the transmission of swine fever and M. suis.

Other flies, such as horseflies, gadflies, mango flies and deerflies, bite pigs and have been associated with the transmission of swine fever and possibly other diseases.

Screwworm flies cause primary myiasis – the best examples being *Cochliomyia hominivorax* in South America and *Chrysomya bezziana* in Africa and southern Asia.

Ticks

Although not common, pigs can be infested with hard (ixodid) ticks or soft (argasid) ticks. The significance of ticks to pigs is their ability to transmit viruses, rickettsiae and protozoa. African swine fever virus has been harboured in one tick species for almost a year!

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