

# BYTES <sup>Pighealth</sup>

Number: 146

## Swine influenza IV

Your own reference source on pig health



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## Making a diagnosis

There are several key stages to making a diagnosis:

### ● Identifying the problem

Usually someone has seen something of concern on the farm or records have identified some change (usually a variance from standard or previous performance). Occasionally, data has been fed back to the farm of an abnormality, such as lung lesions in the last batch of pigs sent to slaughter. Ideally we should be able to reconfirm any information at this stage.

### ● Detection of clinical signs

The animals in question should be inspected and any clinical signs noted. Remember to check body temperatures. A clinical sign is any deviation from the norm. The person making the observations is doing just that – he should never discount an observation. Yes, it might be a hot day and that might be making the pigs pant, but pneumonia breaks are just as likely to start on a hot day.

### ● Defining the problem

This needs to be done as thoroughly and accurately as possible.

### ● Define possible diagnoses

The veterinarian will then draw on all of his experience to draw up a list of all the conditions and diseases he considers to be possible.

### ● Differential diagnosis

He will then work through this list and on a basis of reasoning, further examinations and laboratory tests rule out those conditions on the list which he feels it is reasonable to do so. Ideally, he should end up with one condition or disease from the list and that is his diagnosis. If not, it is a case of back to stage three above and repeating the exercise.

### ● Confirmation of diagnosis

This is best done by the isolation of the causative micro-organism or feed analysis. Diagnosis can also be confirmed by response to treatment.

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Wisium

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