



## **Production Pointers**

### **By Charlie McKenzie and Derek Widman**

Piglet diarrhea, or scours, is one of the most common ailments of suckling pigs and one that is most frustrating for the producer. Piglet diarrhea can be caused by a number of things: viruses, bacteria, environmental (i.e. drafts), and changes in diets. It can be a demoralizing issue for the barn staff as it can affect an otherwise healthy litter seemingly overnight and can lead to high mortality. If left untreated, it can quickly spread to other litters in a farrowing room. And if biosecurity is not followed, it can easily be spread to other rooms.

Recently, Babcock Genetics was introduced to a new product to aid and promote gut health in the pig at various stages of development. The product is called Grazix™ and is currently available in two different forms. Grazix™ Porcine-F is designed to assist the farrowing attendant by either administering a dose at processing or at the on-set of scours. Grazix™ Porcine-W is designed to be used in the nursery after weaning to assist in helping the pig's gut feel better. Grazix™ Porcine-F and Grazix™ Porcine-W contain active ingredients that are natural plant extracts. Since many of Babcock Genetics' customers raise antibiotic free (ABF) swine we felt the need to give this product a try at some of our customer farms.

We worked with a few farms to see how this product performed in the field. At farm 1, they used the Grazix™ as a preventative in the farrowing house administering it at processing to every other room. At farm 2, they used Grazix™ as a spot treatment for scours. At farm 3, they used Grazix™ at weaning to help the piglets adjust to their new dry diet. The results have been very interesting. Farm 1 has seen almost no signs of scours in rooms Grazix™ was administered, and farm 2 has seen mixed results with spot treatment of scours. Finally, farm 3 has seen a reduced incidence of piglet scours and feels the piglets get off to a better start because they feel better during the transition.

Babcock Genetics is very interested in the results we are seeing at these three farms and will continue to monitor it. If you are experiencing problems with your scours in your animals, please feel free to give Babcock Genetics a call and we will send one of our technicians to see if this product would be right for you.