



Swine Pox

Swine Pox sounds and looks scary but it's no big deal if it comes to visit your herd.

It's caused by the swine pox virus and can be carried in on lice or mange mites, or any number of other hosts. The virus can survive in most environments and climates. Symptoms usually appear around the flanks, ears and bellies as small bumps or blister-like fluid filled areas. The bump or raised area will burst in 3 to 5 days, drain fluid then scab over and heal. Other than the raised or scabbing areas the hog doesn't exhibit other symptoms.

Usually the outbreak takes around 3 weeks to run its' course. There is no treatment necessary however you should monitor for infection of draining/scabbed over areas and treat accordingly.

Check your hogs for lice or mange and treat to avoid spreading. These are biting or burrowing parasites that cause irritation, itching and burning. The hog will find something to rub the irritated areas. Fences, gates, shelters and trees for example. The rubbing can also cause irritation and inflammation to the skin, possibly pulling out hair (bald patches) and sometimes rubbing the areas raw. This could set the scene for secondary infections.

Parasites such as lice and mange mites can carry many viruses and bacteria. Most breeders will experience their presence at some time. Lice are animal specific so they will not spread to you or other animals however they can and do hitch rides. Many cases of lice and mange mites can be attributed to wondering skunks, opossums, raccoons, mice, and even birds.

An infestation of lice or mange mites can also cause hogs to go off feed, not grow well, and possibly act unfriendly or aggressive due to being irritated and miserable. Treatment to rid the parasites is necessary and monitoring should follow for other symptoms or the parasites' return.