

Hormonal and nutritional regulation of ovarian function in pregnant pigs

Supervisors

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Summary

The pig ovulates multiple oocytes during estrus and hence carries a litter that may vary between 10 to 20 piglets. For establishment and maintenance of pregnancy in the pig, the ovaries are crucial. Progesterone secreted by the ovaries not only ensures the maintenance of pregnancy, but also has an important function in regulating the uterine environment, thus influencing the development and survival of embryos during early pregnancy. The secretion of progesterone by the ovaries is subject to nutritional factors and hormonal regulation by hormones from the brain.

This honours project will look at a number of those factors that influence ovarian function during early pregnancy and the effects on embryo survival. Secretion of progesterone will be monitored in catheterised animals, and ovarian function will also be monitored using ultrasound.

Research techniques involved

Ultrasound, surgery, post mortems.

This project is funded by the PorkCRC and a PorkCRC scholarship may be available.