

KEY POINTS TO WEAN 420 LBS/SOW/YEAR

Farrowing Rate, Litter Size and Piglet Weight

TARGETS:

- 92%+ sows bred by 7 days; 1.9 – 2.1 doses per mating; 90%+ farrowing rate
- 13.0+ BA at 3.3+ lbs avg birth weight and <10% below 2 lbs
- 12.0+ weaned at 14.0 lbs

STRATEGIES & TIPS:

- Control feed intake in gestation.
- Maximize feed intake in lactation and during the WSI.
- Review gilt development, boar exposure and heat checking.
- Provide stimulation during and after breeding using trailer boars at breeding and boars for 1 hour after breeding.
- Follow proper semen management recommendations.
- Breed females displaying solid standing heat.

Chilling Prevention & Colostrum Intake

TARGETS:

- Temperature under the heat lamp has to be 90-95°F. Room temperature the first 3 days should be 74°F, and after that it should be 66-68°F.
- Colostrum intake should be no less than 45 cc per piglet the first 12 hours of life.

STRATEGIES & TIPS:

- Dry piglets at birth every time you monitor sows to prevent chilling and lethargy.
- Manage heat sources and check piglet behavior. Piglets need to be evenly distributed under the lamp(s). Have the heat lamp(s) in the back of the crate until the day after farrowing is done. The day after farrowing, move the lamp(s) as forward as possible to attract piglets away from their dam.
- Split-nurse large litters (>14 piglets) and/or litters born after hours and/or litters with shivering piglets.

Cross Fostering & Sow Milk Production

TARGETS:

- The weaning weight target is >14 lbs, so milk production needs to be approximately 20-22 lbs/day. Avoid disrupting litters after day 1 of life and try to keep >80% of litters intact.

STRATEGIES & TIPS:

- Count and record the number of viable teats on each sow prior to farrowing and ensure that there are no more piglets than functional teats.
- Foster piglets only from extreme litters, <10 or >14 piglets.
- Foster within the first 24 hours, ideally 6 to 12 hours from birth. If possible, transfer piglets from Parity 1 to Parity 1 and from Parity 2+ to Parity 2+ sows due to immunity level.
- Prevent scour occurrence and spread. Consider using feedback in the GDU and gestation. Limit the dissemination of scours (i.e. room hygiene, do not step into the crate, disinfect the processing cart, do not move scouring piglets).
- Delay any processing to 1 day after the room is finished.

Feeding Program

TARGETS:

- >90% of sows in normal body condition by week 4 of gestation; 1,500 lbs/sow/year of gestation diet usage and >750 lbs/sow/year of lactation diet usage

STRATEGIES & TIPS:

- Periodically review ingredient quality, feed formula, and feeding protocols.
- Select gilts prior to first breeding and strategically cull sows to ensure there are minimum feet/leg issues in the breeding herd that will limit performance.
- Target gilt weight at first breeding in the 300-320 lbs range.
- Keep the breeding herd in proper body condition. Avoid letting gilts gain too much weight during their first gestation. They should farrow weighing 400 lbs.
- Check sows daily and treat immediately when necessary.
- Maximize feed intake during the WSI.
- Feed thin sows 6 lbs/day of gestation diet in the first 4 weeks of gestation.
- Bump up feed in late gestation to gilts and sows in normal condition (+2 lbs/day, +0.9 kg/day)

Technical Services Americas

Contacts: Juan Carlos Pinilla, DVM, MS; Rodrigo Teuber, DVM; Amanda Williams, MS

NEVER STOP IMPROVING