KENPAL FARM PRODUCTS INC

PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION

Dusting off the Summertime Plan

By: Ken Palen

With the cool spring we are having it seems too soon to be talking about a summer plan. But, from a sow breeding and expected farrowing rate point of view we are already into the challenge. With the potential for sustained higher pork prices next spring, and to keep as efficient with feed usage as we are by keeping sow numbers down, we should be adjusting breeding targets now. Seasonal sow infertility has always been part of raising pigs, it just seems like Mother Nature does not want the babies born in the winter. Table I. is an aggressive approach of breeding per month of the year with expected farrowing rates between a high of 92% and a low of 70% while targeting 20 sows per month to farrow.

Table I. Planning for Seasonal Infertility (Based on 100 Sows)

Month Bred	Target Sows to Farrow	Sows & Gilts to Breed	Expected Farrowing Rate
January	20	22	92%
February	20	23	89%
March	20	24	85%
April	20	25	82%
May	20	26	79%
June	20	27	75%
July	20	28	72%
August	20	29	70%
September	20	26	77%
October	20	24	85%
November	20	23	88%
December	20	22	92%

Cont.>>

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the STARTline™

Easy-To-Use Products with Targeted Solutions

sowSTART™

Helping to minimize body weight loss and maximize weaning weights

Here is what swine producer John Van Dorp has to say about sowSTART™ sow supplement:

John and Karen Van Dorp and sons operate a 180 sow farrow-to-finish operation near Woodstock, ON. sowSTART™ has become a regular part of their lactation feeding program:

"On a four week weaning program, sowSTART™ has helped keep sow condition by maximizing intake while increasing milk production, resulting in heavier weaning weights. Since using sowSTART™ we have noticed our sows breed back in a timely fashion which enables us to keep our crates full and maximize production. In these tough economic times, this is one product we would not be without, it definitely pays for itself."

John and Karen Van Dorp
Woodstock, ON

litterSTART™

Martin & Matt Metzger
Dashwood, ON

litterSTART™ Sow Supplement is suitable for all gilts and sows

To address breeding issues, Ken suggested topdressing litterSTART™, a specialty product containing unique energy sources as well as omega fatty acids, for the seven days between weaning and breeding. "I have never seen a product have such an immediate and positive result," adds Matt shaking his head. "To see 100% bred in seven days, really is quite an improvement from where we were." He is also seeing increased litter size, averaging one extra pig per sow per litter. "Excellent products, knowledgeable staff and getting solutions to the challenges we face, is why we have stayed with Kenpal," states Matt.

All of Matt's pigs are purchased by Metzger Meat Products, his brother Gerhard's successful business in Hensall.

farrowSTART™

Meets the sow's need for additional nutrients shortly before and after farrowing

farrowSTART™ Sow Top Dress Supplement is designed for individual gilts/sows that require higher nutrient intakes to prepare them for farrowing and lactation. farrowSTART™ provides an available source of vitamins, minerals and electrolytes.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

EASY & SAFE TO USE - farrowSTART™ is a free-flowing product that is available in pails. A scoop is provided with each container that measures approximately 60 grams per scoop.

- There is no withdrawal period.
- farrowSTART™ is extremely stable and heat tolerant.

VERSATILE - farrowSTART™ can be topdressed or used:

- in complete mash or pelleted feeds
- in liquid feed systems
- in vitamin/mineral premixes and supplements
- with other STARTline™ products

ADDED SELENIUM & VITAMIN E - Helps to strengthen immune system response.

Barn Space

With summer temperatures coming, it is also wise not to crowd the pigs. Table II. shows guidelines from the Canadian Code of Practise 1993 depending on the type of housing; ie. fully slated, partial slatted or solid bedded.

Table II. Barn Space Required

	Fully Slatted		Partial Slatted		Solid Bedded	
Weight, kg	m^2	ft^2	m^2	ft^2	m^2	ft^2
20	0.26	2.8	0.29	3.1	0.33	3.5
50	0.48	5.1	0.53	5.7	0.61	6.6
75	0.62	6.7	0.70	7.5	0.80	8.6
90	0.70	7.5	0.78	8.4	0.91	9.7
110	0.81	8.7	0.90	9.7	1.03	11.1

Source: Canadian Code of Practice for Grow-Finish Pigs, 1993

Notice that the top end weight discussed in this chart is 110 Kg (243 lb) body weight. New guidelines have just been released by the Canadian Pork Council in their Animal Care Assessment Meat 2011 Guidelines showing heavier weight markets of 120 kg (265 lb) at 0.82 sq metre (8.79 sq ft) and 130 kg (287 lb) at 0.86 sq metre (9.27 sq ft) per pig which are suggested based on the average weight per pig in the pen, probably for total slatted barns.

Water Consumption Flow and Supply

Warmer temperatures mean thirstier pigs. Table III. shows an estimated water consumption and water flow rate (litres per minute) for different classes of pigs. Checking all watering devices daily is a critical job to perform especially on hot days.

Table III. Water Consumption

Estimated Daily Water Consumption Levels		
Age of Pig	**Flow Rate (L/min)**	**Water Consumption (L)**
Nursery Pig	1.0	2.5
Grower Pig	1.4	3.3
Finish Pig	1.7	5.0
Dry Sow	2.0	18
Lactation Sow	2.0	36

Source: Dewey, 2001

Water supply to the barn has also recently surfaced as a problem is some facilities. Over the years barns have been added onto, and waterlines supplying these barns not increased in size to accommodate the additional water needs. Also during the building boom of pig barns, some water lines installed were just sized too small to supply adequate volumes. Table IV. shows how waterline size impacts flow rates as long as adequate ground water supply and appropriate well pump sizes are considered.

Table IV. Water Supply

Water flow (gal/min) from various pipe diameters (I.D.) assuming 4 ft/sec flow and no pressure losses due to friction, elbows, etc.

Pipe inside diameter (I.D.) inches	Flow, US gal/min	Flow, L/min
0.50	2.5	9.5
0.75	5.5	20.8
1.0	9.8	37.1
1.25	15.3	57.9

Source: University of Nebraska

Cont.>>

Feed Trough Size

Feed trough size research has resurfaced again with higher feed prices to try to prove we are providing enough space to maximize efficiency with today's pigs. Table V shows a chart that can be used as a guideline until newer information makes itself available. During the summertime, feed can become stale and intakes reduced very quickly if feeders are not sized and set correctly.

Table V. Trough Space Length

Trough space according to feeding method				
	Trough Length per Pig			
Pig Weight (kg)	Restricted-Fed		Ad Lib	
	(mm)	(inches)	(mm)	(inches)
10	130	5.12	35	1.38
20	160	6.30	40	1.57
50	215	8.46	60	2.36
90	260	10.24	70	2.76
110	275	10.83	75	2.95

Source: Pig International, 2006

Ventilation

Moving to summertime, setting ventilation is in order. Targets should be to minimize the temperature drop between daytime and nighttime to no more than 10°F (5.57°C). On extremely hot days the controller set point may need to be raised for that day and lowered for the next day if outside temperatures drop. Normal summertime settings can work well under normal conditions.

Feed

Check your rations for protein and fibre levels and consider adding fat. High protein diets may result in higher blood urea nitrogen levels, thereby cluttering up the blood stream and potentially reducing the oxygen flow to the organs. Feeding optimum levels of synthetic amino acids and less soya meal in diets can help by keeping crude protein levels lower. High fibre diets fed make the pigs digest the feed harder, making the pig hotter (heat increment) which can be a negative result on feed intake especially on hot days. Feeding fat can increase energy levels and is very easy for the pigs to digest (low heat increment) therefore is a great source of energy in the summertime.

Hopefully by the time this article is published the crops are all in the ground and popping up with lots of spring heat. There is nothing like a great crop along with great prices for hogs. Good luck and be careful out there.

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

Published by:

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