
"HOGG SENSE"

*Alex Hogg, DVM, MS,
Editor
Vol. 1, No. 2.*

*Sponsored By:
MVP Laboratories, Inc
Ralston, NE., 68127*

Split Suckling: Perhaps the best management procedure for reducing farrowing house morbidity and mortality is split suckling to insure that every pig receives one good feeding of colostrum. As soon as possible after farrowing is completed, remove the largest 1/2 of the litter for 1 1/2 hours to allow the smallest 1/2 of the litter free access to the sows udder. Be sure to hold the larger pigs in a clean warm box or basket to avoid pathogens and hypothermia.

Split Weaning: Split weaning is a good management procedure for reducing post-weaning morbidity and mortality. Wean the largest 1/2 of the litter and leave the smallest 1/2 on the sow for 3 additional days. The sows will return to estrus according to the first weaning (largest pigs) if the second weaning (smallest pigs) is 3 days after the first (not 2 days nor 4 days). (Cate Dewey, DVM, PhD, GPVEC, Clay Center, NE.)

Artificial Insemination: If a second person will scratch the sides of the gilt or sow with a scrub brush during insemination, it will stimulate uterine contractions (similar to reverse peristalsis). This procedure will avoid run back of semen when the AI pipette is withdrawn at the completion of insemination. (Don Levis, PhD, Ani. Sci. Dept., UN-L, Lincoln, NE.)

Gilt Development: Select replacement gilts at 40-50 lbs. and move them to pens in the breeding/gestation building. The breeding activity that occurs nearby will stimulate puberty about one month earlier than raising gilts in the finishing building. In addition, the gilts will express much stronger estrus. Heat detection will be enhanced. (Steve Henry, DVM, Abilene, KS).

Delay Piglet Processing: There appears to be an advantage to processing pigs at 3 days of age over processing at 1 day of age. Male piglets had a survival rate of 86.6% on day 1 processing while male piglets on day 3 processing survived at 95.8% It was speculated that day 1 piglets did not receive as much colostrum because of the stress of processing. (Feedstuffs, Oct. 19, 1992)

PRRS Serology: Monitor your own clients herds for PRRS with ELISA serology. Bleed 10 late nursery or early grower pigs (PRRS titers may have declined after 6 months in the breeding herd). PRRS may explain lowered efficacy of vaccination programs.