
"HOGG SENSE".....

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Induction of Farrowing: The routine use of oxytocin following induction of farrowing with prostaglandin can cause problems and decrease piglet survival. Problems include extended farrowing time, increased stillborns and sick first parity sows. (Bruce Lawhorn, DVM, CVM, Texas A & M) Editors Note: Oxytocin is commonly overused and overdosed by many pork producers.

Feed Intake/Lactating Sows: Some of the factors that cause low feed intake are: Temperature, optimum for sows is 60 degrees F; perhaps not enough light, 16 hours per day might be optimal; low protein diet (for every 1% increase in protein from 12% to 17% there is a 1.1 lb. increase in intake. Other adverse factors are Ca/P ratio (optimum is 0.8% Ca and 0.6% P); mycotoxins (should be < 50 ppb aflatoxin or 4 ppm vomitoxin. Overconditioned sows have a poor appetite during lactation. (Gilbert Hollis, Univ. Ill.)

Optimum Photoperiod for Sows: Optimum photoperiod for reproducing sows is not known, but having enough light intensity to read the fine print of a newspaper can be very helpful to a successful breeding program. (Rodney Johnson, DVM, Morris Mn.)

Vitamin E and Selenium for Sows: Supplemental feeding of Vitamin E and selenium in sow lactation and gestation diets maintained high plasma and colostral vitamin E and selenium levels. Pigs nursing supplemented sows had higher biological antioxidant levels than control pigs. (M.S. Loudenslager et al, J An Sci, 63:1905, abstracted by ISU Vet. Ext. Newsletter).

Sexually Inadequate Boars: At least 20% of boars used for commercial production do not perform adequately sexually, a \$50 million/year problem. A simple test for 9-10 month sexually mature boars: place the boar in a pen with one sow in heat and observe his behavior for 5-10 minutes. This simple test is reliable enough to be used alone by commercial or breeding stock producers. (J. Joe Ford, PhD, and Donald G. Levis, USMARC, Clay Center, NE.).

Nutrition and Immunity: Vitamin and mineral imbalances may lead to decreased resistance to disease. Excessive Fe, Al, Si and Ca, and low Cu, Zn, Mn, Mg and Se have been associated with impairment of the immune response. When vitamin A and E were supplemented to chickens both separately and together, resistance to E. coli was better when only one was used, indicating an antagonistic effect. (RP Tengerdy, CVM, CSU). Editors Note: Watch out for 8-10 million units vitamin A & 20,000 units vitamin E.