
"HOGG SENSE"

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Removal of the Preputial Diverticulum: Removal of the preputial diverticulum has been used to reduce semen contamination in boars used for AI. It may also increase breeding performance in boars used for natural service. Details of an alternative less surgically invasive method for removing the diverticulum in various sizes of domestic swine and potbellied pigs is described. (Bruce Lawhorn, DVM, MS, et al, JAVMA Vol. 205, No. 1, July 1, 1994, pp. 92-96)

The Cost of Seasonal Infertility: In addition to sow costs, Swine Graphics estimates that up to one-half or more of annual profits are made from late summer breedings (July-September). The pigs from these breedings go to market at high price times (May-August). The most effective way to deal with seasonal infertility is to increase the number of gilts to be bred during the critical July-September time period. (Paul Van Rockel, DVM, Profit Reporter, PAM Swine Center, Sioux Center, Ia., January, 1994)

Nutrient Intake and Sow Condition: Sows should be fed about 6.0 Mcal ME per day during gestation (about 4 to 4.5 lbs. of a corn/soy diet). There are many problems associated with overfeeding sows during gestation. Overfeeding during gestation decreases feed intake during lactation. Because 0.87 Mcal of ME (about 0.6 lb. of corn/sow diet) over maintenance feed intake is required to produce one pound of milk, decreased feed intake will lead to a decrease in total milk production. (Luis Fernandez, DVM, Hog Health, Vol. 3, No. 5, Sutton Veterinary Clinic, PC, Sutton, NE.)

Ad Libitum Feeding: A new method of ad libitum feeding to meet protein requirements is being studied in Scotland and elsewhere. Pigs are given access to diets containing high and low levels of protein but the same energy level. Growing pigs have been shown to select the proper diet to meet the requirements for maximum growth and efficiency. This may be a possible replacement for multiple step feeding. (Veterinary Medical Extension Newsletter, ISU, Ames, Ia., December 1993, p. 5848).

TLC for Better Sow Performance: Sows whose heads are stroked became better producers than controls. Gently treated sows--those patted, stroked and caressed around the head and ears--had a pregnancy rate of 88%, compared to 35% for controls. They also returned to estrus 11 days earlier postweaning, produced more pigs born alive per litter and mortality of the litter was markedly reduced. (Ani. Sci. Dept., Univ. of Nottingham, England, UK., Tri-county Veterinary Clinic News, Winter 1993/94, Barnard, Mo. 64423).