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# "HOGG SENSE".....

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**Lysine Nuggets:** The average lysine content of regular corn is .26% (as fed) and of high lysine corn (as fed) is .40%. Economics: You can pay \$2.13/bu for high lysine corn when regular corn is \$2.00/bu and 44% soybean meal is \$150/ton (or \$2.21/bu when soybean meal is \$200/ton). Current price of crystalline lysine: \$1.40/lb. Crystalline threonine is about \$4.50/lb although the price is very variable. Replacing soybean meal with lysine: No more than 100 lbs. soybean meal be replaced per ton of diet. Three lbs. lysine (78% pure lysine) plus 97 lbs. of corn contributes the same amount of available lysine as 100 lbs. of 44% soybean meal. If 3 lbs. of lysine plus 97 lbs. of corn is less expensive than 100 lbs of 44% soybean meal, the cost of the diet would be reduced by using lysine. (Duane E. Reese, PhD, Animal Science Dept., UN-L, Lincoln, NE. 68583-0908).

**Practice Tips:** 1. Use colored breeding cards for sows and gilts to color-code the week of breeding. This makes it easy to identify the next group of females to be moved to the farrowing house without having to read a date on the card. 2. Use blue fluorescent bulbs for lighting swine barns. (Tim Loula, DVM, St. Peter, MN).

**Reducing PSE:** 1. Use TLC when loading pigs, no electric prods or slappers. 2. Twelve hours off feed before loading, give water. 3. Sorting or loading alleys: alley should be 32" to 36" wide with solid panels on both outside walls. This wide alley is divided in to two narrow alleys (16" to 18") by rod panels so that pigs can see the pigs in the neighboring alley but are not distracted by objects or pigs outside the pair of alleys. 4. Pigs are followers. They don't drive well. Put a white cloth on a broom stick and walk in front of the pigs, give them a little time and they will follow you. (Tim Loula, DVM, St. Peter, MN.).

**Birth to Weaning Mortality:** Tips for reducing mortality to 5%: Provide a sheltered creep area away from the sow. Temperature 28 to 30 degrees C. (84 to 86 F.). Great attention to milk supply is critical. Put newborn piglets lacking sufficient milk onto other sows that have two week old pigs. Put this foster sows pigs on another sow that has just weaned her litters. Gilts are easy to keep in milk for longer than the typical 3 week weaning to accommodate fostered pigs and they are easier to breed the next time around. (Niels-Peder Nielsen, DVM, Denmark, PIGS, Vol. 10, No. 5, 1994, pp. 10-11).

**Preventing Gilts and Sows from Savaging Piglets:** 1. Place metal ring over sows snout with straps or cord tied behind sows ears. or 2, place a strip of duct tape over both eyes of the offending sow. (Tim Loula, DVM, St. Peter, MN.).