



Suther's
Nutrition Management People

Quality
Consistency
Availability

Breeding Management Recommendations

1. Full feed sows during the breeding period. Begin the limit feeding program as soon as sows are double mated.
2. Use Aureomycin in the breeding diet at 400 grams per ton to reduce shedding of leptospirosis and to improve conception rates in gilts and sows.
3. Use L – Carnitine in the breeding and gestation diets to improve live born litter size. Research and producer records show increases of 1 to 1 ½ pigs per litter improvement.
4. Breeding diet for sows, gilts, and boars should be at least .82 % lysine. This improves sow condition, return to estrus, and sperm mobility.
5. Do not breed too soon. Most sows will not be ready for a “successful” mating until they have been weaned 4 ½ to 5 days. Sows showing standing estrus on Day 4 AM should be mated 24 hours later.
6. Goal: have 95 to 100 % of wet sows bred on Day 7 after weaning. The percentages should be as follows:
Day 5 – 60 to 65 %
Day 6 – 80 to 85 %
Day 7 – 95 to 100 %
7. Any sows not bred by the time day 7 AM matings are completed after weaning should be injected with PG – 600 to stimulate estrus. They should show standing estrus in 24 hours. Make sure they are then mated AM & PM.
8. Sows that have not been lactating at least 15 days prior to weaning should be injected with PG-600 at weaning. Also consider injecting 1st parity females with PG-600 at weaning.
9. Breed sows on the following schedule based on days to estrus:
Day 5 AM & AM & AM – should be in estrus for 36 to 60 hours
Day 6 AM & AM – should be in estrus 24 to 48 hours
Day 7 AM & PM – should be in estrus < 24 hours
10. Do NOT force a 2nd mating on late cycling sows. You can do more damage than good if you do a 2nd mating too late in the estrus cycle. Sows that are mated too late will show a white drainage from the vulva and will recycle.



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11. Make sure sows receive boar exposure daily after weaning. Approximately 20 minutes per day is enough. This boar exposure can be done simply by allowing fence line contact.
12. When hand mating or breeding sows AI make sure that the sow does not receive any boar exposure until you are ready. It is important that boars be housed in a separate area of the building so when exposed to the boar the sow will show estrus immediately if in heat. Sows that have full-time boar exposure may lock up in standing estrus just prior to the breeding period. If this happens it will usually be at least 2 hours before a “quality” mating can occur.
13. When mating sows AI make sure the boar stays within 5 feet of the sow to be mated. The sow requires close boar exposure to stay in standing estrus.
14. When mating sows AI do NOT remove sows from the breeding area immediately after mating. Sows mated AI require an additional 5 to 10 minutes of boar exposure to continue uterine contractions and semen uptake into the uterus.
15. After sows are mated twice they should be moved immediately to their “home” gestation pen. If this can not be done immediately it MUST be done within 7 days. Sows moved or mixed after 7 days will have smaller litters and a higher incidence of recycling.
16. If sows must be moved during the gestation period wait until 6 weeks prior to farrowing to do so. Sows moved earlier usually will have ½ to 1 fewer pig on average or farrowing rates may be reduced by 8 to 10 %.
17. Make sure semen is NOT exposed to the direct sunlight. Also semen removed from the cooler and not used should be used first the next day. Rotate semen in the cooler so it does not settle out.
18. When mating sows AI cleanliness is very important. Paper towels should be part of your AI kit to make sure the vulva is clean prior to insemination.
19. Sows and gilts should be injected with Vitamin E prior to breeding. Sows should be done the day of weaning and gilts about 3 to 5 days prior to the expected mating time. This helps to improve estrus activity.
20. Producers mating sows AI should have a microscope to examine semen to insure that it is still viable prior to use.