



Suther's
Nutrition Management People

*Quality
Consistency
Availability*

Farrowing Recommendations

1. Temperature – the ideal temp for lactating sows is 65 to 70 degrees. For each 5 degrees above the comfort zone feed intake will drop by .60 lbs. daily.
I recommend that you drop the stirring fans down to the top of the farrowing crate and have them blow directly over the back of the sow if possible.
2. Water Flow Rate – make sure nipples are checked weekly for adequate water flow. They should fill an 8 oz. cup in 7 seconds in order to meet the sow's water requirements. Water deprivation has a direct impact on feed intake, which directly impacts weaning weight and return to estrus.
3. Sow body condition – try to have sows at no more than body condition No.3 and gilts at slightly more than body condition No. 3 at the time they come into the farrowing barn. Sows that are over conditioned will not eat as well in lactation and consequently will not breed back as well. Gilts need a little extra cover help get them through lactation.
4. Quality of Grind – sow diets should be ground coarser than pig diets. Ideally sow diets would be ground at 900 microns. Finely ground sow diets will eventually cause gastric ulcers, reducing weaning weights and increasing sow mortality.
5. Feeding Schedule – managing lactation feeding is critical not only to lactation performance but also subsequent breeding & gestation performance.
Day 113 to Day 115 gestation – reduce feed intake to 4 lbs. daily. Sows need to be hungry after farrowing.
After farrowing feed as follows:
Day 1 – 2 to 3 lbs. total
Day 2 – 2 lbs. A.M. & 2 lbs. P.M.
Day 3 – 3 lbs. A.M. & 3 lbs. P.M.
Day 4 – 4 lbs. A.M. & 4 lbs. P.M.
Day 5 – 5 lbs. A.M. & 5 lbs. P.M.
Day 6 – 6 lbs. A.M. & 6 lbs. P.M.
Day 7 – 7 lbs. A.M. & 7 lbs. P.M.

At feeding time if a sow has NOT cleaned up the feed from the previous feeding, skip the feeding. If Not cleaned up at the next feeding 24 hours later clean out the feeder and treat the sow with an injectable antibiotic.

Gilts should be fed a minimum 1.2 % lysine diet, sows a minimum 1.0 % lysine. For low intakes below 10 lbs. on gilts and 12 lbs. on sows plan to top dress up to 1 lb. of 47.5 % soybean meal daily.
6. Make sure that lactating sows are actually being full fed when beyond 7 days. Continue to increase intake as much as possible.



7. Rations should be higher in protein / lysine for summer weather. Sow diets should be a minimum 1.0 % lysine for cool weather and 1.10 % lysine for weather over 75 degrees. Basically, plan to use a summer diet from May through Sept. each year.
8. Increase gestation feeding the last 10 to 14 days in gestation. Plan to increase by 2 lbs. daily over the normal gestation feeding level. This is done to increase birth weights and piglet survivability.
9. Vaccines – lactating sows should be vaccinated for Parvo/Lepto 1 week prior to weaning. This insures that they are vaccinated 2 weeks prior to breeding as required.
10. Vitamin E – Injections at weaning improve the estrus activity of the sow. They tend to cycle sooner and are more active at breeding time.

Lactation Days – sows need to nurse 16 days to return to estrus properly. Any sows weaned prior to 16 days lactation, especially 1st & 2nd parity females have the potential to be problem breeders. Sows weaned at 14 lactation days or less should be injected with PG 600 at weaning.