



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### Packing the Lactating Sow's Lunch

By: Ken Palen

Watching the little people eat their lunches over the holiday season and looking back on how fast they are growing got me thinking. Are we packing mother sow's lunch full enough of nutrients to support all these piglets she is trying to feed? Of course things have changed. We now have more piglets born and weaned than ever before. It only makes sense to pack the feed with higher nutrients to support the extra piglets or suffer the potential of the sow's body depletion of nutrients, lower weaning weights per piglet, and higher sow culling rates. The modern sows will milk as hard as they can to produce those little piglets with very little consideration to their own body nutrient needs. Table I below shows the average industry performance of many current sow operations.

Table I

#### Average Performance

# Suckling Pigs	Amount Milk/Litter/Day (kg)	Litter Gain/Day (kg)	@ 21 day Weaning	
			Litter Weight (kg)	Weight per Piglet (kg)
10	10	2.25	62.25	6.23
12	12	2.70	74.70	6.23
14	14	3.15	87.15	6.23

\* Assuming birthweight at 1.5kg/Piglet

\* Assuming 1 kg/milk per 225 grams per day of gain

Table I shows piglets that are consuming 1kg of sows milk on average per day and gaining at 225 grams per day during a 21 day lactation starting with a birthweight of 1.5kg each.

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*A ready-to-use drying powder for use in all stages of pork production. Easy to use and handle.*

*Use drySTART® in all stages of pork production from farrowing and nursery barns right through to finishing.*



*drySTART® helps to absorb moisture. Use drySTART® as part of your livestock facility management program to help maintain a dry environment between bedding and/or washing.*

*Reducing odours helps maintain a positive environment for the livestock and the people working with the livestock.*

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### Fresh and ready feed

Ray McNichol of Blyth roasts all of the soybeans required for his farrow-to-finish rations. He has observed definite benefits from weekly versus monthly roasting.

"We get better performance by keeping feed fresh," he explains. "KenPal has worked with me to provide premixes as I need them to make up feed."

"Thanks to the KenPal program, I'll wean more pigs per sow this year than ever before," adds McNichol. "Pigs in our starter area have never looked so good. And while the inclusion rate per tonne of complete feed is higher with KenPal premixes, I find their programs to be more economical than the competition's." ■

Source: Feeder's Digest, Mid 1980's

## The McNichol Family - Then and Now

For the McNichol's, the swine business is a family business. Brian McNichol grew up carefully watching his father, Ray McNichol (left) on his farrow-to-finish operation. Brian now owns and operates RMB Farms in Blyth, Ontario, with his father, brother Mike and the help of his three sons Tyler, Kal and Louis. Brian has been a customer of Kenpal since he began farming and Ray started with the company in the mid 1980s.

Brian and his family have recently taken on a new farm, new pigs and a new challenge with Kenpal at their side. This past October, they expanded from a 300 sow farrow-to-finish operation to 800 sows and are finishing about a third of the pigs on their own. They are currently using a variety of Kenpal and STARTline® products including drySTART®, farrowSTART®, firstSTART®P, leanSTART®, and Lacta Fat® along with a full line of Kenpal premixes for all of their feeds. They also make all of their own feed right on farm.

Excellence in farm management, in combination with quality feed products, create exceptional results and the proof is in their records (right).

Kenpal looks forward to working with the McNichol family at their new location and with the generations to come.

### RMB FARMS PERFORMANCE DATA

March 15/15 - May 24/15

#### FARROWING

Farrowings	322
Average parity farrowed	1.0
Total born per farrow	15.4
Liveborn per farrow	14.4
Farrowing rate	96.3

#### WEANING

Pigs weaned per female	12.9
Average weaning age	19.7
Weaned/mated female/year	32.5



**Brian McNichol & Sons**  
RMB Farms  
Blyth, ON

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Kenpal Farm Products Inc., 69819 London Rd, RR #1 Centralia, ON, N0M 1K0

Tel: 519-228-6444 • Toll Free: 1-800-265-2904 • Fax: 519-228-6560

kpalen@kenpal.on.ca • www.kenpal.on.ca

If you relate this feed conversion back to a 10% moisture corn/soya diet it would be approximately a 1 to 1 feed conversion. Many farms currently achieve these total litter weights in Ontario with average piglet weaning weights of 6.23kg per piglet.

Table II below shows the estimated biological growth ability of the piglets and the milk needed to be produced by the sow to meet these needs.

Table II

Predicted Biological Potential

# Suckling Pigs	Amount Milk/Litter/Day (kg)	Litter Gain/Day	@ 21 day Weaning	
			Litter Weight (kg)	Weight per Piglet (kg)
10	20	4.50	109.50	10.95
12	24	5.40	131.40	10.95
14	28	6.30	153.30	10.95

\* Assuming birthweight at 1.5kg/Piglet

\* Assuming 2 kg/milk per 450 grams per day of gain (Harrell et al., 1993)

Table II shows the estimated biological ability of the piglets to gain 450 grams per day. This research prediction has been gathered using milk replacer trials to achieve these estimates. This would require the piglets to consume 2kg of sow's milk on average per day and gaining at 450 grams per day with a birthweight of 1.5kg each. The feed conversion would be the same as Table I. These predicted total litter weaning weights and individual weaned piglet weights are optimum for sure at 10.95kg per piglet. The very best farm I have seen is a customer weaning 11 piglets weighing 92.4kg litter weight at 24 days old or 8.4 kg per piglet

In summary we need to pack mother sow's lunch with more nutrients to keep up with the genetic potential, better environments, and better management of today's modern sow's ability to produce and wean more piglets. With this year's good corn quality we may see even better performance than we thought for the next two years. Poor quality corn seems to impact performance for more than one year so good quality should show the same. Winter is always a good time to look hard at these opportunities!

Thank you.



## **WE TAKE BIOSECURITY SERIOUSLY**

At Kenpal we take all the precautions into consideration when it comes to biosecurity. For the benefit of our customers, we make sure our equipment is as clean as possible.

- We wash our trucks everyday in our onsite washbay, which was built in 2001.
- Drivers wear clean disposable boots whenever appropriate.



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS**

69819 London Road, RR #1, Centralia, Ontario, Canada, N0M 1K0  
Tel: (519) 228-6444 or 1-800-265-2904 • Fax (519) 228-6560 • Email [kpalen@kenpal.on.ca](mailto:kpalen@kenpal.on.ca) • [www.kenpal.on.ca](http://www.kenpal.on.ca)