



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



THE YEAR OF THE SOW

By Ken Palen

With feed quality so good and the winter starting out with suitable environmental conditions for barn ventilation it may be a great year to fine tune and implement new plans for improved sow performance. Let's make this year's challenge "The Year of the Sow." Less mycotoxin challenges in feed this year have allowed us to look hard at optimizing the immune system of the sow.



First of all let's talk about the New Advances in Genomic Research taking place with genetic companies and universities. The University of

Saskatchewan and the University of Alberta are doing research on PRRS to find out how genetic resistance to PRRS may be possible and/or be passed onto the sow's offspring. This research and others may produce an exciting new breakthrough in other disease resistance and immune system responses in pigs that could be the potential for similar response in people. This may explain why some lines of genetics seem to handle some disease challenges better than others. What a great opportunity for the future in sows.

Feeding the sow can also help to boost immune systems and productivity. Providing a good base feeding routine is very important as a starting point.

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The Year of the Sow

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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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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 • www.kenpal.on.ca

Example Feeding Range for Sows

Dry Sow

Time Frame	Target Feed (kg)	Full or Limit Feeding
Weaning until bred	3 - 3.5	Full
First 30 days bred	2.4 - 2.8	Limit
Bred 30 - 90 days	1.8 - 2.2	Limit to Condition
Bred 90 - 115 until farrowing	2.2 - 2.5	Limit - Bump feeding no more than 20% (10-20%) of previous intake

Lactating Sows

Time Frame	Target Feed (kg)	Full or Limit Feeding
Day of Farrow	0 - 1.5	Limit
Day 2	2.0	Limit
Day 3	2.5	Limit
Day 4 - 7	3 - 5	(increase 0.5 kg daily)
Day 8 - 14	6 - 7	Full
Day 15 - 21	8 - 9	Full

Feeding rates of complete ration will vary depending on genetics, energy of feed, fibre level of feed, quality of feed, environment and access to good quality water.

If feeding too much or too little feed it can result in lower immune systems, hard udders, or sows off feed to name a few problems.

Specially formulated to boost the nutrient intake of individual high-producing sows, especially first-litter gilts, during lactation

sowSTART

sowSTART® sow supplement is designed for individual sows and especially first-litter gilts needing higher nutrient intakes during their lactation. sowSTART® provides a high energy, high protein supplement for sows and gilts with low intakes or extra large litters.

KEY INGREDIENTS

ENERGY, AMINO ACIDS AND VITAMINS

- Provide the extra nutrients required to maintain and rebuild the health of the animal after a period of stress.

ORGANIC TRACE MINERALS

- sowSTART® contains highly-available forms of minerals that help to maximize nutrient utilization in today's high producing animals.

POTENTIAL BENEFITS

sowSTART® provides the nutrition necessary to:

- Optimize sow body condition during the lactation period.
- Maximize lactation sow feed intake.
- Minimize lactation sow weight loss.
- Minimize weaning-to-estrus interval.
- Maximize piglet litter weight gain.
- Maximize pigs/sow/year.



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Environment

Keeping the environment clean and dry is important for immune systems function when sows are farrowed. Washing and drying is the best but scraping down manure and keeping pens dry can be very effective especially in farrowing rooms with all the sows farrowing together. New drying agents (desiccants) are being routinely used in sow systems around the world to help minimize disease exposure in potentially wet environments. This year maybe a good time to evaluate different cleaning methods, drying methods, ventilation rates, room temperature and space and housing options, all in striving to improve the sow's overall well being.

Health

Working closely with your veterinarian to lay out proper vaccine protocols, needle sizes, and medication options all help to boost productivity opportunities. This may be a good year to do a full audit of all these products and procedures with your vet.

Record Keeping

Starting up or reviewing existing records, to know your opportunities in your sows, may be considered this year.

Following are records from an actual farrow to finish operation that have been raising pigs in the same facility with upgrades and additions over the course of 30 plus years. This farm's goals are to wean a reasonable number of pigs but keep the health all the way to market while maintaining excellent feed conversions and costs per pig. Some key numbers are shown below on this farm's sow productivity.

Sow Performance Records (Ontario Farrow to Finish Farm)

2015 Yearly Average (Jan 1 to Dec 31)

Wean to 1st Service Interval	4.7 days
Average Parity of Sows	4.17 litters
Farrowing Interval	140.9 days
Farrowing Rates	89.69 %
Total Piglets Born/Litter	15.04 piglets
Average Born Alive/Litter	13.05 piglets
Average Birth Weight of Litter	1.55 kg/piglet
Piglet Losses in Farrowing Crate	1.0 piglet
Piglets Weaned per Natural Litter	11.6 piglets
Average Weaning Age	19.03 days
Litters/Mated Female/Year	2.43 litters
Piglets Weaned/Mated Female/Year	28.22 piglets
Sow Culling Rate	59.41 %
Average Female Inventory	205 sows

Example : Growing Pig Performance - whole year of 2014.

Feed Conversion

Nursery Only 1.35 to 1kg Feed to kg Gain

Finish Only 2.34 to 1kg Feed to kg Gain

Production

Meat per Tonne of Feed = 342 kg (includes Sow, Nursery, Finish)

Saleable Meat Sold per Sow = 2,825 kg

Again these performance numbers will vary from farm to farm due to many factors including how they are collected. It is always best to compare your own records to your own year to year for improvement on your own farm. But setting targets require viewing numbers that are real and attainable elsewhere. This 200 sow farrow to finish herd is a helpful benchmark.

Once the basics are covered lots of new things can be tried, such as better nutrition, more space per pig and different health protocols, etc. Let's enjoy "The Year of the Sow" with this high yielding feed we have.

Thank you.



Livestock Supplier of:



- * Specialty Feed Products
- * Vitamin & Mineral Premixes
- * Lacta-Fat® liquid fat
- * Liquid Molasses blend
- * STARTline® including drySTART® (drying agent for livestock & poultry facilities)
- * International Stock Food (ISF)
- * Silo Guard® II Forage Additive (dry and liquid)



- Providing Products to the Livestock Industry since 1983
- Feed Assure™ (HACCP) Certified since 1999 (First in Canada)
- Family owned company doing business with family principles



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