



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### Breed for the Season

By: Ken Palen

With the Great Lakes wide open (very little ice), spring is just around the corner. Breeding sows may result in lower conception rates depending on the season. Typically Mother Nature's biological clock signals sows that farrowing piglets in the fall/winter is not a great idea. I suppose she did not realize we would build great climate controlled barns to farrow in, instead of the woods, thereby protecting the newborn piglets inside the barn. We have definitely seen improvement in fall/winter farrowing rates over the past few years by selecting genetics that are adjusting to our new systems. But, there can still be some tough breeding starting shortly. The previous breeding chart that I have published for years showed an average 80% farrowing rate. Based off the new genetics and this year's corn quality I have modified the chart to predict an 84% farrowing rate while still planning for some seasonal infertility. Table I can be modified to your own farm by using previous records on your own genetics and breeding success by the season.

**Table I. Planning for Seasonal Infertility (Based on 100 Sows)**

Month Bred	Target Sows to Farrow	Sows & Gilts to Breed	Expected Farrowing Rate
January	20	22	92%
February	20	23	89%
March	20	23	87%
April	20	24	84%
May	20	24	82%
June	20	25	79%
July	20	26	77%
August	20	26	76%
September	20	25	80%
October	20	23	86%
November	20	23	88%
December	20	22	92%

### Hot Weather Tips

Depending on the diets fed to sows, the "Heat Increment" can vary.

cont.>>

Inside this Issue:

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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.*

Volume 9, Issue 2  
March 2016

Diets with more fibre (i.e. wheat shorts, soy hulls, barley, oats or oat hulls) will produce more heat in the sow's body during the digestion process than lower fibre diets of corn, soy, premix and fat. Feeding more frequently can help control the heat increment of high fibre diets. Other tips are as follows:

- Wetting feed often can help intake but feed may spoil quickly.
- Don't let dry sows get over conditioned before summer.
- Add fat to lactation rations (a little gravy is tasty to the sows).
- Keep boars cool. Heat stress can cause poor quality semen or infertility in boars for up to 6 weeks after overheating.
- Review your semen handling and storage if AI breeding.
- Monitor water supply intakes. If liquid feeding check added drinkers or add additional water to the ration, depending on the season.

### **Provide Good Quality Water**

Table II below shows a typical estimated flow rate and water consumption for the herd.

**Table II. Recommended Daily Water Consumption Levels**

Age of Pig	Flow Rate (litre/minute)	Water Consumption
Nursery Pig	1.0	2.5 Litre
Grower Pig	1.4	3.3 Litre
Finish Pig	1.7	5.0 Litre
Dry Sow	2.0	18 Litre
Lactation Sow	2.0	36 Litre

Source: Dewey, 2001

### **Ventilation**

Many producers adjust the fan control set point depending on the season. By increasing the room set point in the summer this can prevent big drops in temperature back down to set point overnight. Quite often on hot summer days a drop in temperature occurs after sunset, at about 10:00 p.m. If fans are running full blast to try to cool the room this can chill the pigs. Ideally the drop in temperature in the hog barn between daytime and night time should be no more than 10°F (5.57°C). If daytime temperature is 82°F (27.77°C) then set point should be no lower than 72°F (22.2°C). Lactation sow rooms will be set higher than these temperatures so the pigs will be less prone to chilling, but it is wise to monitor them closely.

### **Be Careful in the Fields**

Have a great spring planting and be careful out there. When the ghosts start jumping out in front of you when driving the equipment, it is time to get some shut eye. No matter how good the weather is. Good Luck!



A ready-to-use, drying powder that can be used with all classes of livestock facilities. Easy-to-use and handle. Using drySTART® wherever you have damp and/or dirty floors helps dry the environment where livestock are housed. drySTART® may also help reduce unpleasant ammonia odours in livestock bedding. Using drySTART® is an economical way to help create a better environment for your livestock and staff.

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

**DIRECTIONS:**

**Farrowing Sows, Dry Sows, Nursery and Grower/Finisher Units:** Apply drySTART® at 100 to 150 grams/m<sup>2</sup> (4 to 6 oz/10 ft<sup>2</sup>) after the room is cleaned, before filling with pigs. Repeat as required.

**Farrowing Crates/Pen:** Continue using drySTART® daily at 50 grams/m<sup>2</sup> or (2 oz/10 ft<sup>2</sup>) for the first 7 days after farrowing. Repeat as required.



*Meets the sow's need for additional nutrients shortly before and after farrowing*



farrowSTART® Sow Top Dress Supplement is designed for individual gilts/sows that require higher nutrient intakes to prepare them for farrowing and lactation. farrowSTART® provides an available source of vitamins, minerals and electrolytes.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

**EASY & SAFE TO USE** - farrowSTART® is a free-flowing product that is available in pails. A scoop is provided with each container that measures approximately 60 grams per scoop.

- There is no withdrawal period.
- farrowSTART® is extremely stable and heat tolerant.

**VERSATILE** - farrowSTART® can be topdressed or used:

- In complete mash or pelleted feeds
- In liquid feed systems
- In vitamin/mineral premixes and supplements
- With other STARTline® products

**ADDED SELENIUM & VITAMIN E** - Helps to strengthen immune system response.



*An easy-to-use nutritional top dress for sows and gilts to help improve reproductive performance.*

**FEATURES**

- Contains specialty ingredients essential to the reproductive functions such as Omega 3 fatty acids and sugars.
- A significant source of energy.
- Contains nature's major antioxidant – Vitamin E.
- Contains organic trace minerals.

**POTENTIAL BENEFITS**

- Decrease in weaning-to-estrus intervals.
- Improved conception rates.
- Maximized litter size.
- Increased farrowing rate.
- Superior reproductive performance.



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



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.





# KENPAL PREMIX + THE STARTLINE® = THE RIGHT COMBINATION TO HELP MAINTAIN A HEALTHY SOW HERD

## PRODUCER JOHN VAN DORP PULLS OUT ALL THE TOOLS NECESSARY TO MAINTAIN HEALTHY SOWS, USING A COMBINATION OF KENPAL PREMIX & THE STARTline® SPECIALTY PRODUCTS



John and Karen Van Dorp and sons operate a 180 sow farrow-to-finish operation near Woodstock, ON. They started feeding with Kenpal in 2006, and quickly began to notice some major improvements.

John started with Kenpal by feeding Kenpal's Sow Premix. Previously they were experiencing some breeding problems, but once they started feeding the Sow Premix, with the first group in only 10 days they noticed a big change in the sows in breeding. Weaning-to-ostetus interval (days) within each group quickly improved, in addition to bigger litter sizes as well.

Because the Van Dorp's had such great results with Kenpal premixes they decided to try some of the STARTline® swine specialty products, once again John was happy with the results. These products include:

### **firstSTART®P – Piglet Milk Replacer**

John first started using this for the simple reasons, helping to feed large litter sizes and the runts of the litters. It was soon after when John realized the benefits to feeding firstSTART®P to every litter, no matter the size. The Van Dorp's are seeing a consistent average of 5 lbs gain before weaning at 28 days. Also, when certain challenges arise they are able start feeding it at 2 days of age to assist the sow in keeping its condition.

### **sowSTART® – Sow Supplement**

This is another product John uses on a daily basis on his farm. "With a big litter size you need to help the sows maintain body condition while nursing. sowSTART® helps for that specific cause as well as resulting in a timely rebreed back time in the sows."

### **farrowSTART® – Farrowing Sow Top Dress Supplement**

farrowSTART is a product that John only uses when certain situations arise. He says "It's a good tool to have in your tool box when you need it; it works well to get the job done when you know there is an issue."

"I look forward to maintaining the great results I get when using Kenpal products, the relationship I have with my salesmen Andy, and the friendly delivery team. It makes your day when you work with happy and friendly people like the Kenpal crew!"



John Van Dorp  
Woodstock, ON

## 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)