



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



Depop - Repop 20 Years and Counting By Ken Palen

Time flies when you're having fun! I know that is how this producer feels about raising pigs in the heart of pig country in Middlesex County. Kind enough to share his family farm sow records with us, but modest enough not to want to be acknowledged. He has provided a great picture of what has happened in Ontario on an approximately 250 sows farrow to finish business over the last 20 years. Over this period of time there have been toxins in the corn many times, PRRS out breaks, circovirus out breaks, flu, etc. Basically all the viruses that float around and are hard to stop, but the amazing management abilities of this pork producer shows that quick responses to diluting feed with clean grains, and responding quick to veterinarian prescribed disease control actions can minimize the impacts of the negative production losses that can happen.

This farm is one of the most systematical operated farms I have known in my career. Doing all the little things that work, over and over, year to year, and if a change is made it is monitored, evaluated, and then a decision is made to implement the change or not. Having great family support and an excellent hired man allows this producer to have a flock of poultry and grow his own crops as well as operate the pig side of the business.



The Depop-Repop occurred in the 1994-1995 range but then the herd size was increased up to 250 sows over the next 2 or 3 years so a consistent flow or records are shown from 1999-2016 or an 18 year period. Below shows 10 key production points during this 18 year timeframe.

cont.>>

Inside this Issue:
**Depop - Repop
20 Years and Counting**
By: Ken Palen



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of pork production.
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pork production from farrowing
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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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1999-2004

	Jan 01, 99 Dec 31, 99	Jan 01, 00 Dec 31, 00	Jan 01, 01 Dec 31, 01	Jan 01, 02 Dec 31, 02	Jan 01, 03 Dec 31, 03	Jan 01, 04 Dec 31, 04
Avg female inventory	252.6	241.5	266.7	276.9	289.5	286.0
Avg parity	2.33	3.66	3.55	3.49	3.74	4.36
Farrowing rate	77.76	84.76	85.67	82.85	84.29	84.87
Adj farrowing rate	81.64	93.64	91.78	89.97	90.29	92.32
Avg totalborn	10.17	10.73	10.94	11.13	11.07	11.45
Avg liveborn	9.59	9.84	10.00	10.08	10.11	10.34
Pigs weaned/sow weaned	8.71	8.88	9.03	8.95	9.18	9.11
Avg weaning age	20.62	18.88	19.78	19.08	18.86	19.24
Litters/mated female/year	2.32	2.33	2.39	2.34	2.34	2.36
Pigs weaned/mated female/ year	20.19	20.66	21.57	20.90	21.51	21.54

2005-2010

	Jan 01, 05 Dec 31, 05	Jan 01, 06 Dec 31, 06	Jan 01, 07 Dec 31, 07	Jan 01, 08 Dec 31, 08	Jan 01, 09 Dec 31, 09	Jan 01, 10 Dec 31, 10
Avg female inventory	253.4	255.7	267.2	264.1	254.0	249.3
Avg parity	4.52	3.40	3.50	3.56	3.67	3.95
Farrowing rate	82.39	81.51	85.32	82.45	86.63	85.69
Adj farrowing rate	90.83	90.43	91.80	91.18	95.11	93.41
Avg totalborn	11.61	11.41	11.44	12.41	12.39	13.14
Avg liveborn	10.35	10.26	10.21	10.80	10.85	11.20
Pigs weaned/sow weaned	9.30	9.54	9.33	9.70	9.86	10.07
Avg weaning age	18.90	19.17	19.83	19.67	19.15	19.68
Litters/mated female/year	2.42	2.37	2.40	2.41	2.43	2.46
Pigs weaned/mated female/ year	22.55	22.64	22.43	23.39	23.90	24.73

2011-2016

	Jan 01, 11 Dec 31, 11	Jan 01, 12 Dec 31, 12	Jan 01, 13 Dec 31, 13	Jan 01, 14 Dec 31, 14	Jan 01, 15 Dec 31, 15	Jan 01, 16 Dec 31, 16
Avg female inventory	238.4	235.7	210.8	207.7	203.1	238.1
Avg parity	3.57	3.20	3.79	3.90	4.17	3.44
Farrowing rate	80.80	87.50	88.74	89.54	88.57	89.24
Adj farrowing rate	89.24	93.03	94.45	94.03	91.18	90.24
Avg totalborn	12.99	12.73	13.67	14.51	15.04	15.93
Avg liveborn	11.14	11.46	11.91	12.56	13.05	13.80
Pigs weaned/sow weaned	9.81	10.22	10.56	11.22	11.60	12.08
Avg weaning age	19.54	19.75	19.42	19.44	19.03	18.88
Litters/mated female/year	2.39	2.46	2.45	2.48	2.43	2.56
Pigs weaned/mated female/ year	23.48	25.18	25.89	27.84	28.22	30.88

cont.>>

Reviewing the records as shown exposed some trends that occurred after changes were made. After the original Depop-Repop and barn renovation, the feed, environment, genetics, and people involved stayed the same except the following changes:

Changes

Start of Year 2005 – New higher fortified sow program started, increased to new standards

Start of Year 2011 – New genetics were introduced

Start of Year 2016 – New higher fortified sow program started

Each time changes were introduced a trend to increased total and live born occurred. Also, note that the average sow inventory was reduced to make room for the extra pigs weaned per sow per year. The producer said “I can’t make money crowding pigs with the extra feed conversion costs and disease pressure, and I am not building a barn so we’ll just breed less sows. I also get to see the yearly feed use and cost records and the better feed, better genetics, and lots of space definitely paid off!”

The take home message here may be that it probably does not pay to Depop-Repop every time PRRS, circovirus, flu, etc. hit a farrow to finish operation in most cases. Many farms I see have been through these challenges and have dealt with them. Corn quality can vary year to year but can be dealt with using dilution in most cases.

A systematic approach to doing procedures, animal health controls, and ventilation pay off with consistent performance. When new technology does come available it is worth investigating, but evaluate the change and decide if it is a keeper.

Let’s be KEEN in 2017!

Thank you.



We will be there!

Wednesday, March 8th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Thursday, March 9th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

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