



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### Summertime Tips

By: Ken Palen

The price of pigs is hot and so is the weather! A hot price means, get the hogs out to market before the market drops. Hot weather can slow down growth, back up the pig flow, and potentially miss the highs in the market. The following are some tips to help with summertime production challenges. For specific details, talk to your swine specialist.

### Feeding Lacta-Fat

#### Growing Pigs

Add Lacta-Fat. Pigs like the taste of Lacta-Fat on feed, like gravy on potatoes. Lacta-Fat also condenses the energy resulting in higher energy with every mouthful of feed. When intakes drop in hot weather, the energy level consumed by the pigs can remain the same with added fat, balanced to intakes.

#### Sows

When Lacta-Fat is added to sow diets a week or so before farrowing, the colostrum level of the sow's milk will have a higher density of fat and therefore energy. Lactation sows also like the flavour of Lacta-Fat which can help intakes and the added density of the energy could help with milk production



cont.>>

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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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## **Feeding less SBM and more Amino Acids**

Reducing the soybean meal content of the swine feed and adding additional amino acids to balance the protein side of the diet formulation allows for more higher energy corn to be put into the diet. These formulas also allow for less ammonia cluttering up the blood of the pig, thereby helping to increase the ability of the blood to carry oxygen. This happens when the total protein levels of the diets are reduced. Feeding these diets can help in the summer as long as the corn is clean of mycotoxins or properly diluted with other grain.

## **Feeding Complex Piglet Feeds**

There is a lot of debate that goes on and on about feeding less expensive piglet feeds. Yet, recent data collected on farms shows up to 30-35% of piglet deaths in the nursery are caused by starve out pigs. Producers get excited about disease problems but when the pigs are actually taken to the lab their bellies are empty and they just starved.

We are talking about 30-35 kg of feed needed to grow the nursery pig from weaning to 25 kg of body weight so give them complex feeds, especially in the first 2-3 weeks after weaning. Put some feed on a mat or a piece of plywood to help them find the feed and check that water is found by letting it drip or putting turkey drinkers in to help them find water quickly. Gruel feeding (mixing water with feed) can also work but is very hard to keep fresh and clean in hot nursery rooms.

## **Ventilation**

Clean all the dust and dirt off the fans to improve air flow. Keep manure levels in the barns at least 8-12" below the slats. Hotter weather allows for manure gases to rise up higher in the pits thereby closer to the air supply of the pigs laying on these floors. Keep temperatures in the barns set so there is only a 10° Fahrenheit (5.6° Celsius) change between daytime and nighttime. Increase the set points on the fans in hot weather to control this.

## **Less Crowding of Pigs**

It is an absolute NO NO to crowd pigs in hot weather. This will slow growth, decrease health status, reduce vaccine (immune system) response, increase feed efficiency and more. The old school calculation of 25 lbs of pork (250 lb hog = 10 sq ft) per usable square foot of pen space is a good guideline to follow in hot weather.

## **Common Sense**

Lots of other small tips can help pigs endure the hot weather. Pork producers are specialists at this, you could all write your own book on this subject as this falls under the category of stockmanship to which you exceed. These tips and many more I have learned from you. To the young folks enjoying the hog business, don't be afraid to ask the older generation some of these common sense questions. We may not know how to "tweet", but can be "sweet" with those lovely pigs. Have a great summer! Thanks.



# 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 salesman 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  
May 10, 2012





### **BENEFITS OF FEEDING LACTA-FAT®**

Lacta-Fat® liquid fat has been shown to help provide many nutritional benefits to animals, along with many handling and economic benefits to the producer, here are just a few:

- **Increased energy density of sow colostrum and milk**
- **Greater sow milk yield**
- **Less weaning shock**
- **Improved feed conversion**
- **Improved rate of gain**
- **Consistent high quality formulation**
- **Helps produce excellent meat quality**
- **Improved feed texture and freshness**
- **Reduces dust levels in the barn**

**For more information talk to your Kenpal Sales Rep!**

**Ph: 1-800-265-2904 or 519-228-6444**

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