



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



Tighten down the Hatches

By Ken Palen

With market prices heading south, this would be a good time to review a hunker down, tighten up plan to keep costs in line this fall. Be careful though, cutting the wrong things or cutting too far can end up costing more money in the end. Let's discuss some things we can do and maybe should not do that we have learned from previous cycles. Maybe we should also watch the markets closely, there is still a huge demand for pork, especially for pulled pork on a bun and stringy bacon. Both of these dishes help use up the previously so called poorer cuts like shoulders and bellies. With the barbeque season coming to an end there could be less demand for the premium cuts like pork chops, back bacon, and ham steaks. Hopefully the supply does not get too great and the demand stays strong to help reduce the timeframe of this down cycle. Below shows a list of things we can do and should not do.

THINGS TO DO:

Cull Extra Sows

By reducing sow numbers and cutting production numbers more pen space can be given per pig, which may result in improved health and better feed conversion. This also allows to get the herd younger for when prices do turn around.

Reduce Shipping Weights

If your shipping grid allows for this, shipping lighter pigs results in more space per pig resulting in the same results as reducing the sow herd plus better feed conversion from lighter hogs shipped.

Bump up your Gilt Pool

Whether purchasing gilts or raising your own, improving your genetics or total supply of gilts may be in order. With lower market hog prices, gilt prices follow.



cont.>>

Inside this Issue:

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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 10, Issue 6
October 2017

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- Less weaning shock
- Improved feed conversion
- Improved rate of gain
- Provides high energy formulation
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It's a fact - Another Kenpal Customer has success with Lacta-Fat®

Lacta-Fat in the Lactation Sow Diet has increased the sows milk production and increased litter weaning weight by over 10%.

**Kevin Van Bakel
Dublin, Ontario**

Clean, Fix, and Calibrate

Better ventilation, clean fans, less manure gas leaks from pits, cleaner buildings, less feed waste in feed rooms and around bins all can improve health, and environment for you and end up saving costs. Check all proportioner mills, mixers, and grinders to optimize the operation of them to keep feed grind consistently at the sweet spot of 600 to 800 microns.

Maximize Feed Efficiency

The chart below shows the current estimated costs of improving each point improvement in feed efficiency in the finishing barn which is by far the best place to focus due to the high level of feed per pig used here.

Table I (25 kg to 130 kg Liveweight)

Feed Conversion	kg Feed/Pig	Estimated Feed Cost/Pig	Feed Cost Savings/Pig	Equivalent Feed Cost Savings/Tonne
3.00	315.0	\$84.94	--	--
2.90	304.5	\$82.11	\$2.83	\$9.29
2.80	294.0	\$79.28	\$5.66	\$19.25
2.70	283.5	\$76.45	\$8.49	\$29.95
2.60	273.0	\$73.62	\$11.32	\$41.47
2.50	262.5	\$70.79	\$14.15	\$53.90

Commodity Prices used - Soyameal \$460/t, DDGS \$160/t, Corn \$5/bushel (\$196.84/tonne)

Reviewing Table I shows the potential feed cost savings of \$2.83 to \$14.15 per pig and the equivalent feed cost savings per tonne of feed of \$9.29 to \$53.90.

Ways to improve feed efficiency nutritionally

Use as much good, clean corn or wheat in the diets as possible by supplying the maximum use of synthetic amino acids thereby reducing the use of soyameal. Corn and wheat are very high energy feeds resulting in less fat needed to maximize feed efficiency. Soyameal is lower in net energy than grains. Higher protein (soyameal) diets also can clutter up the bloodstream with blood urea nitrogen, resulting in reduced transfer of oxygen, potentially reducing health and efficiency.

Adding Distillers Dried Grains with Solubles (DDGS)

If the corn crop comes off fairly mycotoxin free, the addition of DDGS can help reduce feed costs at certain market times. These prices should be continuously monitored to make sure the price is right. DDGS do carry some baggage such as poor flowing of DDGS out of bins. A lot of fibre in the manure, so harder cleaning. Potential for pit foaming (rare, but there) and higher mycotoxins with levels roughly three times higher than corn that was used to produce it. A big potential benefit is the reduction in gut problems like illietis in growing pigs potentially resulting in less gut drug use needed to control these problems.

Table II (25 kg to 130 kg Liveweight) - 2.70 : 1 Feed Conversion

DDGS Level	kg Feed/Pig	Estimated Feed Cost/Pig	Feed Cost Savings/Pig	Equivalent Feed Cost Savings/Tonne
0%	283.5	\$83.86	--	--
10%	283.5	\$79.76	\$4.10	\$14.46
20%	283.5	\$76.45	\$7.41	\$26.14

Table II shows a potential feed cost savings of \$4.10 to \$7.41 per pig and equivalent feed cost savings per tonne of feed of \$14.46 to \$26.14.

Review Feed Additives

Great time to check what additives are required in your feed. Many times this gets forgotten. One additive is added, then another, and we forget what we put them in for. Same as growth promotants. Doing some things like more space, DDGS added, etc. can results in some of the growth promotants not being needed. A review would be in order.

THINGS NOT TO DO:

Cut Sow Feed Nutrition

Let's remember, 1 kg extra weight per pig weaned, equals 3 kg extra weight per pig out of the nursery, equals 12 kg extra weight per pigs out of the finisher barn or between 12 to 15 days longer to market depending on genetics and health. The potential also exists to damage the structure of sows resulting in much higher culling rates if vitamins and minerals or total feed intakes are cut back too far.

Reduce Nursery Nutrition

A nursery pig weaned at 6.5 kg and raised to 27 kg will eat about 34 kg of feed at a 1.65 feed conversion. Not much opportunity in saving big dollars per pig here. Plus the more uneven pigs the more weeks it takes to ship them out to market. Again, 1kg extra weight out of the nursery gives you 4 kg extra at finisher or 4 to 5 days better to market.

Quit Vaccinating for Basics

BIG NO, NO! I have seen this in every downturn we have been through. Good to review with your Veterinarian what preventative vaccines are needed or not needed depending on the health status of the herd. In my experience it is easier and less costly to maintain health status then to fix it afterwards.

Bottom Line

You folks will have other opportunities at your own farms that you have done in the past that may have helped like biosecurity, disinfectants, washed trucks for shipping, etc. Tighten down the hatches requires checking everything. Have a safe harvest season. City drivers don't always understand our crops are a spring and fall only annoyance we cause them.

Thanks for your time.

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