



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON SWINE NUTRITION



Are We Providing Proper Nutrition for Replacement Gilts?

By: Ken Palen

A lot has changed over the past few years, especially with growth rates and feed efficiencies in growing and finishing pigs. Nearly everyday we receive close out data from farms showing grow finish results of 1000 to 1250 grams per day gain and feed efficiency numbers from 2.2 to 2.7 kilograms of feed for one kilogram of gain. At the same time due to the rising costs of mineral ingredients and tight economics, the diets fed to these fast growing pigs have been trimmed back to minimize costs. The age of these pigs are also dropping due to these improvements in performance throughout the growth cycle.

AGE OF MARKET HOGS

	<u>Days</u>
Time on Sow	21
Time in Nursery	42
Time in Grow Finish (25 - 125 kg)	100
TOTAL	163

Now that many breeding weight pigs are only 163 days old from birth, this presents breeding stock suppliers and producers selecting their own replacement gilts with a whole new set of challenges. If we ask the local broiler chicken producers what happens when they try to raise birds on high speed broiler diets up to extra heavy weights for the freezer, they will tell you that you cannot do that or the chickens will go off their legs. The questions then start to surface about what to do with replacement gilts.



Figure 1:
Gilts with poor leg conformation.



Figure 2:
Gilts with good leg conformation.

cont.>>

Inside this Issue:

Are We Providing Proper Nutrition for Replacement Gilts?

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A blend of amino acids and vitamins developed to help improve carcass quality and help maintain index in hogs that are marketed at heavier weights.



leanSTART® should be used in grower, developer and finisher diets, from about 25 kg to market weight.

POTENTIAL ADVANTAGES

- Reduction in carcass backfat
- Increase in carcass lean content
- No change in meat quality

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QUESTIONS ABOUT REPLACEMENT GILTS

- Are we going to have more leg problems with these gilts because they grow too fast?
- Did we feed enough nutrition to build the bones and bone supporting tissues to keep these gilts in the herd?
- The experts tell us not to breed these young gilts until they are about 8 months old (220-240 days). Where do we put them for 70 days until we can breed them?
- These gilts are only supposed to weigh 136 kg (300 lbs) at breeding. They already weight 125 kg (275 lbs). They must be fed for another 180 plus days before they farrow.

These are interesting challenges to say the least. Looking back at the PigCHAMP USA database for 2013 provided by PigCHAMP 2014 Spring Edition, the percentage cull rates and percentage death rates in USA herds show an alarming difference between the upper 10th percentile and the lower 10th percentile.

PigCHAMP 2013 YEAR END SUMMARY - USA HERDS		
	<u>Upper 10</u>	<u>Lower 10</u>
Sows & Gilts Culled or Sold per Year (%)	59.46	30.94
Sow & Gilt Deaths per Year (%)	11.83	4.81

Looking at this data one may wonder how the replacement gilts were raised and what they were fed and if there was any relationship to the results. With the cost of 15 to 20 cents per head per day for barn facility costs plus the extra feed costs associated with better rations and the loss of feed efficiency with slowing growth rates, gilt suppliers and producers that raise their gilts or purchase them at younger ages have some issues to deal with.

SO WHAT ARE SOME OPTIONS?

- Do first selection of replacement gilts at 75 kgs (165 lbs).
- Find a barn to house these gilts giving extra space (12 to 14 square feet per gilt).
- Limit feeding or adding extra fibre in diets should be considered.
- Feed a properly designed gilt developer ration using sow premix not grower finisher premix.
- Set up a program to record when gilts show heat and put a program in place for breeding after second and third estrus, soundness selection, underline selection, temperament, or any other criteria you choose to maximize your opportunities before doing a final selection of your future mothers.
- Implement a proper health and vaccination protocol with your veterinarian.



We will be there!

Wednesday, March 4th 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Thursday, March 5th 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

Friday, March 6th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Western Fair Grounds, London

Booth 110C

in the Progress Building



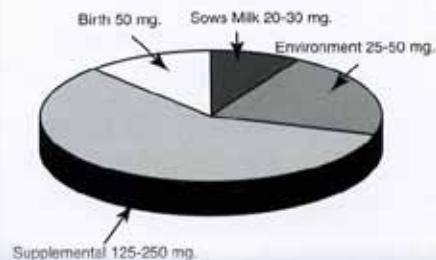
Advantages of Iron Pep™

- Helps prevent iron deficiency in baby pigs.
- Highly palatable source of iron.
- Supplies nutritional source of iron.
- Feed free choice or top dress.
- **Well-tolerated**
 - Labor saving
 - Flexible use
 - Generally increases creep feed consumption
 - Attracts baby pigs to creep feed

The Need for Oral Iron

- Baby pigs are born with low body resources of iron.
- Iron deficiency prevents formation of hemoglobin.
- Anemic condition results in slow, stunted growth and death.
- Effective anemia prevention programs combine both an injectable and an oral iron product.

Sources of Iron for Baby Pigs



A PRODUCT OF



**CONTACT YOUR KENPAL SALES REPRESENTATIVE
FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Replacement gilts are being successfully raised by selecting them out of finishing barns or receiving them at lower weights like 75 kgs (165 lbs) body weight. Then feed them a properly designed gilt developer ration using sow or gilt premix and proper soya meal (and amino acids) levels to allow them to continue to grow muscle and bone structure.

The old floor fed barn would be a great place to limit feed these gilts until they are old enough to be bred. Full fed, high fibre diets have been helpful but not real successful, as many gilts still get too fat. Success after breeding can be achieved by limit feeding proper diets to bred gilts until farrowing.

In summary, when reviewing data on productivity in sow herds with today's improved genetics, striving to reduce herd cull rates, can help maximize pigs per sow per year. Also death rates above 5% can play havoc with a measured flow of farrowings through the system. Lots of other factors to do with management and feeding issues all play a big role in total sow productivity but taking care of the new gilts in the herd may be worth a second look.

Thank you!



***A BLEND OF AMINO ACIDS AND VITAMINS
DEVELOPED TO HELP IMPROVE CARCASS
QUALITY AND HELP MAINTAIN INDEX IN HOGS
THAT ARE MARKETING AT HEAVIER WEIGHTS.***



Ken and Marylynn Van Asseldonk
Salview Farm
Salford, Ontario

Ken and Marylynn Van Asseldonk own and operate Salvview Farm, a swine farm in Salford, Ontario. They heard about leanSTART® Vitamin Micro Premix for Swine Feeds from their Kenpal Sales Rep.

They started feeding leanSTART® in February 2013 and soon saw great results. They found an 8% increase in muscle, plus a \$3.00 increased premium! With an average live weight of 270 lbs. Ken says, "We like the results we are getting with leanSTART®, it is well worth the investment!"

After their initial trial with leanSTART®, they also started to feed it in the last stage of grower, Ken and Marylynn look forward to seeing continual improvements while using leanSTART®.

***leanSTART® is NOT a drug,
so no withdrawal time is required.***

WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS

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