



# PORK BRIEFS

## THE LATEST INFORMATION ON SWINE NUTRITION



### A Great Summer Start

By: Ken Palen

Just like back in 2020 we just went from winter to summer overnight, breaking or close to breaking high temperature records in mid May. The quality of soil this planting season has been overall better than the past two years. The soil was cold, but it worked up well. There may be some decent crops ahead with good germination always a big part of the equation. Let's hope for some timely rains and nice warm temperatures.

#### Finisher Barn Ventilation

Setting the ventilation is key. Just recently in the middle of May, the temperature moved from 5° Celsius (41° Fahrenheit) to up to 32°C (90°F) in a few days and then back down to 10°C. Talk about chilling pigs. The barn thermostats should be raised up to summertime settings so the temperature



does not drop too fast overnight. Too fast of a drop will chill pigs and potentially make them sick. Setting thermostats at 24°C (75°F) in the spring, summer, and fall will help keep the temperatures from dropping too quick overnight. It may cost a bit more to heat in the spring and fall on the cold nights, but it will help keep the pigs healthy. Many barns set finisher barn temperature between 20-22°C (68-72°F) in the winter depending on the size of the pigs and genetics. Also, don't forget to open the air inlets for the summer and tighten them back down for winter. Air that is moving too fast can drop down into the pits and pull up manure gas. By opening the inlets the air volume coming in is increased, thereby slowing down the air movement. The goal is to not have more than 5.6°C (10°F) change in temperature between day and night. On very hot days, some producers will raise the thermostat temperatures during the day above 24°C (75°F) and lower them back down at night to regular summer settings.

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Inside this Issue:

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*Get your piglets off to the right start with firstSTART® P piglet milk replacer.*



**A mildly acidified milk replacer designed to supplement or replace nutrition for young piglets.**

**Helps to increase weaning weights and prevent growth reduction at weaning with:**

- Dairy products of the highest quality
- A high concentration of protein
- Easily digestible fat
- Essential amino acids
- Minerals and vitamins

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## 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.



Fans should all be washed (if possible) or cleaned, so dust build up on the louvers is not restricting air flow out. Inlets should be checked to make sure they are working properly. Getting your ventilation expert from your equipment supplier to check things over would probably pay off once every year or two.

### Nursery Barn Ventilation

The same settings as the finisher barn. Raise your bottom set points up to 24°C (75°F) minimum if you are currently dropping below that level.

### Water

Check all waterers for flow rates. With higher temperatures, more water is required to be provided and consumed.

**Table 1. 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
Lacation Sow	2.0	36 Litre

(Source: Dewey, 2001)

### Feed Bins, etc

Feed bins, augers, storage tanks, etc. should all be checked for buildup of moulding feed, bugs, moisture spots getting in, etc. It is much easier to clean everything out in the summer, than unplug it in the winter. By completely emptying the bins you can check for what I refer to as Christmas trees growing in them.

### Overcrowding Pigs

Warmer weather is not a time to overcrowd pigs. Give them more space and they will race to market quicker, resulting in the availability of more space to give. Crowded pigs also raise the risk of decreased health status, reduced immune system (poor vaccine response), and potentially increase in feed to gain, therefore raising feed cost. A calculation that has been used for years is 25 lbs (11.34 kg) of pork per usable square foot of pen space. In total slats that would be a 250lb (113 kg) hog would need 10 square feet (1 square meter) of space.

### Nutrition

Keep nursery piglets eating and drinking. If need be, try gruel feeding for 2 or 3 days after weaning (Mixing water and feed) but keep it fresh. This must be fed twice daily at a minimum to work well. Keep dry feed in the feeders at the same time. Do not gruel feed too long or changing to dry feed will be like weaning the piglets twice. Use highly digestible, complex diets to get the nursery pigs eating well, with good clean heaters and fans, and provide proper ventilation.

Growing pigs do better on lower fibre diets in hot weather. Fibre will raise the heat increment of the diet by making the feed harder to digest which creates more body heat in the process. Making pigs hotter in hot weather is not a good thing. Also, feeding a high AA (balanced amino acid) diet allows the crude protein in the diet to be reduced while still meeting the amino acid needs of the pigs (Protein is made up of amino acids). This allows the pig's body to produce less excess blood urea nitrogen which can clutter up the blood stream and reduce the transfer of oxygen through the blood to the organs. This should help keep the pig's immune system working well.

Sow nutrition needs to be maintained to intake. Higher summertime temperatures can reduce the total intake in some situations. If so, the nutrient density of the sow feeds may need to be adjusted by adding fat.

For all swine, feeding Lacta-Fat in the summer can make the feed more palatable and increase the energy levels of the diets which can help with the potentially lower feed intakes. I always say, it is like putting gravy on potatoes, they like it! With this years higher prices on all commodities, including fat, diets should be re-visited to optimize energy addition to get the biggest bang for your buck.

An excellent start to the growing season gives us hope for higher yields this fall. Enjoy your summer get togethers. An old farmer just told me last week, "Only worry about what you can control, and don't fret over the things you cannot".

Thank you.



#### **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**



**WE APPRECIATE YOUR BUSINESS**

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