



PIG



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FEEDING PIGS FOR PERFORMANCE

The optimal fat-to-meat ratio is important to any pig farmer as it determines the quality of meat and hence profitability. All our rations are scientifically formulated to give pigs perfectly balanced feed, in order to achieve the optimal lean meat percentage.

OUR FOCUS

- Supplementation of sow's milk in the first week.
- Fertility.
- Optimal muscle and bone development.
- Optimal fat-to-meat ratio.
- Feed efficiency.
- Nutritionally balanced feed for the different classes of pigs.
- Consistent quality.

KEY FEEDING TIPS

- Always provide ample fresh, cool water. Poor water supply can slow the growth rate of pigs, and lower feed intake in lactating sows, leading to a loss in condition and a drop in milk production.
- Feed creep feed from seven days of age until a week after weaning.
- Ensure the sow does not have access to the creep feed.
- To minimise embryo mortality, pay attention to the condition of the sow and feed according to her body condition during the first 30 days of gestation.
- Ensure lactating sows are fed as recommended in the feeding table in this brochure to achieve maximum milk production. Low feed intake will decrease litter weight gain and subsequent reproductive performance.
- Feed dry sows according to the recommendations contained in this brochure so that they farrow at the correct weight.
- Feed boars and sows, the sow and boar diet. The daily feeding rate should change according to differences in season, condition and the workload of the boar.

THE SUCKLING PIGLET

The pregnant sow should be dewormed 2-3 weeks prior to farrowing to reduce the possibility of the sow passing worms to the new born piglets. Management is especially critical during the first 72 hours after birth, since most piglet losses occur during this time.

The first eight hours after birth are the most critical in determining which piglets reach the optimum weight at weaning. Many losses of new born piglets are caused by stress due to being too cold, therefore extra heating must be provided. The creep area should be kept at 28 °C and the room temperature at 21-23 °C. Piglets should also be encouraged to suckle colostrum within 45 minutes after birth. The behaviour of the piglets will indicate whether they are comfortable. Within 24 hours of birth, individual piglets should be marked for identification and record purposes, as well as teeth clipped and tails docked.

Surviving piglets double their weight weekly during the first three weeks after birth. Sow milk does not contain an adequate supply of nutrients to sustain rapid growth of a young pig beyond 21 days; hence the need to provide creep feed to the litter before weaning. Piglets will normally be interested in creep feed at around seven days of age. Proper feed changes are essential for minimising aggression and tail-biting, as well as to ensure optimum growth.

THEORETICAL COMPARISON FOR GROWING PIGS

Theoretical comparison of weight for age, feed intake per day, cumulative feed consumed and feed conversion ratio data for growing pigs.

STAGE	AGE (days)	START DAYS	WEIGHT (kg/pig)			FEED PER DAY (kg)	CUMULATIVE		WEEKLY		
			TARGET	GOOD	MARGINAL		INTAKE kg/pig	FCR g/g	GROWTH g/day	INTAKE kg/pig	FCR g/g
Weaner	56	1	25	21	18	1,4	10	1,4	986	1,4	1,4
	63	8	32	27	22	1,6	21	1,5	1 014	1,6	1,6
	70	15	39	33	27	1,8	33	1,6	1 043	1,8	1,7
Porker	77	22	46	39	32	1,9	47	1,6	1 057	1,9	1,8
	84	29	54	46	38	2,1	61	1,7	1 086	2,1	1,9
	91	36	61	52	43	2,2	76	1,7	1 086	2,2	2,0
	98	43	69	59	48	2,3	92	1,8	1 114	2,3	2,1
	105	50	77	65	54	2,4	109	1,8	1 086	2,4	2,2
	112	57	84	72	59	2,5	126	1,9	1 014	2,5	2,4
	119	64	91	78	64	2,5	144	2,0	943	2,5	2,7
	126	71	98	83	69	2,6	162	2,1	857	2,6	3,0
Baconer*	133	78	104	88	73	2,7	181	2,1	786	2,7	3,4
	140	85	110	93	77	2,7	200	2,2	729	2,7	3,7
	147	92	115	97	80	2,8	219	2,3	671	2,8	4,1
	154	99	119	101	84	2,8	239	2,4	614	2,8	4,6
	161	106	124	105	87	2,8	259	2,5	571	2,8	5,0
	168	113	128	108	89	2,9	279	2,6	529	2,9	5,4

* Baconer: We recommend using the Porker ration continuously if only growing pigs to 90 kg live weight. If one is growing pigs to >90 kg, use the Baconer as indicated.

SOW AND BOAR

Feeding costs and sow productivity are the two most important variables in the swine business. Although gestation and lactation diets represent approximately 16% of the feed usage on a farrow-to-finish operation, it is vital that these diets be correctly formulated to the productivity level of the herd and get fed at the correct amounts.

The dry period is the time interval from weaning to farrowing where the sow is unproductive.

Careful management of sows during pregnancy and lactation, and from weaning to mating, contributes to sows being mated as soon as possible after weaning. Proper boar feeding and management are necessary before and during the breeding season. This includes feeding, housing, health and service capacity. When good management practices are not followed, the performance that you obtain from the boar is often disappointing.



FEEDING TABLE

PRODUCT	Act 36/1947 Reg. No.	ANIMAL TYPE	FEEDING GUIDE
OptiGro Sow & Boar	V30857	Pregnant sow	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed pregnant sows 2 kg/day in summer and 2.5 kg/day in winter.
		Gilts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 2.75 kg/day.
		Boar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed boars 2 kg/day in summer and 2.5 kg/day in winter. Hard working boar's feed allocation may need to be adjusted higher depending on the work rate and body condition. Ensure not to overfeed the boar as it will become lazy, negatively impacting libido.
OptiGro Lactating Sow	V30854	Sow	<p>Into farrowing house</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 2 kg/sow/day until two days after farrowing. Thereafter gradually increase allocation over the next seven days. The sow should be eating 2.5 kg/day plus 0.5 kg/piglet/day by the end of the seven days. Consumption is between 6 – 8 kg/day. Feed sows twice a day (half in the morning and half in the afternoon) to ensure they always have access to fresh feed stimulating feed intake. Use this as a guide only – judge condition of sow; with thin sows increase the allocation, and overweight sows reduce the allocation. Lactating sow can be fed ad lib during wean to serve interval.
OptiGro Pig Creep	V30846	Sucklers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed ad lib from seven days to one week after weaning. Ensure piglets always have access to fresh feed.
OptiGro Pig Weaner	V30849	Weaner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed ad lib from one week after weaning up to 70 days. This follows the feeding of OptiGro Pig Creep from 7 – 35 days of age.
OptiGro Porker	V30850	Porker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed ad lib from 70 days of age up to slaughter. If growing pigs to >90 kg use the OptiGro Baconer as indicated.
OptiGro Baconer	V30853	Baconer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed ad lib from 90 kg live mass till slaughter.
Pig Growth and Sow	V8850	Grower	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed ad lib from 70 days to slaughter.
		Pregnant sows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 2 kg/day (+ 0.5 kg/day in winter)
		Dry Sows (weaning to serve)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 4 - 6 kg/day
		Gilts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 2.75 kg/day
		Lactating sows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed 2 kg + 0.5 kg/piglet/day

All products are registered under Act No. 36 of 1947.



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