

Pig Production | Notes

Key Information

- Length of oestrous cycle: 21 days
- Duration of oestrous: 2-3 days
- Length of gestation: 3 months, 3 weeks, 3 days or 115 days
- Average litter size: 11
- Weight of bonhams at birth: 1-1.5kg

Criss-Cross Breeding

- Ideal sow is crossbred landrace x large white
- This maintains the best characteristics from both breeds
- Cost effective
- No loss in hybrid vigour
- Purebred large white and landrace boars used
- First generation crossbred gilts

Establishing Criss-Cross Breeding

First generation

- Crossbred gilt mated with purebred boar e.g. LW

Second generation

- Replacements are mated with opposite purebred et LR
- Maintains hybrid vigour

Third generation

- Best gilts are kept and mated with opposite boar again e.g. LW

Boars are replaced every 2 years to prevent inbreeding

Bacon Production

- Majority of production takes place in an integrated pig production unit
- Pigs are born and raised for slaughter on same farm
- Reduces movement of pigs therefore less stress and disease
- Pigs are kept mainly indoors

The Dry Sow House

- Houses sows, gilts and boars
- Boars must be in sight and smell of sows
- This releases pheromones which encourages the sows into heat
- Sow is moved here after weaning
- Sows come back into heat 5-7 days later
- Once the sow is detected in heat she is double served within 24 hours. This increases litter sizes
- A gilt is not served on her first heat as she would produce a small litter
- Pregnant sows are here until 1 week before farrowing
- Sows are fed 2.5kg dry sow ration a day
- In the final 3-4 weeks she is fed an extra 0.5kg/day
- Steaming up is carried out;
- Good milk production
- Healthy bonhams
- Dry sow ration = 17.5% crude protein, 4% fibre, 1% lysine

Farrowing House

Before housing

- Washed and disinfected
- Deloused
- Dosed for endoparasites
- Vaccinated

Housing

- 20 degrees C
- Creep area = 30 degrees C
- Infrared lamp
- Attract bonhams away from sow
- Creep feed

Farrowing crate

- Prevents sow from crushing bonhams
- Allows movement and access

Birth, Suckling And Weaning

- Teeth and tails clipped
- Injection of iron to prevent anaemia
- Replacement gilts will have their ears notched
- Suckle for 4-5 weeks
- Sows fed 1.8kg of suckling ration daily + 0.5kg per bonham
- After 1 week creep feed is introduced (21% protein, 1.5% lysine)
- Bonhams weaned at 4-5 weeks
- Sow is returned to dry sow house

Factors That Contribute To Mortality In Bonhams

- Not vaccinating sow
- Not giving an iron injection
- Farrowing house at wrong temperature
- No farrowing crate
- Incorrect feeding of sow
- No lysine in feed

Weaner Management And Feeding

- Bonhams are 9kg on entering the weaner house
- Grouped according to their size and weight
- Link ration is given ad lib for first two weeks (21% protein, 1.45% lysine)
- Weaner ration (18-20% protein, 1.3% lysine)
- 24 degrees C
- Moved to fattener house at 32kg
- Farrowing and weaner house together are known as the breeding unit

Fattener Management And Feeding

- Grouped according to size and weight
- Fattener ration = 14-16% protein, 1.17% lysine
- Finishing unit
- 22 degrees C
- Slaughter weight of 80-82kg
- Replacement gilts stay for further 4-6 weeks until 100-140kg

Factors That Affect FCR In Pigs

FCR values

- Weaners = 1.75:1
- Fatteners = 3.25:1

Diet

- Specially formulated rations
- Contain correct protein, vitamins, minerals etc.

Breed

- LW confers good FCR on its offspring
- Costs less to feed

Health

- Healthy disease free pigs have low FCR

- One-way movement reduces risk of disease

Housing-temperature

- Well insulated/low roofs

Management

Carcass Grading In Pigs

- Graded according to lean meat percentage content
- Thickness of back fat and muscle depth are measured
- Carcass quality is influenced by breed and diet

<u>Lean meat as a % of carcass weight</u>	<u>Letter Grade</u>
60 or more	S
55-60	E
50-55	U
45-50	R
40-45	O
Less than 40	P