

H21 – Individual adjustment of feed dose

Sows that are fed correctly have a high milk yield and a limited weight loss during lactation.

1. Daily routines for feeding and adjustment of feed dose

- Empty the troughs before the morning feeding
- Follow feeding minimum once a day and check that all sows get up to eat
- Adjust feed dose 30 minutes after one of the daily feedings. Always pick the same feeding every day
- If a sow has not eaten up, empty the trough and lower the feed dose
- If the sow has stopped, skip the next feeding
- Empty the troughs before you leave for the day so that the sows have access to clean water in the troughs throughout the night
- The person responsible for the section should also be the person emptying troughs and adjusting feed doses as that ensures steady adjustments

2. Adjustment of the feed dose – dry feed

If a sow eats its ration and licks the trough:

- The first week after farrowing:
 - Increase by +0.5 FUsow/day
- Then:
 - Increase by +0.25 FUsow/day until max feed dose is reached
 - If you only adjust feed dose on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, increase by +0.5 FUsow each time

3. Adjustment of the feed dose – liquid feed

Overall, follow the same principles as for adjustment of dry feed, but increases up to max feed dose are managed with a computerized feed curve and percentage regulations.

- A minimum feed curve is used and therefore most sows need to be increased to reach the target
- Use percentage regulations if you deviate from the feed curve. Note: the higher the feed dose, the higher the change in amount fed at a given percentage regulation.



This sow has eaten up and is being given 0.25/+0.5 FUsow/day



The sow cannot keep up with the feed curve. Empty the trough and lower the feed dose. If the sow has stopped, skip the next feeding



This sow is fed correctly

Max feed dose achieved d 17 after farrowing

Milk production peaks around day 17 and remains stable until weaning. Max feed dose should therefore be achieved by day 17.

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1.	Daily routines for feeding and adjustment of feed dose When you lower the feed dose, remember to empty any leftovers in the trough as the regulation will otherwise not be effective immediately. The sow's appetite is negatively affected by having to eat leftovers and not having access to fresh water.
1.	Lactating sows need 35-50 l water a day. Too little water will lower feed intake as well as milk production.
1.	Sows should eat minimum 226 FU or 292 FU in a 28-day or 35-day lactation period, respectively. If the feed intake is too low, the sow produces less and there is a risk of a large weight loss and a negative effect on the subsequent reproduction.
2.+3.	Adjustment of feed dose – dry feed and liquid feed If a sow has licked the trough 30 minutes after feeding, gradually increase its feed dose so that it follows the target feed curve.
2.+3.	If a sow has eaten up, but not licked the trough clean, the feed dose is correct and no further adjustments are needed that day.
2.	Adjustment of feed dose if a sow does not eat up - dry feed A little feed is left: Reduce the feed dose by 30% and empty the trough. If the sow then eats up, gradually increase the feed dose according to the target feed curve over the next couple of days.
2.	A lot of feed is left: Skip the next feeding, empty the trough and lower the feed dose by 30-50%. If the sow then eats up, gradually increase the feed dose according to the target feed curve over the next couple of days. If a sow repeatedly stops, keep the feed dose just below the target feed curve so that the sow is fed as much as possible without stopping.
3.	Adjustment of feed dose if a sow does not eat up - liquid feed A little feed is left: Reduce the feed dose by 30% and return to the feed curve gradually over three days. Remember to empty the trough.
3.	A lot of feed is left: Skip the next feeding, empty the trough, lower the feed dose by 30-50% and return to the feed curve gradually over 3-5 days. If the sow repeatedly stops, use a fixed percentage reduction, so that the sow is fed as much as possible without stopping.