

## H19 – Feeding of lactating sows – liquid feed/dry feed

**Correct feeding of sows ensures a high milk yield and limits weight loss during lactation.**

### 1. At transfer to the farrowing facility

- Do not switch ingredients between gestation and lactation diets
- Three daily feedings, evenly distributed, are recommended for optimum farrowing
- From transfer and until farrowing, feed the sows 3.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day
- Feed gilts 0.2-0.3 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day less than the sows until farrowing.

### 2. After farrowing

- Recommendation: Three daily feedings evenly distributed
- In the first week after farrowing, increase the daily feed dose by 0.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day
- Adjust by +0.25 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day until you reach max feed dose
- Adjust the feed dose 30 minutes after one of the daily feedings. Pick the same feeding every day.
- Feed gilts 0.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day less than the sows until farrowing.

### 3. How to use the guiding feed curve

- Adapt the feed curve to the herd in question
- The example to the right shows a feed curve for an average sow rearing 13 piglets

#### 3.a Dry feed:

- Make a guiding feed curve that matches the volume of the feeder
- Use the feed curve to the right.

#### 3.b. Liquid feed:

- Enter the minimum feed curve in appendix 16 in the computer
- How to adjust the feed dose:
  - a. Use the minimum feed curve with per cent adjustment
  - b. Use the minimum feed curve with the "pig method"

### 4. Feeding around weaning

- Sows should not fast on the day of weaning as that will negatively affect reproduction hormones and may impact the subsequent ovulation
- Feed sows 4.0 FU<sub>sow</sub> on the day of weaning, either in the farrowing facility or the service facility
- Do not make sudden changes in ingredient composition at weaning.

### Feed curve for sows

Aim of high feed intake, day 0 = day of farrowing

Day after farrowing	Aim, feed dose, FU <sub>sow</sub>
-2	3.5
-1	3.5
0	3.5
1	4.0
2	4.5
3	5.0
4	5.5
5	6.0
6	6.5
7	7.0
8	7.25
14	8.75
16	9.25
17	9.5
21	9.5
28	9.5
35	9.5

#### Final feed dose:

When the feed curve reaches max, the rule of thumb says 3 FU<sub>sow</sub> for the sow and 0.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/piglet, corresponding to 9.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day with 13 piglets.

Sows with 11 piglets have max 8.5 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day.

#### Weight loss:

Sows typically lose 6-7% of their body weight (approx. 20 kg) during lactation. This will not negatively affect the subsequent reproduction.

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1.	3.2 FUsow/day for gilts and 3.5 FUsow/day for the sows until farrowing assures the foetuses of energy.	
1.	In certain <u>liquid feeding systems</u> some valves deliver too little or no feed at all at the three daily feedings. In these cases, two daily feedings are recommended from transfer to the farrowing facility and until day 4 after farrowing. In some <u>dry feeding systems</u> it may also be difficult to adjust the feeders to deliver small doses.	
2.	Three daily feedings evenly distributed during the day ensure a stable supply of energy for milk production and make the sow get up and drink several times a day. If the sows are fed twice a day, leave as much time between the feedings as possible.	
2.	Too little feed: the sow will lack energy for milk production. Too much feed: Increases the risk of the sow stopping whereby the overall feed intake during lactation drops.	
2.	Sows' appetite may drop around farrowing, If the sows have not eaten all the feed, always empty the trough 30 minutes after feeding to make sure they have access to clean water. Sows fed liquid feed also need regular water supply as liquid feed covers max 50% of their water requirement.	
3.	Sows that are fat at transfer to the farrowing facility should be given max 8 FUsow/day so that they lose weight in the farrowing facility.	
3.	Gradually increase the feed dose to prevent the sow stopping. Follow the feed curve day by day in the first week of lactation. Subsequently manually adjust feed Monday-Wednesday-Friday to make the energy intake follow the milk yield.	
3.	Adjustment of feed doses should be made by the person on charge of the section.	
3.	Ideally, feed according to the following strategy: 34% of the feed at 7 o'clock; 33% of the feed at 14 o'clock; 33% of the feed at 21 o'clock.	
3.	Aim for minimum 8 hours rest between evening and morning feedings. In warm weather, change feeding to cool periods, for instance at 5 o'clock, 11 o'clock and 21 o'clock.	
3.a.	You need to know how much feed each volume setting on a feeder delivers. Do this by weighing how many grams eg volume settings 1, 2, 4 and 6 correspond to. Subsequently calculate how many FUsow each setting delivers and make a schedule of adjustments. Install 2-3 feed boxes in the middle of each feed pipe to make it easy to collect the feed in a bucket.	
3.b.	Liquid feeding: Verify that the feed's energy content and dry matter content are entered correctly into the computer.	
	<p><b>Sows have not eaten up 30 minutes after feeding</b> may be attributed to several factors</p> <p>Fat sows eat less than sows in normal body condition</p> <p>The fed curve is too steep</p>	<p><b>Sows have a high weight loss</b> may be attributed to several factors</p> <p>Feed supply is too restricted for the milk yield</p>
	<p>Changed feed volume and/or energy content. Remember also to update ingredients in liquid feeding systems</p> <p>Gastric ulcers; perform gastric USK on 20 sows slaughtered after weaning.</p> <p>Inadequate water supply. Valves must have a minimum output of 4 l water/minute</p> <p>Disease</p> <p>The taste of the feed is changed due to change in grain types or different ingredients.</p> <p>Room temperature is too high.</p>	