

Bethany Swine Health Services

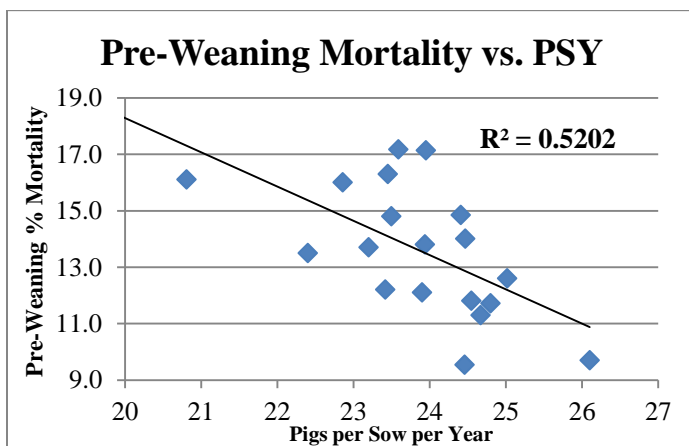
COMPETITIVE PORK PRODUCTION

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Achieving <10% Pre-Weaning Mortality

The parameter that most influences pigs per sow per year (PSY) is pre-weaning mortality. 52% of the variation in PSY in last year's BSHS Production Database can be attributed to pre-weaning mortality. This beats out both farrowing rate (30%) and liveborn (24%), and is truly an area where dedicated effort can lead to great rewards.



Two-thirds of pre-weaning mortalities occur in the first two days of life, and 50% of deaths are attributed to laid-ons, so concentrated effort during this timeframe is essential for success.

Achieving less than 10% pre-weaning mortality, even with the ever-rising number of pigs being born, is possible. There are farms in the industry achieving these goals now, however, everyone on the production team needs to believe that these are achievable goals. Every part of the process from beginning to end must be managed effectively.

Sanitation & Preparation

Powerwashing farrowing rooms is typically a job on the farm given to the person with the least experience, but it is also one of the most important. Properly cleaning and sanitizing rooms between farrowing groups is the first step to eliminating bacteria and viruses that newborn piglets may come in contact with after birth. Hot water washing equipment, adequate disinfection AND drying time is essential to avoid transferring problems from one litter to the next. Adequate drying time may be the most critical step. "If it's dry, it's dead" is a good rule of thumb to live by.

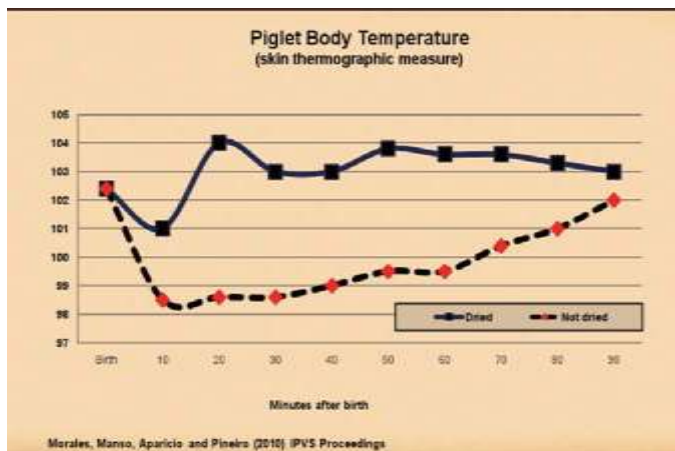
- Wash rooms with hot water between groups.
- Operate rooms as All-In, All-Out (AIAO)
- Disinfect rooms with disinfectant (Synergize®) and allow it to have proper contact time
- Allow rooms to dry completely (overnight)
- Keep mats and feeders free of pools of water
- Apply an additional drying agent (Disrupt®)
- Use a drying agent on mats
- Have all heat lamps functioning and adjusted prior to litters beginning to farrow

During Farrowing

Continuing proper sanitation, by regularly scraping crates prior to farrowing ensures that the clean, dry environment you prepared is still as clean as possible when farrowing begins. Additionally, assisting as many farrowings as possible helps to decrease stillborns and care for litters born during non-normal hours. Getting piglets dry and drinking colostrum quickly is imperative to their future success. Piglets lose heat very quickly after birth, and chilled piglets increases the amount of laid-ons.

- Do not induce sows until after day 115
 - Move sows to tighten up rooms prior to farrowing
 - No more than 30% of sows should be induced
- Limit oxytocin use
 - No more than 0.5 cc each injection
 - No more than 2 injections per farrowing
 - Wait until the 2nd half of a litter before using
 - Avoid using in gilts and younger parities
- Use hot boxes to get piglets warm and dry
 - Make sure to disinfect and clean these boxes daily
 - Use boxes to split-suckle if >14 born
- Limit movements to distributing piglets for functional teats only (not for piglet size)
 - Limit movements to the 1st 24 hours only

After you get these “Must Do’s” completed, the next step being advocated by many in the industry is to begin manually drying piglets. Not only does this prevent the extreme dip in piglet body temperature (see chart below), but it also manually stimulates piglets and gets them moving faster to avoid becoming a “laid-on”.



During Lactation

Now that you have a litter of 12-14 piglets that have made it through the first few critical days of life, your goal should be to not only wean that pig, but to also wean a high-quality piglet that can thrive in the nursery. While limiting piglet movement is essential for limiting exposure to bacterial and viral pathogens during a PRRS outbreak, properly managing fall back piglets is key to increasing PSY when no PRRS is present in the farm. Fall back

litters should be created at two equally spaced weaning days during the week through the bump-weaning process.

Don't Forget the Sow

If piglets are not doing well, it is usually a sign that something is wrong with the sow. All the treatment in the world given to piglets will not help them if the sow isn't providing them with adequate nutrition via milk. Make sure that sows also get the attention they deserve.

- Monitor newly farrowed sows at least twice a day and treat as necessary
- Make sure all sows get up to eat and drink throughout the day
- Keep fresh feed in front of sows at all times

If farm personnel dedicate themselves to doing all the things on this list, achieving less than 10% pre-weaning mortality is not only possible, but probable. It does take effort 365 days a year, by everyone on the production team to achieve these goals, but it is possible, even with more pigs being born.

Welcome

Welcome to Megan Brackeen as the BSHS Summer Intern. Megan is a veterinary student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and will be working on a variety of projects for us this summer. Please welcome her when you see her at meetings or on your farm in the coming weeks!



Upcoming Events

- July 24 – Farrowing Meeting by DeKalb Area Pork Producers
- TBD August – Transportation Meeting, including Emergency Rescue Training

“Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.”

-Vince Lombardi