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# MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

OCT 5 1959

for the  
**SOW**  
and  
**LITTER**



**Extension Circular 659**

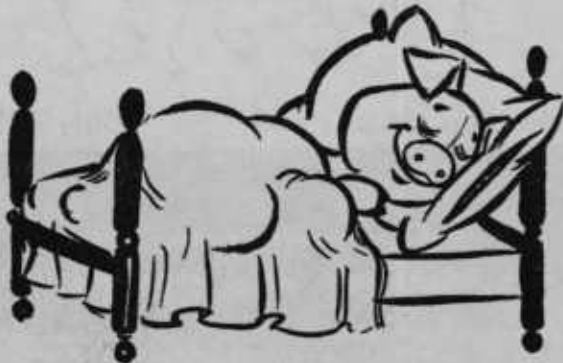
**July 1959**

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## HOUSING AND SHELTER

1. A farrowing house temperature of 55° to 65° Fahrenheit is recommended provided adequate ventilation is obtained.
2. Heat lamps placed in a corner, accessible only to pigs, are recommended especially when the farrowing house temperature falls below 65° F. A 250 watt heat lamp should be suspended about 24 inches above the bedding. Condition pigs to doing without the lamp by turning it off during warmer periods or by raising it.
3. Farrowing pens in a central farrowing house or individual farrowing houses should have a minimum size of 6 feet by 8 feet for gilts, and 8 feet by 8 feet for sows.
4. Farrowing stalls or crates should be 20 inches wide for gilts and 24 inches for sows, and should have minimum lengths of 6 feet for gilts and 7 feet for sows. The space beneath the bottom board should be 1/2 the stall width. The recommended minimum width on each side of the stall or crate for pigs up to 2 weeks of age is 18 inches.
5. Guard rails 8 inches above the bedding and 8 inches from the wall are recommended in central farrowing house pens and individual farrowing houses.
6. The farrowing pen or individual farrowing house should be lightly bedded with chopped or short straw or hay, shavings, ground corn cobs, bagasse, peanut hulls, cottonseed hulls, oat hulls, or other suitable bedding material. More liberal bedding may be used in unheated houses during cold weather, provided it is short or fine material that will not interfere with the movements of the pigs.
7. Recommended shade area is 50 square feet per gilt and litter and 60 square feet per sow and litter.



## FEEDING AND WATERING SPACE

1. For self-feeding either in drylot or on pasture, a minimum of one linear\* foot of self-feeder space or one self-feeder hole per sow or gilt and litter is recommended, provided the young pigs have additional feeding space in a creep.
2. For hand-feeding in troughs either in drylot or on pasture, a minimum of 1 1/2 linear\* feet of feeding space is recommended per sow or gilt and litter, provided the young pigs have additional feeding space in a creep.
3. For watering by automatic cup, provide at least one cup, not less than 6 inches in diameter or the equivalent, for each four sows or gilts and their litters. (An automatic waterer with two openings should be considered two cups.) For hand watering in troughs, provide at least 2 linear\* feet of trough space per sow or gilt and litter. Additional watering space may be required during warm weather.
4. Creep feeding should begin the first week. The maximum number of pigs per linear\* foot of feeder space should be five. The edge of the feeder trough should not be more than 4 inches above the ground or floor. A maximum of 40 pigs per creep may be allowed.

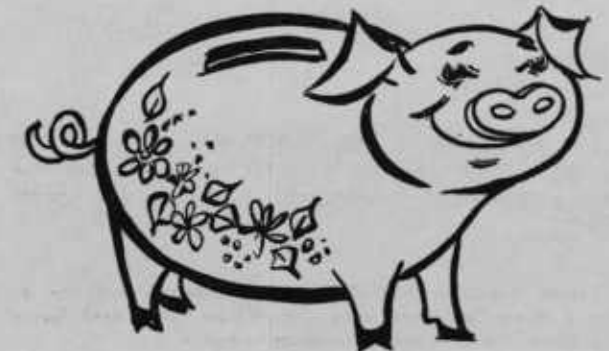
Creep feeders should be placed close to a water supply and near the area where the sow is most of the time. They should be inside, in a well lighted place in cool weather, and when placed outside in warm weather should be covered to provide shade and protection from rain.

\* Linear foot: One foot of feeding or watering space. For example, a six foot self-feeder open on both sides has 12 linear feet of feeder space. The same principle applies to trough space.

## GENERAL MANAGEMENT

1. When possible, the litter size should be adjusted to the number of functioning teats or nursing ability of the sow. Transferring pigs from sow to sow should be done as early as possible. 3 to 4 days after farrowing is usually the latest time that this can be done. But if the odor of the pigs is masked, it may be possible to transfer at a later time.
2. For large litters, pigs that are to be transferred, or when injuries to pigs or sows' teats are a problem, clipping needle teeth of pigs at birth or the first day is recommended. Only the tips of these teeth should be clipped.
- 3†. Anemia in pigs farrowed in houses can be prevented by use of "iron dextran complex." Inject 2 cubic centimeters of this compound into the ham of each pig at 3 days of age. When pigs are 10 days old another two cc may be injected. Consult your veterinarian on procurement and use of compound.
4. Litters and sows may usually be run together when the pigs are about 2 weeks old, although small groups may be put together as early as one week. The age difference between such litters should not be more than one week in a central farrowing house or two weeks on pasture. The recommended number of sows with litters put together in a group is not more than four in a central farrowing house or six on pasture.
5. On good legume or legume-grass pasture, allow 6 to 8 sows or gilts and their litters per acre.
6. Castration of the pigs should be done during the first 4 weeks. It should not be done during the 3

† Follow manufacturer's recommendations.



weeks following cholera vaccination. Also, pigs weaned at 4 weeks or earlier should not be castrated within 1 week of the time of weaning.

- Pigs should be protected from infection by worms and other diseases by good sanitation. Worming before weaning is not recommended, and it should not be done within 3 weeks after vaccination with living (virulent or modified) hog cholera virus.
- Cholera, erysipelas, and certain other diseases are prone to affect swine in various parts of the country. These diseases, when they arise, can limit other efforts toward efficient pork production. Therefore, obtain veterinary medical advice concerning the proper methods of vaccination and disease control.

## WEANING

- Pigs may be successfully weaned at 5 to 6 weeks without the use of a sow's milk substitute when proper nutrition is provided and proper management is practiced.
- If pigs are to be weaned at five weeks or earlier, the following conditions are recommended:

Age in Weeks .....	5	4	3	2	1
Minimum Pig Wt.- Lbs. ....	21	15	12	9	5
Farrowing House Temperature (Fahrenheit) .....	60°	65°	70°	75°	75°
Minimum Floor Space per Pig (square feet) .....	6	5	4	4	4
Maximum No. of Pigs per Linear* Ft. of Feeder Space .....	4	4	4	5	5
Maximum No. of Pigs per Linear* Ft. of Water Space .....	10	10	12	12	12
Maximum No. of Pigs per Group..	25	20	10	10	10

For early weaned pigs, warm, dry, and draft-free housing is required. Supplemental heat, such as a heat lamp, and special feeders and waterers are recommended.

\* Linear foot: One foot of feeding or watering space. For example, a six foot self-feeder open on both sides has 12 linear feet of feeder space. The same principle applies to trough space.

## FEEDING THE BROOD SOW AND LITTER



### First Week

Gradually bring sow to full feed of 10 to 14 pounds of a 15 percent protein-grain ration.

Provide plenty of water for sow throughout lactating period.

### Second Week

Sow is now on full feed.

Start to creep feed pigs a "pre-starter" (19-20 percent protein).

### Third and Fourth Weeks

When the pigs have eaten about 3 to 4 pounds of "pre-starter" begin to mix in some "starter" (17-18 percent protein). By the time they have eaten about 5 pounds of "pre-starter" the pigs should be on a full feed of "starter" plus the sow's milk.

Water should be made available in the creep for the pigs during this time.

### Fifth Week

Wean pigs from sow.

Continue self-feeding of "starter."

### Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Weeks

After pigs have eaten about 18 to 20 pounds of starter begin to mix into the "starter" feed a "grower" feed (16 percent protein). By the time the pigs have eaten about 25 pounds of "starter" they should be on a full feed of "grower."

The "pre-starter" and "starter" feeds are commercial preparations. The "grower" feed can be mixed as follows: 500 pounds of a commercial protein pig supplement (36 to 40 percent) plus 1,300 pounds of ground shelled corn, and 200 pounds of ground oats. The "starter" and the "grower" feeds should be pelleted.