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MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

for the
**SWINE
BREEDING HERD**



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Better Breeding Brings Bigger Profits

GENERAL MANAGEMENT

1. Gilts to be retained for the breeding herd should be separated from the market herd at 4 to 5 months of age or at 150 to 175 pounds. They should have at least 12 well developed teats.
2. Gilts should be at least 8 months old and weigh nearly 250 pounds before they are bred.
3. Use Piperizine to worm sows and gilts. They may be wormed up to one month before farrowing, but do not worm them during breeding season. Follow sanitary measures to prevent reinfestation.
4. Flushing (increasing feed intake) during the breeding season is recommended. Increase the feed intake 7 to 10 days before breeding starts and maintain until all sows or gilts are bred.



5. Under conditions of hand, or individual mating, two services per sow or gilt are recommended. The first mating of gilts should be on the first day of estrus and the first mating of sows on the second day of estrus. The second service should follow the first by 24 hours.

(Note: When only one mating can be made during the estrus period, it is recommended that gilts and sows be served on the second day of estrus.)

6. When weaning under two weeks of age, it is recommended that sows be bred on the second heat period after weaning. It is generally satisfactory to breed sows on the first heat period following weaning at three or more weeks.
7. Gilts and sows should be kept separate during the gestation period, unless they are self-fed a bulky ration. They should be forced to exercise by placing feeders and waterers 50 to 100 yards from the sleeping quarters.
8. Effective mange and lice treatment is recommended during gestation.
9. Boars should be 8 months old before being used in the breeding herd.
10. Whenever practical, boars should be used to serve several sows or gilts outside the breeding herd prior to serving those in the breeding herd.
11. Boars of the same age or size can be run together during the off-breeding season, but boars of different ages, junior and mature, should not be run together.

12. The recommended size of exercise lot for holding a boar is ¼ acre.

13. The maximum number of services per boar should be:

| | Per Day | Per Week | Per Month |
|-------------------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Mature Boar | 3 | 12 | 40 |
| Junior Boar | 2 | 8 | 25 |

(Note: Mature boar considered to be 15 months or older, junior boar under 15 months.)

14. The use of a breeding crate is recommended when breeding gilts to old boars. It is often desirable to use a breeding crate when servicing mature old sows with young boars.
15. Hand or individual mating of boars to sows or gilts is generally more satisfactory than field mating. However, if field mating is practiced, two methods are recommended. One method is to split the sow or gilt herd into groups with one boar per group. Another method is to alternate boars in the sow or gilt herd; that is, use one boar or set of boars one day and another boar or set of boars the next day.
16. On good legume or legume-grass pasture, allow 10 to 12 gilts or 8 to 10 sows per acre.
17. Housing or shade per animal should be as follows:

| | Winter (Housing) | Summer (Shade or housing) |
|----------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Gilt, or junior boar | 15 sq. ft. | 17 sq. ft. |
| Sow, or mature boar | 18 sq. ft. | 20 sq. ft. |

FEEDING MANAGEMENT

1. Hand feeding of sows and gilts during gestation is generally recommended as greater utilization of pasture and other desirable roughages can be attained and the condition of the sows and gilts can be more closely watched, but specially adapted bulky rations can be successfully self-fed.
2. When sows and gilts are self-fed during gestation, the number per linear* foot of feeder space, or self-feeder hole, should be as follows: pasture 3 to 4; drylot 2 to 3.
3. For hand feeding in troughs of gilts and sows during gestation, or for hand watering, the linear* feet of space required per gilt or sow is 1½ to 2 feet.
4. When alfalfa hay is fed in a rack, allot 4 sows per linear* foot of rack space.
5. Bred sows and gilts may be used to glean grain left in fields, provided an excessive amount of grain is not on the ground and supplement is available.
6. One automatic watering cup should be provided for each 12 gilts, or for each 10 sows. Additional watering space may be required during warm weather.

Feeding suggestions for developing breeding herd pigs

1. Make preliminary selection of boars before they are four weeks of age. Castrate rejected pigs.

* Linear foot—One foot of feeder or watering space. For example, a 6-foot feeder open on both sides has 12 linear feet of feeding space.

2. Make preliminary selection of gilts at 50 to 75 pounds.
3. At 50 to 75 pounds, feed a mixture of ground grain and a well fortified commercial protein supplement. The mixture should supply 15 to 16 percent protein for gilts and 17 to 18 percent protein for boars.
4. Self-feed the pigs until they weigh 100 to 125 pounds and then hand-feed 5 pounds per head per day.
5. Make final selection of the breeding herd gilts at market weight, then sell the rejected ones for slaughter.
6. Make final selection of boars at about 175 pounds. Castrate the rejected boars and sell them for slaughter when wounds are well healed.

Feeding suggestions for the breeding herd

1. Hand-feeding is more satisfactory than self-feeding. You can control the condition and also the temperament of breeding swine much more effectively.
2. Sows during gestation and mature boars not working can be hand-fed as follows:

| | DAILY FEED | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| | Commercial protein supplement | Grain | Silage or pasture |
| No pasture or silage | 1 lb. | 4 lbs. | |
| Legume pasture | 1 lb. | 2 lbs. | 1/10 Acre |
| Grass silage | 1 lb. | 2 lbs. | 7-8 lbs. |
| Corn silage | 1½ lbs. | 1½ lbs. | 10-12 lbs. |

3. Sows during lactation and boars during breeding season should be fed 10 to 14 pounds of a 15 percent protein ration.