

Rearing management of piglets

DANVEER SINGH YADAV

Assistant Professor

Livestock Production Management

College of Veterinary Science and Animal
Husbandry (NDVSVU) MHOW

Caring for the sow and litter at farrowing time

- Since the sow produces several offspring's when she-farrows and the pigs are during the first few days of their lives, an individual pen is needed for each sow and her litter at farrowing time and for at least **3 to 5** days following farrowing.

Disinfection of pregnant sow

- This will remove adhering parasite eggs and other disease germs.
- The isolation of the sow should be practiced about **3 to 4 days** prior to expected farrowing date.

Disinfection of the farrowing pen

- This may be done by scrubbing the walls and floors with phenyl water.
- A further precaution is to apply a 4 % standard disinfectant, using a pump spray to force it into all the crevices and angles.
- In case the floor is “Katcha” (earth) 2-3 inches of the top layer should be removed, then replaced with fresh earth.

Bedding of the farrowing pen

- Dry
- The kind and amount of bedding to use is a matter of personal liking.
- Good absorbent.
- Rye/wheat straw/oat straw. Cut straw, any fine stemmed hay, saw dust or shavings are good as these interfere little with the efforts of the new born pig to reach the mother's teat.

Good Housing

- Sows are sensitive to extreme heat and cold and require more protection than any other class of animals.
- This is specially true at the time of parturition.
- They types of farrowing pen which seems best adapted to the weather and other conditions should be used.

Guard rail

- A guard rail around the farrowed pen is an effective means of preventing sows from crushing their pigs.
- The importance of this simple protective measure may be best emphasized by pointing out that approximately one half of the young pig losses are accounted for by those pigs that are laid on by their mothers.
- The rail should be raised 9 to 10 inches from the floor and should be 9 to 12 inches from the wall.



Advantages of Guard Rail

- The sow and the piglets are permitted to move freely
- Both sow and the piglet have free access to feed and water

Disadvantages of guard rail

- The room is permanently converted into farrowing pan

Artificial heat helps to save young pigs


- With early spring/winter pigs, specially northern India, a supply of artificial heat is necessary if chilling of the new born-pigs is to be preventing chill.
- The eclectic pig brooder is much safer heating unit.
- The principles involves are identical to those of electrical chick brooder except for the canopy.



Care of the litters during the first eight weeks

- Proper attention should be given to the new-born piglets which require a special treatment during the first eight weeks.

- **Needle teeth** : An examination of the mouth of piglets at birth will show that they have **eight small tusk like teeth**, two on each side of both upper and lower jaws.
- Needle teeth often are the cause of **irritation and pain to the sow** when the pigs nurse, specially at first when the udder and tender. Moreover, the pigs may bite or scratch each other and infections may start and cause serious trouble.

- 
- Needle teeth remove these immediately after birth.
 - The operation may be done with a small pair of pliers or with strong forceps make specially for the purpose (tooth nipper) very close to the gum.

Creep feeding

- Creep feeding is that normal feed, given to sucking pigs behind a barrier (to creep) which allows them feed is that normal feed but the sow
- Higher water and lower fat.
- High protein



Creep Feeding Facility for Piglets

- The piglets are provided with **high nutritive value** and palatable concentrate mixture from the 2nd week of life, which is termed as creep ration.
- The piglets should be allowed to eat the creep ration freely but the sow is not permitted to eat it. There are two types of arrangements for this purpose
 - A. Creep feeding chamber.
 - B. Rings and hooks on wall above the creep feeding trough area.



Weaning of piglets

- Pigs were weaned 8-12 weeks (**56 days**) of age.

Castration of piglets

- It is essential that boar pigs to be fattened for market be castrated when young.
- It is usual to castrate boar pigs at 4 to 6 weeks old.

Thank you