

GENERAL GUIDELINES IN FEEDING BREEDER SWINE USING UBC's MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE FEEDING SYSTEM

The **Maximum Performance System** feeding guide for breeder swine was developed to provide the optimum levels of nutrients and performance enhancers that would maximize the performance of the breeder animals.

The feeding and management practices being applied to the breeders using these diets allows the farmer a complete control in being able to increase the birth weights of the piglets, increase the milk yield of the lactating sows and reduce the number of days to return-to-estrus of dry sows.

The suggested formulation that **UBC** provides should follow the feeding guide below:

Gestating ration feeding guide (see attached figure 1):

The required average feeding for the gestating ration is about 2.25kg/head (2 to 2.5kg) per day from the day the animal is bred until day 90th of pregnancy. Exception to the rule is given to sows which have poor body condition (body score of 2 – see attached figure 2). Sows with this condition are fed a higher amount of feed between 3 to 3.5kg/head/day starting day 2 after breeding up to day 30th.

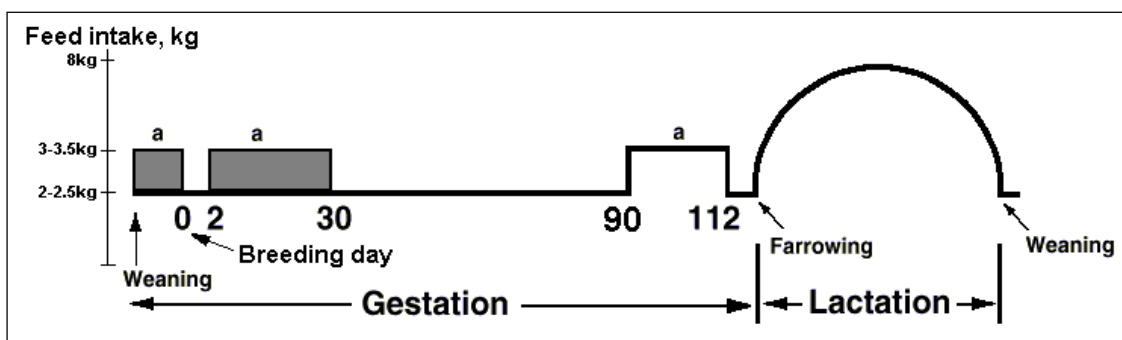


Figure 1: Gestating and Lactating Feeding GuideNote that the body score is just a guide for determining the ideal state of the sow's body by the time it is bred. Whenever possible, it would be good to measure the P2 body fat thickness of the sow – target range is 18-20mm. Over fat sows which have a P2 measurement of 2mm or more should be avoided.

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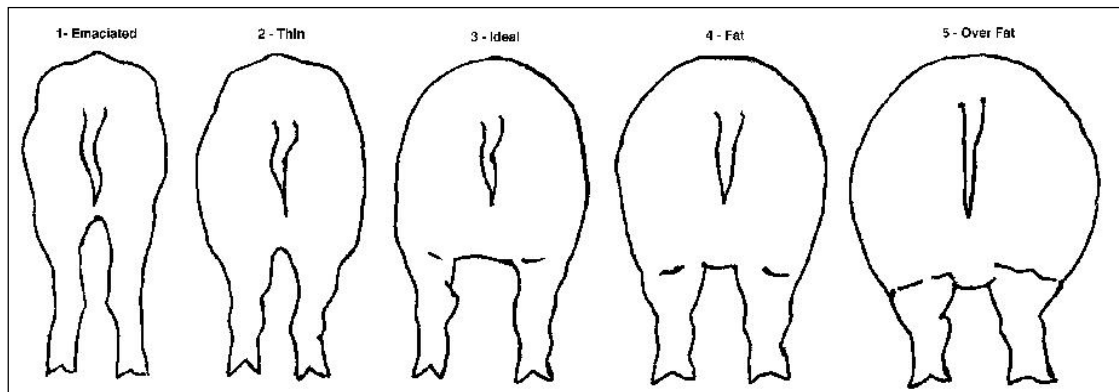


Figure 2: Pig Body Score Guide

Feeding them this way ensures that more of the fertilized egg follicles will have a higher chance of attachment to the reproductive system (theoretically leading to a higher litter size at birth).

After 90 days, the feeding should also be increased to 3-3.5kg/head/day (maintain using the GESTATING RATION). The increase in feed allocation at this last trimester of pregnancy allows the piglets to grow bigger. Depending on the average litter size at birth, the feed allocation can be varied to produce the ideal birth weight that the farm wants.

With our suggested Gestating ration, we can reach an average of 1.4 to 1.6kg body weight at birth on sows having an average litter size at birth of 9 to 10 if the amount given from day 91st to 112th is 3.3-3.4kg/head/day.

Theoretically, if your farm has a litter size at birth of more than 10, then I will have to recommend giving more than 3.4kg/head/day instead on that period.

Feeding is reduced back to 2-2.5kg/head/day from day 113th until the sow farrows.

Special cases: In some farms, sows in the last 7 to 14 days prior to farrow are transferred to the farrowing house and is also given the lactating ration. If this is the case in your farm, we DO NOT RECOMMEND the above mentioned amount of 3.3-3.4kg/head/day.

The nutrients of the lactating ration is almost 40% more than the gestating ration, as such a corresponding drop in feed allocation must be followed if lactating ration is going to be used. This practice is an obsolete procedure and sometimes triggers the constipation problems associated to sows before farrowing. In any case that the lactating ration is to be fed, a computed amount should be 2-2.2kg/head/day only.

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Lactating ration feeding guide (see attached figure 1):

The feeding of lactating ration commences only after the sow farrows. A gradual increase in feed allocation is suggested but should ideally reach a minimum daily amount of 7kg/head/day by the time the sows are about 4 or 5 days from farrowing.

At this point in time, the piglets of these lactating sows also start to increase the frequency of suckling, thereby requiring the dam to produce more milk. We can only help the sows produce more milk if they can eat more feed and water per day starting this time. Water is very (very) important because the volume of milk produced relies on this (the nutrient in the milk relies on the amount of feed ingested by the sows or its body reserves).

The presence of Palbio in the lactating ration ensures the proper absorption of nutrient and increase in feed intake of the lactating sows.

The feed intake should be maintained high (without making the sows become over fat and avoiding becoming thin) until about 21 days old of piglets' age. Starting day 22nd feed allocation of the sow will have to decrease at about 0.5 to 1kg per day until it is back to 2 to 2.5kg/head/day on weaning day. This strategy will allow the "slow" reduction in milk production for the sows allowing them to return to estrus faster after weaning (normally about 4 to 7 days after weaning) and allow the piglets to shift to solid feed properly (their need to satisfy their hunger will turn them to eating the booster/creep feed even while they are with the dam).

DIETARY LYSINE LEVEL BASE UPON LITTER WEANING WEIGHT AND SOW FEED INTAKE										
Adjusted 21-day Body Weight	Average Litter Size at weaning	Lactation Feed Intake, kg/day							Weaning age	
	9	3.5	4	4.5	5	5.5	6	6.5	7	28
	5.00	1	0.9	0.8	0.7	0.7				
5.56	1.1	1	0.9	0.8	0.75	0.7				7.41
6.11	1.2	1.1	1	0.9	0.8	0.75	0.7			8.15
6.67		1.2	1.1	1	0.9	0.85	0.8	0.7		8.89
7.22			1.2	1.1	1	0.9	0.85	0.8		9.63
7.78				1.2	1.1	1	0.9	0.85		10.37
8.33					1.2	1.1	1	0.9		11.11
8.89						1.2	1.1	1		11.85

Figure 3: Lysine Level vs Feed Intake

Figure 3 illustrates my theoretical guide in formulating the suggested Lactating ration.

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As mentioned in the attached formulation, the Lactating ration contains almost 1.0% Lysine, base on the guide if the average feed intake of your lactating sows (from birth to weaning) averages 6kg/head/day, your piglet weaning weight should weigh about 9.63kg if you have 9 piglets as an average litter size at weaning and an average weaning age of 28 days old. Extending the number of suckling days will increase the body weight of the weaned piglets and reducing it will also reduce the body weight at weaning.

Variations may also occur if the actual feed intake is not met (record as fed but was actually not eaten by the sows – perhaps due to wastage) and if water intake of the sow is low.

Feeding during the Dry Period until breeding:

After weaning, the sows are transferred to the dry pens and are usually grouped. When grouping dry animals it is best to group them together base on body conditions. A mixture of fat and thin sows must not be grouped together. The feed to be given on this period is the Gestating ration. The amount given will be 2-2.5kg/head/day if their body score is 3 or 4. If the body score is 2, the amount given must be about 3-3.5kg/head/day until they heat or improve their body score to 3 (whichever comes first).

The stress of grouping these sows and the proper feeding they receive will encourage quick return to estrus. It is expected that these animals will show heat with 4 to 7days after weaning. They can now be bred and the cycle is completed.

Should you have further questions about this feeding technique, please feel free to contact us.

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