



Prairie Swine Centre E-Zine

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Current Research at Prairie Swine Centre

This is the second E-Zine where I highlight the innovations in research described in our most recent Annual Research Report.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/wp-content/uploads/2009/05/AR-2010.pdf>

The last newsletter focused on reducing cost of production, and dealt primarily with feeds and nutrition research. This week we focus on new research from the areas of animal behaviour and engineering, as always placing emphasis on those things that help us reduce cost of production or improve net income.

Auto-sort grow-finish barns receive both praise and criticism from farm managers. This most recent research work was conducted at Prairie Swine Centre and on a commercial farm in western Canada. Drs. Gonyou and Brown have observed some of the reason that performance has been questioned in Large Group Autosort (LGAS) pens could be due to the fact pigs make fewer visits to the feeder than they would in a small pen situation. One of the management tips developed over the many years of LGAS research work is to start the new pigs in the food court rather than in the loafing area. This ensures they understand where and how to access feed easily.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/food-court-design-for-large-group-auto-sort-for-grow-finish-pigs/>

The trend to gestation sows being housed in groups has producers looking for knowledge that helps them evaluate whether or not alternatives to housing in gestation crates are viable options to consider in future renovations. The Centre has been conducting research in this area since 2000 and this most recent article evaluates the lock-in walk-in or free access housing system as an example of a system with group housing and individual feed intake control.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/literature-review-and-needs-assessment-of-housing-systems-for-gestating-sows-in-group-pens-with-individual-feeding/>

Conservation of water in the barn is the next area of focus in our goal to reducing utility costs in pork production. Water use and expenses from 29 farms participating in the study are presented with early tips from the first phase of this project. Additional information on strategies to reduce water waste and costs. As we found in comparing electricity and natural gas costs, the range of costs per pig marketed varies widely from farm to farm. It is in areas like utility use where we see wide variation that best management practices and new research can be used to identify significant savings.

<http://www.prairieswine.com/evaluation-of-water-use-and-potential-water-conservation-strategies-in-swine-barns/>

I hope this information is helpful in reducing your costs and maintaining the highest product quality on your farm. Thank you for your interest in our work and your ongoing support of the research program.

Research Profits Everyone

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