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BATCH FARROWING

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Introduction

Batch Farrowing (BF) is a production practice that allows you to concentrate the farrowings on your farm, which can be helpful in weaning more pigs over a shorter period of time, offer health benefits to your herd and can improve efficiencies at multiple levels. This presentation will evaluate factors to review if BF is right for your production system, the steps and protocols necessary for implementation, and cost factors to consider.

Summary

Batch Farrowing (BF) is a production tool to concentrate the farrowings in specific weeks. It is important to understand the motivations, reasons and implications of adopting this approach. BF can optimize all-in all-out pig flow, and research and production experience has shown that all-in all-out flows can lead to improvements in both health and productivity.

Some of the advantages of BF are:

- better control of the effect of certain pathogens in farrowing, nursery and finisher;
- less medication cost in the wean-to-finish period with the potential of improved daily gain and feed conversion while reduced mortalities in the grow & finish stages; and
- improvements on the efficiency of facility utilization and animal / semen transport.

It is important to review all the potential challenges and variables to have the proper implementation (length of the batch, synthetic progesterone usage in gilts and sows), understanding the facility limits / bottlenecks and particularities of each system.

Some of the disadvantages of batch farrowing are:

- less-flexible breeding targets,
- the management of fall behind piglets, and
- staff difficulties of implementation and execution.

With the combination of the benefits and costs, the effectiveness of implementing batch farrowing needs to be evaluated. If this production tool is economically justifiable, it can be an excellent approach for optimization of the farms and management of larger pig flows.



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AN UPDATE ON CANOLA MEAL UTILIZATION IN SWINE RATIONS

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Introduction

Canola meal is the main co-product of the canola seed crushing industry and is the most commonly used protein supplement in swine diets after soybean meal. Although it has a slightly less protein content than soybean meal (Woyengo *et al.*, 2014), canola meal has an excellent amino acid composition (Khajali and Slominski, 2012). Also, canola meal contains higher amount of fiber, which along with the antinutritional factor, glucosinolates, have been cited for its limited utility in swine rations (Nyachoti *et al.*, 2004; González-Vega and Stein, 2012; Mejicanos *et al.*, 2016). Thanks to genetic and technological advancements, canola varieties with significantly lower contents of antinutritional factors and production of canola meal of superior nutritive value are now available to the swine industry.

In recent years, there has been a concerted interest in re-evaluating the utilization of canola meal in swine diets so as to take advantage of these developments. Furthermore, recent advances in diet formulation strategies make it possible to effectively utilize different co-products in swine diets. Such diet formulation strategies include the use of net energy and standardized ileal digestible amino acid systems as recommended by the National Research Council (2012). In this review results of recent studies completed at the University of Manitoba on the utilization of canola meal in swine diets are presented.

Key findings of recent canola meal research at the University of Manitoba:

- Canola meal can be included up to 25% in diets for weaned pigs without compromising growth performance as long as such diets are formulated on net energy and standardized ileal digestible amino acid systems.
- Canola meal can be included up to 30% in lactating sow diets without affecting sow and litter performance measures as long as such diets are formulated on the basis of the net energy and standardized ileal digestible amino acid systems.
- Dehulled canola meal using sieving technology can be well incorporated in weaner pig diets with improvement in body weight gain, feed intake, and feed efficiency.