The First 72 hours of Weaned Pigs

What really matters with starting a group?

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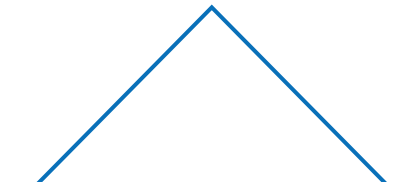
What are we trying to accomplish?

- Feed is the highest variable cost to pig production
  - 70-80% of total variable costs
  - 60-70% of total overall production cost
- Across the board, first nursery rations tend to be the most expensive diets
- Helping piglets transition from sow farm to being on feed
- Right feed, right time, right amount
- Decisions made with starting a group of weaned pigs center around driving the pigs to the feeders
  - Increase daily intake
  - Hit nutrient requirements
  - Increase rate of gain
- Sets the stage for the success of group

Plan your work/Work your plan

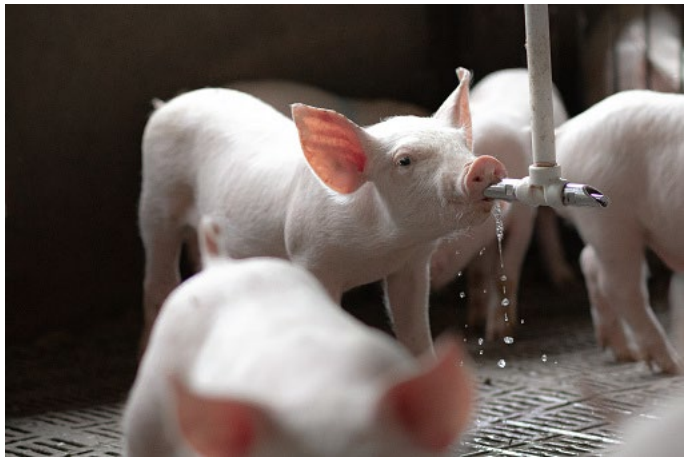
- Success in first 72 hours of weaned pig group comes with plan
  - Set up medication/vaccine plan with Vet
  - Communicate with feed mill on feed delivery
  - Know transportation schedule for pigs arriving to barn
  - Proper barn maintenance
- Establish priorities for pig production that will be your focus as you conduct your daily chores
  - Establish routine
  - Follow set timeline
  - Minimize stressors that disrupt essential pig production priorities



4 Essentials for Pigs

Food

Water



Air

Space

Feed

Before Barn Fills

- Bins empty from previous group
- Feeders cleaned and dried for new feed
  - Free of debris
  - No standing water
- Maintenance on feed lines/motors
  - Check tubing around transitions and where line enters from outside
  - Delay timers and max run time settings are at proper levels
- Insure adequate feeder space
  - 1 inch of linear feeder space per pig in nursery phase

Feeder Adjustments

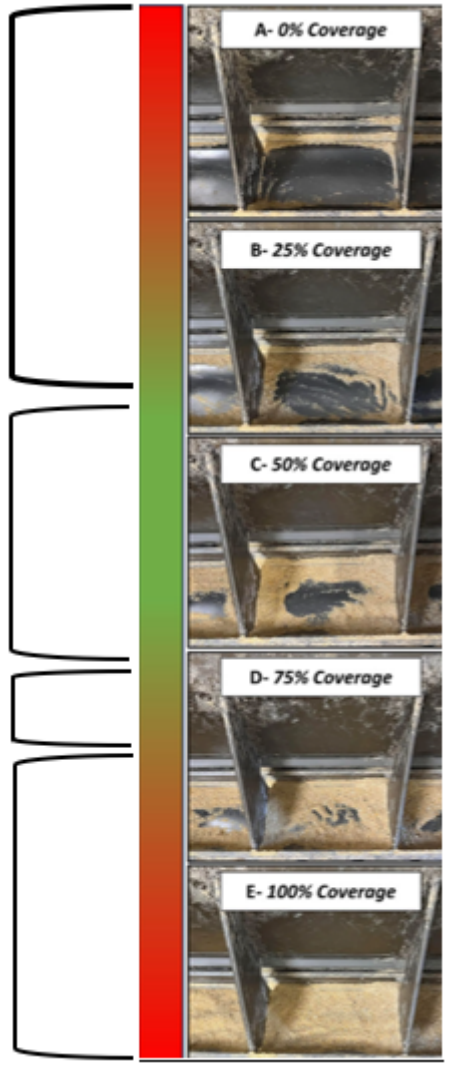
- Make adjustments early and often
- Small adjustments at a time
- Clean any caked feed out of shelves and trough
  - Promote ideal feed flow
  - Prevents insects and spoilage
- 75% coverage is target for weaned pigs
  - Want to work down to 40-50%
- At least 10% of feeders should be adjusted each time you walk through a barn

- Too tight
- Open up feeder adjustments
- Make sure there are no clogs restricting flow

- Ideal Level after 3 weeks on feed
- Between 40-50%

- Start weaned pigs at 75% pan coverage

- Too Full
- Close down feeder adjustments



Mat Feeding

- Important in first 3 days to encourage repeated visits to the feeder
- 4-5 times a day
- Acts as “appetizer” or “bread crumbs” to feeder
- Do not overfeed
  - Solo cup’s worth of feed
  - Too much on mat makes for expensive bedding
- Goal is to give a taste for them to find the feeder

Gruel Feeding

- Enhances early feed intake
- Offers a smooth transition into dry feed
- Especially helpful in pull off pens
- Start weaned pigs with Water:Feed Ratio of 70:30
  - Roughly 3 parts water to 1 part feed
- Promotes hydration, especially in health challenged pigs
- Keep the gruel pans fresh

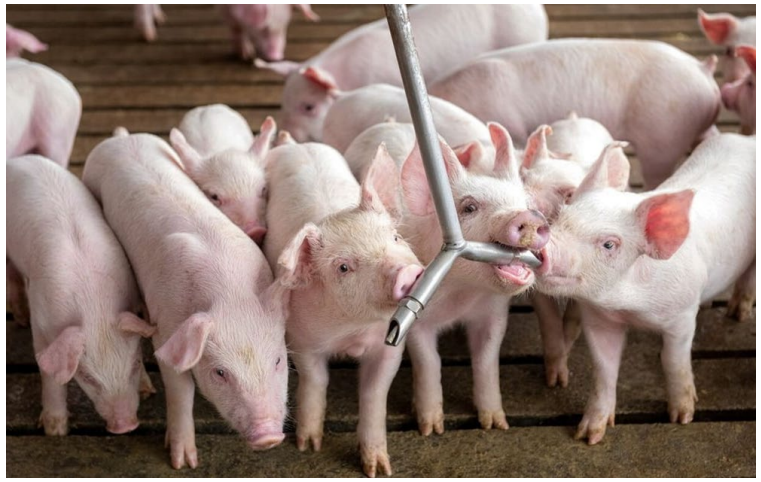
Water

Flushing Water Lines

- Want to provide clean water for pigs
- Bacterial biofilm, minerals scale, or medication residue all can be built up within the lines
- Running cleaning solution through water line will flush out unwanted materials
- Provides clean water at a more ideal water pressure
  - **Note:** Check waterers after flushing
  - Nipples can get clogged and may need replaced

Prepping barn for pigs

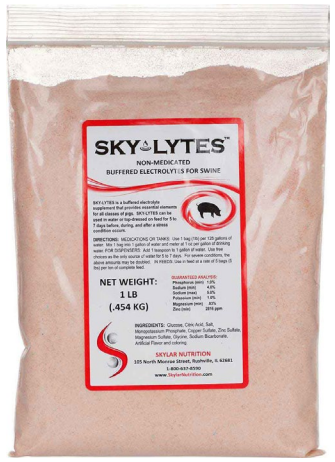
- Water and feed consumption are directly correlated
- Making sure you have enough water sources for stocking density
  - 12-15 pigs per drinker
- Pigs need hydrated after transport
- Want to promote traffic to both feed and water
- Letting drinkers drip on arrival will help pigs find water source
- Set nipple drinkers at the shoulder height of smallest pig



Water Pressure

- Maintain proper line pressure to minimize splashing and wastage of water
- Too high of pressure can scare pigs causing them to drink less water
- Target a flow rate of 0.5-1.0 liter/minute
- 12-20 psi for weaned pigs
- Utilize your pressure gauges
- **Trick:** proper flow rate and pressure will fill a paint can cap in 10-12 seconds

Water Supplements



- Can be run through the medicators
- Help to prevent dehydration, encourage feed consumption, support digestion
  - Electrolytes
  - Protein
  - Vitamins & Minerals
  - Acidifiers
- Many products taste good to pigs
- Veterinarian may recommend water soluble medication as part of herd health plan

Air Environment

Prepping Barn

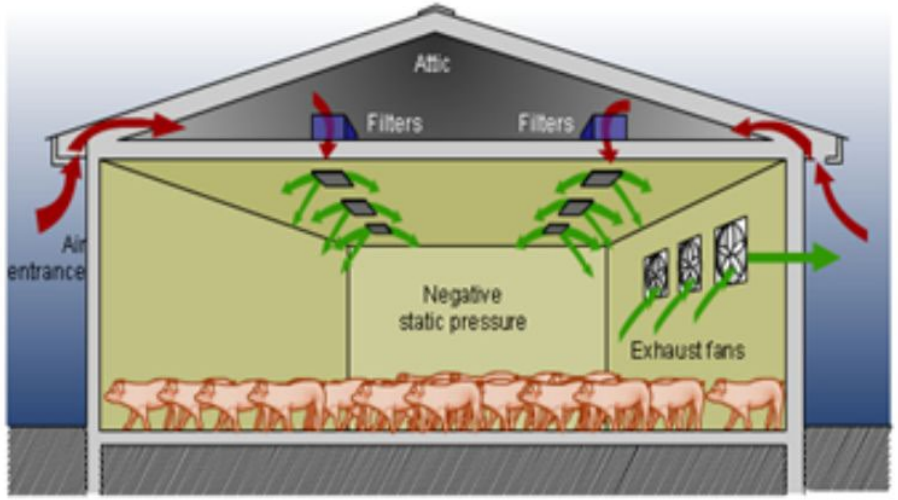
- Inspecting ventilation components to insure proper function
  - Fan motors
  - Curtain machines
  - heaters
- Eliminate unwanted inlets
  - Missing louvers
  - Holes in curtains
- Calibrate Inlets and Curtains
- Reset ventilation curves on computer
- Check back up systems

Preheating Barns

- Start Preheating 24 hours before placement
  - Allows time for equipment to dry off
  - Concrete takes longer to warm up than air
- Temp set points typically between 82-85 degrees
- 94 degrees directly under brooders or heat lamps
  - Also helpful in managing humidity
- It is possible to chill pigs in summer time!
  - Cold air dumping
  - Cold concrete puts pigs at a disadvantage with heat exchange

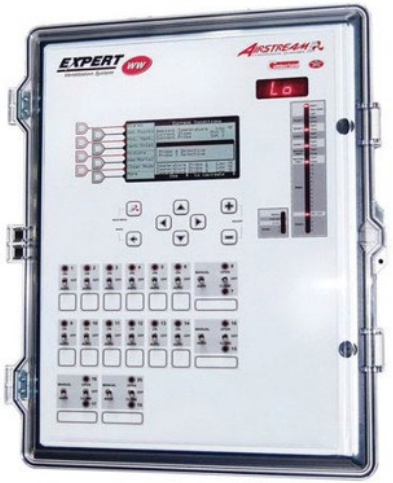
Air Quality

- Wanting to run barn at a slightly negative pressure
- Weaned pig target 1.5-2.0 CFM/head
- Some controllers will run curve based on CFM
- Good to know how to calculate CFM
  - (inlet height ft x inlet width ft x inlet ft/min)= CFM per inlet
  - (CFM per inlet x #inlets)/# head in the airspace= CFM/hd
- Humidity 50-65%
  - Over 65% promotes microbe growth and doesn't allow moisture evaporation
  - Under 50% can make barn dusty, causing coughing
- Feed consumption goes up when in proper thermonuclear range



Monitoring Ventilation

- Controller logs
- Barn observation records
- Kestrels
- Infrared Thermometers
- Trust your senses
  - How dry is the concrete?
  - How stuffy does the air feel?
- Pig response
  - Piling at 1.5 pigs deep
  - Licking concrete
  - Color of pigs



Space

Setting up spacing

- Pigs require 1.5-2 sq ft of pen space immediately post weaning
  - Only grows as pig gets bigger
- Plan out pens before fill
  - Account for hospital space needed on group
  - Divide pen space evenly among remaining space
- Check-in is great opportunity to even out distributed barn space
- Pigs develop a natural pecking order
  - Pulling small and sick pigs early helps to give that pig a better chance of finding the feed to recover

Maintaining Pen Consistency

- Prioritize pulling/treating pigs in the first 3 days
  - Sick pigs will isolate themselves from feed and water
- Number of head in the hospital pens would not exceed 80% of pen compacity
  - More space gives pigs greater chance to grow
  - Overstocking a pull off pen works against that practice
- Gen pop pigs should have a consistent number in each pen
  - Will promote even growth amongst the herd
  - Tighten up the variation as enter later stages of group and approach marketing

Spacing Observations

- Side/Tail biting
  - Aggressive pigs will begin to fight
  - Too much competition at the feeder
- Overcrowding
  - Decrease daily intake and in
  - Weight gain drops when space allocations are restricted
  - Stressors can increase intestinal pH leaving pigs more susceptible to enteric bacterial infections
- Prioritize getting every pig up as you walk pens

Thank you

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