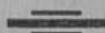


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# Care and Feeding of Pigs



Thousands of pigs are lost within two days after birth, because of lack of care on the part of their owners.

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## *Care and Feeding of Pigs*

Thousands of pigs are lost every year through carelessness—through lack of balanced rations for the brood sows and want of breeding, through lack of equipment to keep them warm and comfortable, through the absence of guard rails in the pens or the presence of too much bedding, through unclean conditions, through lack of exercise, and for other reasons.

In order to warn swine-raisers against conditions which may cause losses, H. G. Zavoral, University Farm, St. Paul, has issued a circular of suggestions in substance as follows:

### **Have pens dry and clean for farrowing**

Place each sow, before farrowing, in a pen of her own, clean, dry, supplied with fresh air, and free from dust.

Watch for worms, necrobacillosis, scours, and other conditions caused by lack of cleanliness.

Give sows, after they have farrowed, separate attention. In most cases a good rule to follow the first week after pigs have been farrowed is, "Spare the feed and save the pigs." After the first week gradually increase the feed of the sow to the limit, taking into account the size of the litter.

Don't allow sows having pigs of different ages to be together. Large pigs rob little pigs.

Don't let pigs stop growing. First gains are always cheapest.

Fix a creep for pigs when ten days old. If they have plenty of exercise and sunlight, they can not be overfed.

### **List of good feeds for pigs**

Shelled corn, middlings, tankage, ground oats with the hulls sifted out, are all good feeds, and may be fed from hoppers or self-feeders, "cafeteria style."

Coarse bulky feeds should be avoided.

Fresh skim milk is an excellent feed.

Fresh water should always be available.

All feeds should be kept fresh and feeding places clean. Avoid dirt feeding floors.

Boar pigs should be castrated when from one month to six weeks of age—on a bright day, and after pens have been carefully cleaned and disinfected.

### **Time for weaning depends on conditions**

The time for weaning depends on the feeds available and the possible raising of fall litters. Pigs will do better if fed extra allowances and allowed to run with sows on good pasture until from 10 to 12 weeks of age. With plenty of skim milk they may be weaned at eight weeks.

A sow's feed should be cut down a short time before her pigs are weaned,

and she should be taken from her pigs, not the pigs from her.

Good pasture will cause pigs to grow faster, give cheaper gains, and effect economy in pork production.

### **Pigs need a playground**

“A litter of pigs will not be able to take all the milk a good sow will produce until the pigs are two or three weeks old. Up to that time, therefore, careful feeding of the sow is necessary. . . . Grain should be given sparingly, and it should be as much oats as corn.

“The pigs must have exercise to prevent their getting fat. By the time they are a week old they should be playing around the pen, and then is the time when a broad alleyway in the farrowing house pays dividends. The pigs need to be put out in the alleyway every day. If they will not stir about, they may be chased with a sack or cloth of some kind. Once the pigs get into the habit of frequenting the playground, a small door in the pen, just large enough to let them in and out, saves the time of the feeder. . . . Whenever the weather is good, the sows and pigs should be outdoors for an hour or more each day.”—E. F. Ferrin, University Farm, St. Paul.

For further information, consult your county agent or write to the Extension Division, University Farm, St. Paul.