

#ColostrumIsGold

Enhance Sow Production of High Quality Colostrum

Colostrum at birth can save the use of antibiotics in the future



Key Points:

Temperature

Farrowing house 16- 20°C to avoid short nursing bouts.

Vaccinations

Allows antibodies to transmit from sow to piglet.

Water

Unrestricted fresh clean drinking water at a flow rate 2 litres/min.

Gilts & Older Sows

They produce less colostrum.

Older Sows

Greater exposure to diseases- greater protection to piglets.

Minimise Stress

Before, during & after farrowing.



What is quality colostrum?
High Protein
Antibodies
High energy & fat content

At Service: A good udder reduces suckling time

Must be **14 functional teats** small in length & diameter.

Sows that have had **mastitis** should **not** be serviced.

Body Condition Scoring

Sows & gilts should enter farrowing with a **BCS of 3-3.5**, maintaining a **BCS of 3- 2.5 throughout the 4 week lactation period.**

Avoid excessive weight gain close to farrowing as this has a negative impact on mammary development¹.

Pre- Farrowing Nutrition

Avoid excess feeding to prevent excess milk production in the udder which congests, leading to **tissue damage.**

Steadily decrease the sows feed intake **5 days before farrowing** to **maintenance levels.**

Avoid constipation – sows having come from straw based housing may need 'gut fill'.

Mould & toxin free feed- ergot inhibits mammary growth.

Sanitation

Ensure farrowing housing is **cleansed, disinfected and dry** before sows enter.

Keep housing clean through the farrowing period to **ensure teats remain clean to avoid E.coli transmission** which may lead to mastitis.



Post- Farrowing Nutrition

Feed a **lactation diet** by **steadily building up intakes.**

Key nutrients: **energy, vitamins, fats & amino acids** for **colostrum protein & fat content.**

References

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