

TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING SOW PERFORMANCE



SCAN FOR VIDEO!

THE DNA LINE 241

1. PROPER GILT BREEDING WEIGHT

Maximizing the performance of the DNA Line 241 starts in the GDU. After one heat no service, the ideal gilt breeding weight for the DNA Line 241 is between 300-325lbs. Best practice is to weigh gilts individually prior to moving into gestation to hit the breeding weight target.

DNA recommends general nursery stocking at 3.5 sq. ft. at placement until movement to finisher. DNA recommends finisher stocking density starts at 6 sq. ft. and then moves to 12 sq. ft. once the gilt reaches 200lbs. Providing adequate sq. footage in the GDU will improve mortality, structure & sow longevity.

2. SOW BODY CONDITION

A lean body condition is critical to the success of the DNA Line 241. To ensure proper body condition, DNA recommends body condition scoring every other week after the 30 day pregnancy check. Farm teams should remain engaged in body condition throughout gestation to ensure the 241 enters farrowing at 11-15mm backfat or a 3- body condition score. By maintaining a leaner body condition, farm managers save on feed budget during the gestation phase and will have a more productive sow.

Additional benefits for a leaner body condition into farrowing include increased feed consumption in farrowing, heavier wean weights, improved subsequent litter sizes and fewer days to return to estrus post weaning.



3. LACTATION FEED INTAKE



We recommend getting the DNA sows up 3 times per day for the entire duration of farrowing which encourages her to urinate, defecate, eat, and drink. This will also increase her feed intake during lactation, resulting in more milk production.

4. MAXIMIZE LITTER INTEGRITY

The DNA Line 241 is very capable of raising all of her own pigs to become high quality wean pigs, even given her large litter sizes. Research shows several advantages of keeping her litters intact.

These benefits include:

- Decreased Disease Spread
- Not upsetting the nursing pattern of the sow
- Increased wean weight
- Increased farrowing room efficiency
- Decreased nursery mortality



Each farm should rely on their loading policy to maximize the integrity of each litter and allow the sow to focus on her own pigs.

5. POST WEAN BOAR EXPOSURE

The wean to service interval of the DNA Line 241 leads the industry by breeding back earlier than other commercial lines. To optimize her estrous cycle and reproductive performance, boar exposure should begin on the day of weaning.

This can be done by bringing boars in alleyways for nose-to-nose contact in crate gestation or bringing boars directly in the pens with sows for pen gestation. Duration should be 2-5 minutes per commercial sow.

Groups of boars are preferred to single boars and a ratio of 1 boar per 12 sows should be used.

