

IMPROVING YOUR NURSERY PERFORMANCE



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ELEVATING YOUR COMMERCIAL PERFORMANCE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

In addition to best in class average daily gain, our commercial animals are known for their docile temperament throughout the wean-to-finish phase. What are the best ways to draw out the strengths of the pig to improve survivability and ultimately impact your bottom line? In the first 5-10 days post wean, a nursery team's primary goal is to create an environment where pigs are dry and draft-free. Environment set up including ventilation controls, temperature probes and sealing unused fans are key to achieving these goals. While each farm has unique settings, here are some areas to focus on to ensure clean, dry and draft-free pigs.

Successful leaders create a culture which understands and believes that the dynamics of each farm are unique.

Differences in facilities and health status of pigs requires adjustments based on pig behavior. Teams must continue to read the pig and assess their comfort level in each barn.

Are they clean & dry?

Are they spread out and actively feeding? Combining these best practices with basic herdsman skills creates the right environment to capitalize on the genetic strengths of our commercial animal!

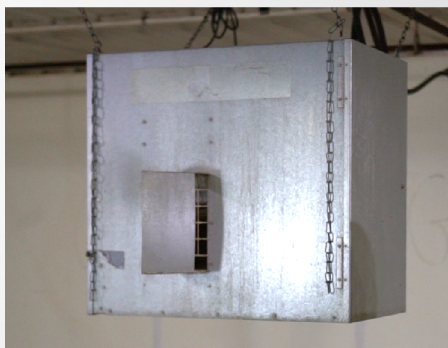
INLETS

Regardless of nursery age, draft points may still be detected along the seams of inlets. Using bubble wrap will redirect the air horizontally instead of dropping down straight onto pigs. Are there additional leaks where the inlet joins the ceiling? Resealing draft points with caulking will eliminate those areas as well.



FANS

Depending on tightness of shutters on fans, this may be a big source of drafting for pigs. In the startup phase, bubble wrapping un-used fans can help maintain set points and keep the pigs closest to the fans draft-free.



HEATERS

If not already in use, diverters will direct heat away from the fans to ensure the warm air can be circulated throughout the room. Also, are sick pens directly below the heaters? Consider moving the sick pen away from the heater to avoid drafts created by air being pulled into the heater.

TEMPERATURE

Nursery temperatures should be checked multiple times a day. Because of air movement throughout the barn and doors opening and closing when teams walk rooms, temperatures vary between human and ground level by a few degrees. To get an accurate reading of the climate pigs are feeling, temperature probes should be placed closer to the floor.

WATER PRESSURE

When testing the pressure on water nipples, is the stream slow and controlled or does it shoot across the pen like a fire hose? Using a lower water pressure can help in multiple ways! Usable water consumption will increase which increases feed consumption. Additionally, lower pressures keep floors dry which keeps pigs dry and warm!

