THE RESEARCH REPORT

Summer 2025

OUR COMMITMENT:

- Provide answers to real-world production challenges and questions that originate at the slat-level
- Collaborate extensively with the best and brightest experts from the industry and universities
- Share our results to help pig producers solidify their success

2025 PRODUCTION RESEARCH FOCUS:

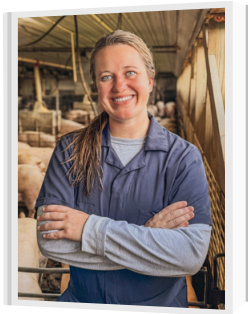
- Establishing nutritional standards for the DNA Line 241 sow
- Sow mortality
- Pre- and Post-weaning mortality
- Finishing feed efficiency
- Defining nutrient requirements for growing pigs
- PRRS prevention and mitigation

DNASwineGenetics.com

FUTURE-FOCUSED SOW INNOVATION

At DNA Genetics, our commitment is simple: "Raise the most profitable farrow to finish pigs for producers." In this edition of The Research Report, a biannual update from the DNA Genetics' Production Research and Development Committee, we'll provide a snapshot into the work we are doing, share key insights and highlight the trials we've completed—along with a forecast of what's to come.

This year, our team of scientists is focused on optimizing the management practices for the DNA Line 241, specifically evaluating the nutrient requirements to maximize productivity and reduce mortality. While our research continues to reveal that the L241 is highly productive, self-sufficient and an easy-keeper, we recently wrapped up two trials (one on split suckling and one on loading strategies) that highlight her unmatched capabilities as a mother. As we look forward to the second half of the year, we will launch four trials to continue research that highlights her abilities and helps producers maximize her productivity.



Ashley Hartman, Ph.D.
Research Coordinator

We invite you to stay connected as we continue to share our findings and technological advancements to help solidify your farm's success in 2025 and beyond.

FEATURED FARM: HLP RESEARCH

HLP Research is our 2,000-head sow research farm. This farm is stocked solely with DNA Line 241 females, in which we're able to track lifetime performance and longevity. All of the farm's farrowing crates are equipped with Gestal Quatro feeders and provide extensive opportunities to record lactation feed intake curves and evaluate the lactation nutrient requirements of the L241. We've also renovated the gestation barns to include stall and pen gestation, allowing us to study longevity in the stalls versus the pens. Furthermore, the gestation pens are equipped with Gestal 3G2 feeders which will help us better understand her gestational nutrient requirements.

Are you interested in taking a virtual tour of the barn? Stay tuned for more details later this summer.

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THE INFLUENCE OF SOW LOADING STRATEGY ON LITTER PERFORMANCE

This retrospective study utilized data from 1,200 DNA Line 241 multiparous females to determine the impact of loading strategy on litter performance. The results of the study revealed the following findings:

- An increase from 14 to 15 functional teats increased the number of pigs weaned, but it did not impact the litter's wean weight.
- Wean weight remained consistent across different loading strategies above 0.
- The number of pigs weaned significantly increased from a loading strategy of -3 to +1 without affecting pre-weaning mortality; however, mortality increased when the loading strategy exceeded +1.
- There was no difference in functional teat count between parity groups.

These findings reinforce the recommendation for producers to load the DNA Line 241 sow with one piglet over her functional teat count to optimize productivity without compromising piglet survivability.

TRIAL SPOTLIGHTS:

Want to learn more? Visit dnagenetics.com/podcasts or scan the QR Code to view our complete podcast library and subscribe to future episodes of "Inside the Helix." New episodes released biweekly.

EVALUATION OF SPLIT SUCKLING STRATEGIES FOR HIGH-PRODUCING SOWS

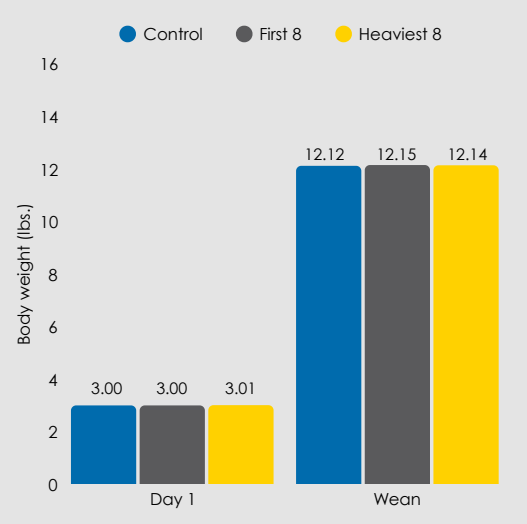
In this study we compared no split suckling to two different split suckling strategies in over 1,500 DNA Line 241 litters. The strategies we evaluated were:

- Strategy 1 - the first eight piglets born were removed for 45 minutes and swapped with the remaining pigs for 45 minutes
- Strategy 2 - the heaviest eight pigs were removed for 1.5 hours

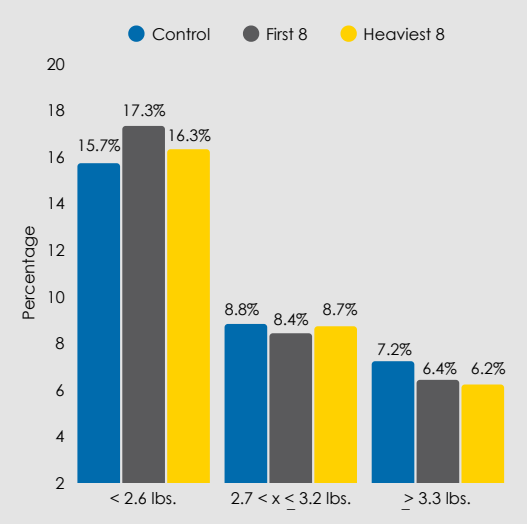
The evaluation of split suckling strategies on pre-wean piglet growth and mortality did not show a benefit. There was also no difference by: parity, piglet birth weight, litter size, or teat count. Additionally, we looked at the post-weaning growth and mortality in these pigs and did not find a benefit to split suckling.

The results of the split suckling trial revealed that for the DNA female, farms can reallocate labor previously used for split suckling to focus on sow care or Day 1 pig care activities.

SPLIT SUCKLING STRATEGY ON PIG WEIGHT



SPLIT SUCKLING STRATEGY ON PRE-WEAN MORTALITY BY BODY WEIGHT*



*Pre-wean mortality does not include Day 1 mortality.

Are you interested in learning more about our research initiatives? Contact your National Account Leader or Dr. Ashley Hartman at ashleyrh@pillenfamilyfarms.com.