

BOAR EXPOSURE: WEAN SOWS



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ECONOMIC RETURN

GDU

Getting a HNS on 90+% of females = 0.75 TB
0.56 weaned on gilt litters (20% of litters)
0.56 pigs x 20% of litters x 2.4 litters per year = 0.27 PSY improvement
0.27 p/s/y x \$30/pig = \$8.10/sow/year

WEANED SOWS

1 pig/litter TB=0.75 weaned on P2+ litters (80% of litters)
0.75 pigs x 80% of litters x 2.4 litters per year = 1.44 P/S/Y improvement
1.44 p/s/y x \$30/pig = \$43.2/sow/year

LESS NON-PRODUCTIVE SOW DAYS

3% of sows and gilts bred 21 days earlier, \$2.5/day for 21 days
0.03 x \$2.5 x 21 = \$1.58 x 2.4 turns/year = \$3.80/sow/year

TOTAL INCREASED REVENUE

Adding additional boars to a sow farm increases costs of \$567/boar. For a 5,000 sow farm, an additional 10 boars would cost \$1.10/sow/year. There would also be a \$.28/sow/year cost for lost revenue for boar crate utilization.

\$53.70

Gilts: \$8.10
Sows: \$47.00
Boar Expense: \$1.40

SELECTING BOARS

High libido, athletic boars producing a high quantity of pheromones are the most effective to use for Boar Exposure. They should be active and frothing when in front of the gilts or weaned sows. Crossbred terminal and maternal line boars need to be 10 months of age to provide adequate stimulus. Meishan and Meishan-cross boars reach sexual maturity sooner, around 4 months of age, and typically show higher libido.

STIMULATING RETURN TO ESTRUS

To optimize the estrous cycle and reproductive performance, boar exposure should begin on the day of weaning.

- For crate gestation, boars should be brought into the alleyways to allow for direct contact in front of the sows.
- For pen gestation, boars should be brought into the pens with the sows.
- At the start of heat checking, the sows will need to become acclimated to the presence of the boar.
 - This may take 2-5 minutes/commercial sow.
 - It could take 5-10 minutes/purebred sow.
- After Heat Checking & Breeding Is Complete it's valuable to expose the sows to boars for an additional 20 minutes, up to an hour.

BOAR GROUPS PROVIDE MORE STIMULUS THAN A SINGLE BOAR

Operations switching from using single boars to groups of boars have seen a quicker standing estrus response from their wean sows resulting in faster heat checking. Groups should include a minimum of 4 boars with a maximum of 12 boars, depending on the age of the boars being utilized. The graph below is a study from a 5600 sow farm. The vertical line indicates when the utilization of boar groups started, resulting in an increase of TB.

