

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.

Average Pig Weight, lbs. (kg)	Temperature Set Point, °F	
	Cold Weather	Hot Weather
12 (5.4) ^a	88	86
12 (5.4) ^b	78	76
20 (9.1) ^b	73	72
25 (11.3) ^a	79	77
50 (22.7)	73	71
75 (34.0)	67	66
100 (45.4)	63	62
200+ (90.7+)	58	58

^a Temperature based on solid sided barn and fully stocked.

^b Temperature based on solid sided barn, fully stocked, with brooder heat zone with a mat temperature at 95-90 °F for approximately 21 days post placement.

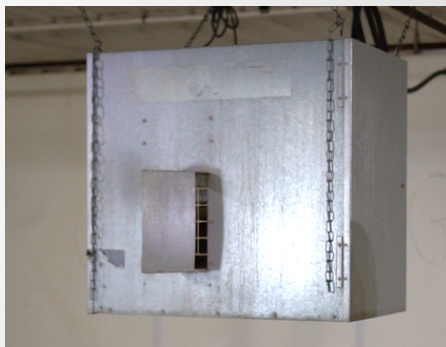
INLETS

Regardless of nursery age, draft points may still be detected along the seams of inlets. For example 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. Any unused fans during the winter should be bubble wrapped or covered to prevent drafting. Be sure not to cover backup thermostats.



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!

