

TIPS FOR MAXIMIZING SOW PERFORMANCE



THE DNA LINE 241



SCAN FOR VIDEO!

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 300-325 lbs. The best practice is to weigh gilts individually prior to moving into gestation to hit the breeding weight target.

3-8 weeks	3.5 SQ FT
9-15 weeks	8 SQ FT
16-19 weeks	10 SQ FT
20 weeks	12+ SQ FT

Recommended space per week of age.

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 a minimum of 30, 60, and 90 days after preg check to maximize your feed utilization. Farm teams should remain engaged in body condition throughout gestation to ensure the 241 enters farrowing at 11- 15 mm backfat or a 3- body condition score. By maintaining a leaner body condition, farm managers save on feed budget during the gestation phase.

Additional benefits for a leaner body condition going 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



Producers should ensure the DNA sow gets up after she's finished farrowing to make sure she's consumed feed and water. Be sure to focus on her in the first week after she's farrowed.

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 when accounting for her large litter sizes. Piglets can be loaded 1 over teat count on the DNA Line 241 and still maintain litter integrity. 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's loading policy should 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 estrus 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.

