

The Five Pillars of Reproductive Care



**First
48-Hours
Piglet Care**

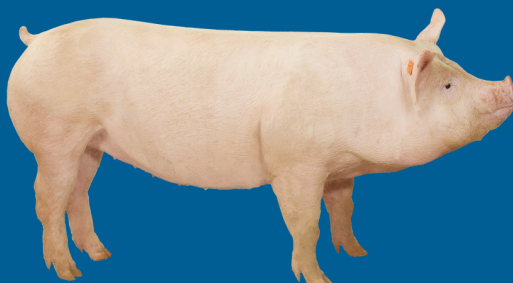
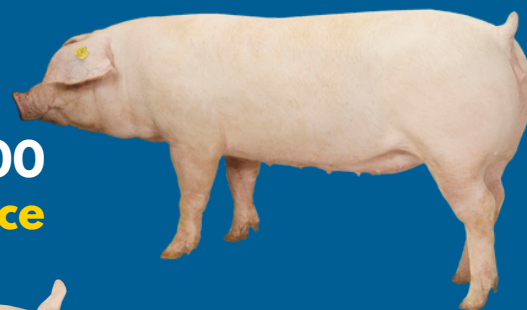
**Sow
Farrowing
Care**

**Feeding for
Body Condition
Management**

**Gilt
Development**

**Estrus
Detection**

DNA Line 400
Landrace



DNA Line 200
Yorkshire

DNA Genetics' Yorkshire and Landrace purebred lines are the foundation for the DNA Genetics Line 241 gilt. Each line is undergoing continuous genetic improvement for those traits that support achieving 14|14|21 in the DNA 241, including improved pig survivability, robustness, and sow retention. All while weaning more of the pigs she already produces at a higher weaning weight, and contributing to the grow-finish performance of her offspring.

In order to maximize quality, survival, and overall care in reproductive barns, DNA Genetics developed and abides by the Five Pillars of Reproductive Care. By strictly following these guidelines, the DNA Purebred Lines 200 and 400 will be dependable maternal sows that exceed expectations in health, reproductive ability, and overall performance.

The Five Pillars of Reproductive Care

First 48-Hours Piglet Care



Towel drying or use a drying agent

Drying stimulates baby pigs to nurse, reduces chilling, and can reduce mortality.



Heat Source

Piglets lying patterns should be under heat lamp or on heat mat when not distributed.



Loading Strategy

It is recommended for producers to load the DNA Line 200 and DNA Line 400 sow with one piglet over her functional teat count.



Fostering is done within 24 hours of birth

Strive to maximize litter integrity and minimize fostering, which decreases disease spread and avoids disruption to the nursing pattern of the sow. This increases wean weights and decreases nursery mortality.

If creating fall behind/nurse litters, pull piglets from 1 week, day 3-5 after birth.

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Sow Farrowing Care



Feeding Rates & Pre- and Post-Farrow Care

Gestation Length

DNA Line 400
DNA Line 200

116.8 Days
(average)

No sow should
be induced to
farrow prior to
116 days.

Sows that pass
day 118 tend to
have **higher**
stillborn rates.

Pre-farrow

4 - 6 lbs. minimum

Ad-lib feeding can be used 2-3 days pre-farrow at maximum.

Multiple feedings, if possible.

-For example, provide 2 lbs. of feed at 3 separate daily intervals.

-Goal is to get the last feeding as close to the start of farrowing as possible.

Post-farrow

Ad-lib feeding

It is ideal to get the sow up as soon as possible after farrowing and once per day for the first five days. Monitor feed disappearance and get sows up as needed.

Sows that are off feed should have a rectal temperature taken and treated accordingly.

Assistance

Check active farrowing sows every 30 minutes (minimum) and record current number of pigs to track progress. Consider sleaving if no progress has been made.

Farrowing Room Temperature*



74-76° F
Summer



76-78° F
Winter

Farrowing room temperature curves should not be started until every sow in the room is finished farrowing.

Reading the laying patterns of the pigs so they are appropriately spread out and not piling, will help determine if temperature and ventilation are correct.

*Should be adjusted based on facility.

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Feeding for Body Condition Management

BODY CONDITION SCORE = BCS



AT FARROWING



Target Body Condition

11-15 mm

Body Condition Score

2.75-3.25
(on a scale of 1-5)

One team member should be responsible for BCS.

Feeding Rates

Day of Wean to Breeding

6 lbs.
minimum

**FEED TO BODY
CONDITION**

Breed to Preg Check

4 lbs.
minimum

**FEED TO BODY
CONDITION**

Make sure she is in a positive state of energy for developing embryos.

Preg Check to Farrow

3.5 lbs.
minimum

**FEED TO BODY
CONDITION**

Recommend sorting heavy sows together & thin sows together to reduce stealing feed.

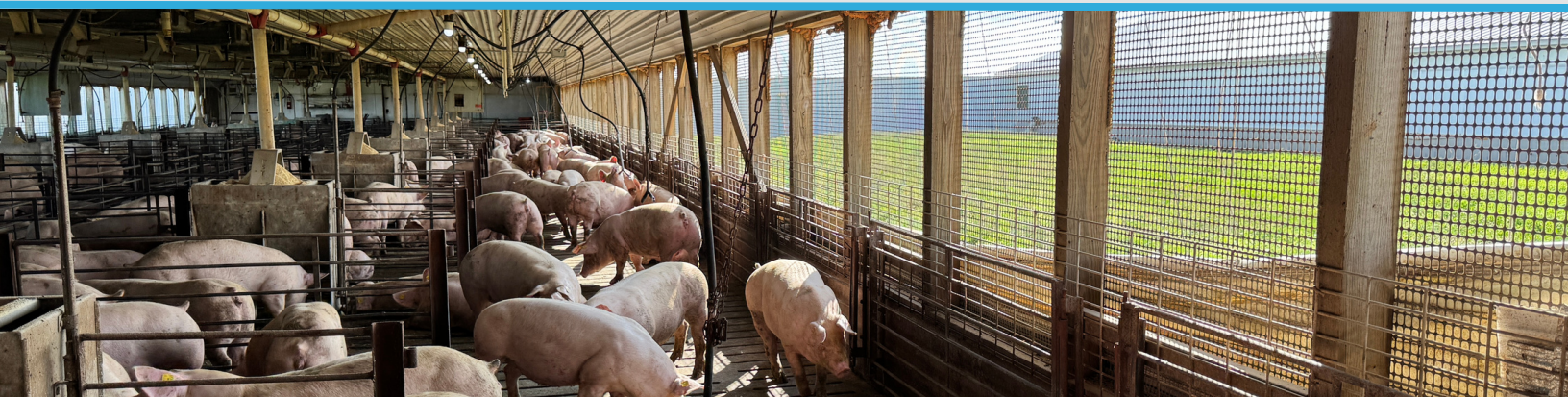
Pen Gestation

When mixing females in loose housing, grouping according to body condition allows females to be better fed to condition.

Grouping gilts together is highly recommended. When feeding in groups, feeding rates may need to be adjusted to accommodate the variation in BCS.

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Gilt Development



Starting at 26 weeks of age, weigh the largest gilts in the group. If they weigh 285 lbs. begin boar exposure.

- If a gilt cycles and weighs 285 lbs. move to the breed row and breed on subsequent estrus.
Waiting to breed until a second estrous increases TB in first parity and subsequent lifetime productivity.
- If a gilt does not have an HNS and weighs 315 lbs., move to the breed row (sow farm) and breed on first estrus.
- Breed at 320 lbs. minimum, target below 370 lbs.

Stall Acclimation

Gilts must be in a stall for at least 10 days prior to breeding.

Data shows improvements in farrowing rate and lifetime total born.

- If HNS, have 10 days of stall acclimation
- If no HNS, breed when stands.

Feed 3-4 lbs. twice per day when animals are first stalled. They are used to "snack feeding" in finisher (not eating 6 lbs./day in one setting.)

**10
DAYS**

Stocking Density of Gilt Development Units (GDUs)

Providing adequate square footage in the GDU will improve growth, mortality, structure, overall selection rate, and sow longevity.

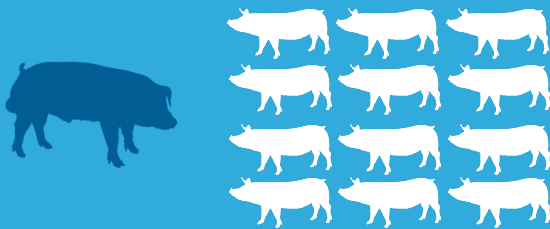
Nursery	11-weeks	16-weeks	24-weeks
3.5	6	10	12
square feet	square feet	square feet	square feet

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Estrus Detection

Gilts

Use Boar Bands



Use 1 boar per 12 females (minimum).
Direct contact is best. If in an alley, all gilts have fenceline contact with boar at one time.

Weaned Sows

BEGIN DAY AFTER WEANING

Use Boar Bands



Use a minimum of 4 boars.



2 to 5 **minutes**
per female.

Proper boar exposure increases the number of sows that return to estrus in day 3-5 timeframe.

After heat checking and breeding are complete, put boars in front of sows for

20
minutes
(minimum)

Boar Selection and Management

- Non-Meishan boars should be a minimum of 10 months of age.
- Meishan boars should be a minimum of 4 months of age.
- Boars should be fed to maintain an athletic appearance and a high libido
- House boars away from gilts and weaned sows that are undergoing estrus detection and boar exposure.