

DNA GENETICS RESEARCH BRIEF

Nurse Sow Utilization Rate Effect on Pig Performance

OBJECTIVE

To evaluate differences in sow farm, nursery and finishing productivity in farrowing rooms with 0% nurse sows or 7% nurse sows.

DATE COMPLETED

December 2022

RATIONALE

The DNA L241 is a prolific female with exceptional mothering abilities. Managing high born alive numbers to get the most efficient productivity is critical to success. This study evaluated two different farrowing house management strategies commonly used for increased performance success.

CONCLUSIONS

1. Pigs weaned from rooms with 0% nurse sows had (4.75 vs 6.56) lower wean to finish mortality than pigs weaned from 7% nurse sows.
2. Farrowing rooms that used 7% nurse sows had pigs with higher wean weights, 10-week weights, and 22-week weights (Table 1).
3. Farrowing rooms that used 0% nurse sows weaned 12.89 pigs per sow weaned compared to farrowing rooms that used 7% nurse sows weaned 12.15 pigs per sow weaned ($P < 0.001$).

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Utilizing nurse sows results in heavier pigs at all stages of production.
2. Utilizing nurse sows hinders nursery-finish survivability.
3. Depending on the operation:
 - a. If you can farrow more sows, not using a nurse sow produces more pigs.
 - b. If you cannot farrow more sows, using a nurse sow produces more pigs than adding wean age.
4. Farrowing rooms with 0% nurse sows produced more total pounds per room at weaning compared to farrowing rooms utilizing 7% nurse sows.

TABLE 1 : WEIGHTS

	0% NURSE SOWS	7% NURSE SOWS	P-VALUE
BIRTH WEIGHT (KG)	1.37 ^a	1.36 ^a	0.413
WEAN WEIGHT (KG)	5.70 ^a	5.83 ^b	<0.001
10-WEEK WEIGHT (KG)	16.83 ^a	17.99 ^b	<0.001
22-WEEK WEIGHT (KG)	98.11 ^a	100.60 ^b	<0.001

For more information on this study, contact Brady McNeil (bmcneil@dnaswinegenetics.com).



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