

DNA GENETICS RESEARCH TRIAL

Sow Body Condition & Caliper

RESEARCH OBJECTIVE

To gain a better understanding of the impact of body condition and weight on reproductive performance.

TRIAL OVERVIEW

This study evaluated DNA L241 females for body condition (BCS) on days 0, 30, 60 and 90 of gestation and farrowing. Three methods were used to evaluate BCS: visual BCS using a 1-5 scoring method, Knauer sow caliper (KSC) measured at the last rib and an Exago ultrasound measuring backfat (BF) at the 10th rib. Gestation feed box settings, lactation feed intake, reproductive performance and lactation entry and exit weights were also recorded.

COMPLETION DATE

Winter 2023

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Visual BCS was highly correlated with BF at the different time points compared to KSC.
- DNA L241 gilts should enter farrowing between 0.35-0.50 in. of BF at farrowing (9-14 mm).
 - This is similar to a 2.75-3.25 BCS score or 10-15 KSC score.
- For maximum P1 reproductive performance, DNA L241 gilts should be bred between 300-360 lbs. to farrow at 350-425 lbs.

PRODUCER IMPLICATIONS

- Breed females with a heat no service and crate acclimation between 300-330 lbs. This gives the best balance of performance and gestational efficiency.
- Have one team member responsible for adjusting feed boxes. This should be done at a minimum of breeding and at the 60-day and 90-day pregnancy check.
 - Ideally, BCS should be observed every two weeks with feed boxes adjusted accordingly.
- Farrow females in an athletic body condition to maximize reproductive and lactation performance.
 - Lactation feed intake is maximized when gestation BF is between 0.35-0.50 (11-14 Knauer Sow Caliper) inches for P1 sows (Figure 1) and 0.30 and 0.55 (10-15 Knauer Sow Caliper) for P2 sows and older (Figure 2).

PERFORMANCE DATA

Figure 1:

P1 Lactation average daily feed intake (ADFI) by farrowing backfat

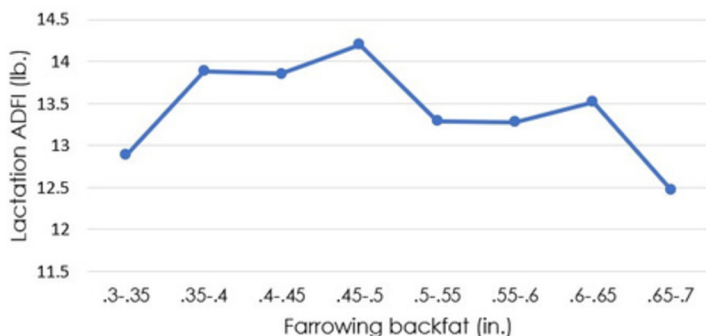
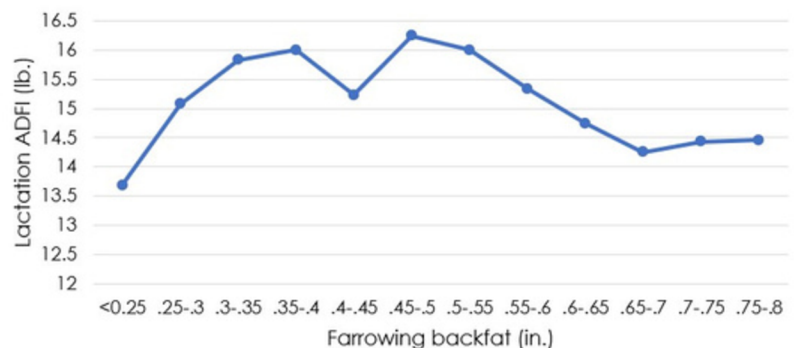


Figure 2:

P2 Lactation average daily feed intake (ADFI) by farrowing backfat



For more information on this study, please contact your National Account Leader or Ashley Hartman (ashleyrh@pillenfamilyfarms.com).



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