

DATE COMPLETED

Spring 2024

OBJECTIVE

Evaluate the effect of clipping needle teeth at processing on pig and sow performance.

TRIAL OVERVIEW

As litter size has increased, producers are investigating clipping needle teeth to minimize the facial scarring and udder damage resulting from pigs fighting. In this trial, 85 sows were randomly assigned within parity to a treatment of clipping teeth versus not clipping teeth. Six hundred fifty pigs were assigned to each treatment.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Pigs with intact needle teeth weigh 0.3 lbs. more at weaning than those with clipped needle teeth.
- Clipping needle teeth resulted in a numerical difference of 2% lower pre-wean mortality and fewer udder and facial lesions at weaning.

PRODUCER IMPLICATIONS

- Clipping needle teeth can be a tool for producers to utilize when facial scarring and udder lesions impact performance.
- Alternatively, clipping needle teeth can be a targeted approach used for litters of nurse sows, fallback (small pigs), gilt litters, and litters loaded over teat count.

PRIMARY PERFORMANCE DATA

Impact of Clipping Needle Teeth on Pig Performance

Treatment	Teeth Not Clipped	Teeth Clipped	SE	P-Value
Birthweight (lbs.)	2.79	2.82	0.10	0.72
Weaning Weight (lbs.)	14.25	13.85	0.26	0.13
ADG (lbs.)	0.53	0.51	0.02	0.11
Pre-Wean Mortality %	17.9	15.7	0.14	0.33

For more information on this study, please contact your National Account Leader.