

Sow Feeding 101 – Management of Different Systems to Meet Sow Nutrient Requirements

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- 1) What are goals of gestation feeding program?**
 - ✓ Meet daily needs of each sow
 - ✓ Not create thin sows (welfare concern)
 - ✓ Not create fat sows (feed intake problem in farrowing house)
 - ✓ Litter birth weight (increase intake in late gestation)
 - ✓ Will future goals include targeting specific nutrients to particular stage

- 2) What are sow requirements during gestation?**
 - ✓ Energy
 - ✓ Protein
 - ✓ Vitamins and minerals
 - ✓ Water

- 3) What are challenges of meeting needs in each housing system?**
 - A. Individual Housing (stalls)
 - ✓ Variation in drops
 - ✓ Accurately determining nutrient needs for altering body condition
 - ✓ Stealing feed between sows
 - ✓ Water intake for all sows
 - ✓ Dropping into water
 - ✓ Temperature below thermoneutral zone

 - B. Group Housed (feed as group)
 - ✓ Feed consumption by individual sows
 - Hierarchy order for consumption
 - Variation in group body weight during gestation
 - ✓ Feed allocation to group

 - C. Group Housed (feed individually)
 - ✓ Electronic feeders
 - Training of sows and people
 - Equipment malfunction and breakage
 - ✓ Feeding stalls
 - Cost
 - Variation in drops
 - Water access while eating?
 - Longevity of system