Sow & Pig Care – Birth to Weaning

Assisting Sows During Farrowing

Pig parity, litter size, interval between pigs and sow’s history should be considered when planning the amount of assistance a sow will need during the farrowing process. Manual examination of the vagina and cervix is one effective approach to determine if an obstruction or misalignment of the piglet requires strict sanitation, the use of obstetrical gloves and lubricants, intervals between pigs are commonly 15 to 20 minutes. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes between pigs before assisting the sow.

Use Oxytocin with Care

Every farm should establish standard operating procedures for obstetrical assistance and to avoid excessive or early administration of oxytocin, which can have a negative effect on sow performance and the newborn piglets. If a pig has been extracted from the birth canal, sow should be examined before oxytocin administration.

Rules for Effective Use of Injectable Oxytocin

• Oxytocin requires a veterinarian’s prescription.
• Before injection, try to stimulate natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping.
• Reuse an 18-gauge needle. The sow’s neck and vulva should be thoroughly cleaned to avoid cross-contamination.
• Irritate a 5-minute interval between injections of oxytocin, wait 1-2 minutes, then strip teats to obtain colostrum. Store and use the colostrum within 24 hours.

Use Obstetrical Instruments with Care

Manual extraction is usually the safest technique to extract piglets. The use of forceps, cable snare or blunt blunt forceps can cause damage to the sow’s reproductive tract and to the newborn piglet. In contamination of the uterus is suspected, injectable antibiotics may be warranted. Consult your veterinarian.

Milk Deprivation

Sow Anatomy

The illustration shows the normal position of the uterus, extending as you would examine a sow over the brim of the pelvis, the posterior and forward.

2. Vagina – extends from just inside the vulva to the cervix; you will not feel a difference in the vagina and the cervix in a sow that is dilated and ready to farrow.
3. Uterus – the diagram shows a shortened version of the uterus, which is normally 5-6 ft. long and divided into uterine horns (horns); both contain pigs.
4. Abdominal cavity – Highway between the colon and small intestine; the colon (partially shown) runs above the birth canal and extends to the rectum.

Sow & Pig Care – Birth to Weaning

Sow Anatomy

The illustration shows the normal position of the uterus, extending as you would examine a sow over the brim of the pelvis, the posterior and forward.

2. Vagina – extends from just inside the vulva to the cervix; you will not feel a difference in the vagina and the cervix in a sow that is dilated and ready to farrow.
3. Uterus – the diagram shows a shortened version of the uterus, which is normally 5-6 ft. long and divided into uterine horns (horns); both contain pigs.
4. Abdominal cavity – Highway between the colon and small intestine; the colon (partially shown) runs above the birth canal and extends to the rectum.

Assisting Sows During Farrowing

Pig parity, litter size, interval between pigs and sow’s history should be considered when planning the amount of assistance a sow will need during the farrowing process. Manual examination of the vagina and cervix is one effective approach to determine if an obstruction or misalignment of the piglet requires strict sanitation, the use of obstetrical gloves and lubricants, intervals between pigs are commonly 15 to 20 minutes. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes between pigs before assisting the sow.

Use Oxytocin with Care

Every farm should establish standard operating procedures for obstetrical assistance and to avoid excessive or early administration of oxytocin, which can have a negative effect on sow performance and the newborn piglets. If a pig has been extracted from the birth canal, sow should be examined before oxytocin administration.

Rules for Effective Use of Injectable Oxytocin

• Oxytocin requires a veterinarian’s prescription.
• Before injection, try to stimulate natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping.
• Reuse an 18-gauge needle. The sow’s neck and vulva should be thoroughly cleaned to avoid cross-contamination.
• Irritate a 5-minute interval between injections of oxytocin, wait 1-2 minutes, then strip teats to obtain colostrum. Store and use the colostrum within 24 hours.

Use Obstetrical Instruments with Care

Manual extraction is usually the safest technique to extract piglets. The use of forceps, cable snare or blunt blunt forceps can cause damage to the sow’s reproductive tract and to the newborn piglet. In contamination of the uterus is suspected, injectable antibiotics may be warranted. Consult your veterinarian.

Milk Deprivation

Sow Anatomy

The illustration shows the normal position of the uterus, extending as you would examine a sow over the brim of the pelvis, the posterior and forward.

2. Vagina – extends from just inside the vulva to the cervix; you will not feel a difference in the vagina and the cervix in a sow that is dilated and ready to farrow.
3. Uterus – the diagram shows a shortened version of the uterus, which is normally 5-6 ft. long and divided into uterine horns (horns); both contain pigs.
4. Abdominal cavity – Highway between the colon and small intestine; the colon (partially shown) runs above the birth canal and extends to the rectum.

Assisting Sows During Farrowing

Pig parity, litter size, interval between pigs and sow’s history should be considered when planning the amount of assistance a sow will need during the farrowing process. Manual examination of the vagina and cervix is one effective approach to determine if an obstruction or misalignment of the piglet requires strict sanitation, the use of obstetrical gloves and lubricants, intervals between pigs are commonly 15 to 20 minutes. Allow a maximum of 5 minutes between pigs before assisting the sow.

Use Oxytocin with Care

Every farm should establish standard operating procedures for obstetrical assistance and to avoid excessive or early administration of oxytocin, which can have a negative effect on sow performance and the newborn piglets. If a pig has been extracted from the birth canal, sow should be examined before oxytocin administration.

Rules for Effective Use of Injectable Oxytocin

• Oxytocin requires a veterinarian’s prescription.
• Before injection, try to stimulate natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping natural oxytocin release by vaginal palpation, udder massage and keeping.
• Reuse an 18-gauge needle. The sow’s neck and vulva should be thoroughly cleaned to avoid cross-contamination.
• Irritate a 5-minute interval between injections of oxytocin, wait 1-2 minutes, then strip teats to obtain colostrum. Store and use the colostrum within 24 hours.

Use Obstetrical Instruments with Care

Manual extraction is usually the safest technique to extract piglets. The use of forceps, cable snare or blunt blunt forceps can cause damage to the sow’s reproductive tract and to the newborn piglet. In contamination of the uterus is suspected, injectable antibiotics may be warranted. Consult your veterinarian.