

Key Factors

(Continued from Page 32)

Number of Pigs Per Pen

Keep this at 25 pigs or less. When group sizes exceed 25, the social stability breaks down, resulting in more unrest among the pigs.

Moving and Loading Hogs

As a producer, you represent a critical link between the farm and the dinner table. Clearly, genetics plays an important role in lean content and pork quality. But it's just as clear that pork quality can suffer when pigs are not loaded carefully.

Design your facilities so that pigs move with a minimum of pushing and persuasion. Sharp corners, narrow alleys, and loading chutes through which pigs can see out should not be part of your system.

The more shouting, slapping, and shocking that is required to move the pigs from the pen to the truck the greater the incidence of pale, soft, and exudative (PSE) pork.

Feeder Adjustment

Too many producers believe that feeder adjustments is a once-a-month routine. Removing any fouled feed and adjusting the feeders should be a daily process.

Split Sex Feeding

Barrows grow faster and eat more than gilts, but gilts have more muscle and are leaner. So it's logical that gilts respond to higher dietary lysine. The economic incentive to split sex feeding is to optimize carcass value in the gilt and to minimize feed cost for the barrows.

Formulation for Lean Gain

Many producers assume that the lysine concentration in their grow-finish diet matches the needs of the pig. Actually, making this decision requires considerable effort and some intelligent assumptions. For example, to determine the optimum lysine concentration, the following information is needed: average starting weight, average days on feed, average carcass weight, and loin eye area and backfat (or comparable optical probe measurements).

From these values, we can calculate lean gain per day and then estimate the daily lysine requirements. The average feed intake must be known to calculate the appropriate lysine percentage for the diet. Because this process is a bit complicated, most producers will not go to the effort.

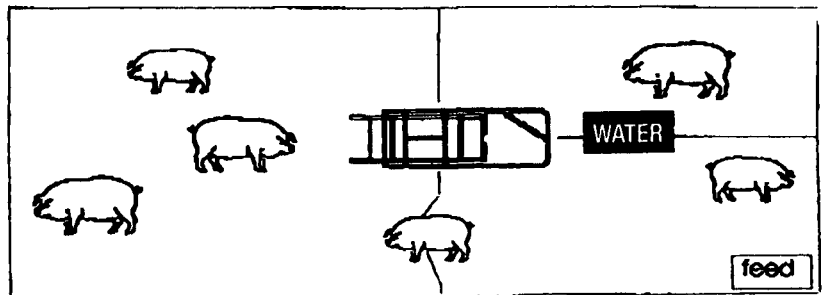
Estimating the most economical lysine concentration is even more difficult because it requires knowing how pigs respond to varying lysine levels,

(Turn to Page 35)

NEW SORTALL HOG BUILDINGS

**The ONLY
PATENTED
HOG SORTING
SYSTEM IN THE U.S.**

*Designed by
Schick Enterprises*



SUPER SORTER - THE PERFECT PIG PICKER

- Automatically Sorts Pigs By Weight
- Make Money On Sort Bonus
- No More Battles On Market Day
- Pigs Will Be Sorted, Ready For Loading
- You Can't Afford To Build Without It
- Can Be Installed In Existing Buildings

We Can Help With All Your
Building & Equipment Needs

Hog Contracts Available

Backed
By



AP
Quality

SCHICK ENTERPRISES
1-800-527-7675

Visit our website: schickenterprises.com