



Good management means good performance – simple

Farm facts

Name: Neil Newlove, North Field Farm

Location: York

Farm size and enterprise: 730 sow outdoor breeder weaning all progeny off site, three week batch farrowing

Benefits

- Consistent farrowing rate >90% at first parity
- Good total born performance (average 11)
- Low numbers of still born piglets (average 0.3)

Background

Producer Neil Newlove recently set up a new, re-stocked herd. As he already had experience of setting up a herd, he knew how important consistency in the gilt management was for future productivity.

Key to success

- Recording gilt performance allows continuous assessment of performance
- Attention to detail; if there is a blip in performance, Neil evaluates and assesses the factors that could have contributed to it
- Good staff communication
- As an outdoor producer environmental factors, such as bad weather, can impact on performance. Key to success is staying positive and not compromising good management.



*“ It is attention to detail and consistency in gilt management that provides the good results.
Neil Newlove, producer ”*

The system

- On arrival, gilts weigh around 105 kg; they are grouped in training paddocks of 25 and fed a gilt rearer diet ad-lib
- After nine weeks gilts are treated with in-feed Regumate® and fed 3 kg/day for 18 days
- In the AI tent, gilts receive nose-to-nose boar contact; this is the first time gilts see the boar
- If a gilt does not show standing heat when back pressure is applied, she is put into the boar pen to check if she will stand for the boar
- Gilts showing standing heat on Sunday are served on Monday. Gilts standing on Monday onwards are served when detected. They receive two AI services 24 hours apart
- After service the gilts remain in stable groups
- Gilts are grouped with a chaser boar one week post service and scanned at four weeks, after which the chaser boar is removed
- Initially, gilts are kept in pairs, with every other paddock left empty; this reduces stress and stops gilts jumping the fences to group up
- After four days the pairs are split up so that they farrow in single paddocks.