



# Tackling autumn infertility



Autumn infertility can affect sows and gilts that are served from mid-September to late October and problems may include delayed oestrus, increased returns

and abortions. Steps producers can take to reduce the risk include ensuring sows

are fed to maintain optimum condition and providing adequate light and warmth.

**Energy level:** With the decline in temperature, sows' energy requirement increases therefore it is important to adjust diets accordingly so that sows don't have to use their body reserves for energy.

**Light level:** To maintain a viable pregnancy, sows need to be exposed to a minimum of 16 hours of light (200 lux intensity) per day. Cleaning skylights, painting walls white and putting timers on electric lights are some simple changes that can help.

**Ventilation:** Check and re-adjust ventilation settings to achieve optimal airflow for the autumn months.

Finally, producers might need to adjust timings for insemination, as oestrus generally tends to occur later during the autumn and winter period: consider doing an oestrus map to identify when sows are on heat.

Go to [www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/breeding/Autumn.aspx](http://www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/breeding/Autumn.aspx) for more guidance.

## Regional producer events

BPEX's Breed+3 regional producer events are coming up soon, in Newbury, Kidderminster, Wetherby and Diss on the 13, 14, 19 and 20 November respectively.

The practical half-day workshops are focused on helping pig unit managers and stockpeople wean more piglets per sow per year, covering: optimising the number of piglets born per sow per year, reducing pre-weaning mortality and how to interpret performance records.

Plus, attendees will hear from fellow pig producers about their on-farm sow feeding system trials and how they manage their units.

Go to [www.bpex.org.uk/events](http://www.bpex.org.uk/events)

## Training season starts



Training courses and workshops are about to get underway and BPEX has published a training and qualifications brochure to summarise all the opportunities on offer.

Skilled and enthusiastic people are the most important part of a successful pig business and the pig industry boasts a range of ways to train and learn new skills at every level, from new stockperson through to pig unit manager.

Download a copy from [www.bpex.org.uk/2ts/training](http://www.bpex.org.uk/2ts/training) or contact [clancy.smith@bpex.ahdb.org.uk](mailto:clancy.smith@bpex.ahdb.org.uk) to request a hard copy.