



Solutions to summer infertility



As soon as the temperature rises above 18°C the adult pig will need to cool itself. If pigs struggle to stay cool, the farrowing rate can drop by as much as 25%, with a small drop in litter size too.

Some solutions for both indoor and outdoor herds:

- Serve earlier or later in the day when it's cooler
- Ensure good hygiene when serving – clean vulvas pre-insemination

- Wash hands regularly or have gloves at hand
- Serve an extra 10% of gilts/sows to offset lower conception rate.

Indoors:

- Check insulation, as good insulation keeps the building cooler
- Fans need to be clean to operate fully
- Check water flow rates
- Add a shower facility for the summer months.

Outdoors:

- Make wallows twice the size to ensure all sows/gilts can access them at all times
- Wallows need to be liquid, not muddy, to work best – add clean water daily when very hot
- Keep AI doses at 16-18°C in an insulated container until required and keep out of sunlight.

See *Action for Productivity 3: Heat stress (indoor herds)* and *Action for Productivity 4: Heat stress (outdoor herds)* for more information.

www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/breeding

Staff training from day one

A 'job for life' is no longer the reality on many farms. This can put some businesses off investing in staff development but it is important that all staff are involved in some degree of training from the moment they start.

This could be simple induction plans, health and safety or animal welfare but helping staff understand the business and its standards is vital.

There are often concerns about 'wasting' money on training because staff may then leave, but the alternative to think about is the consequences of having untrained staff on the farm.

Visit www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/training for more ideas about how to involve staff.



Keep feed intake up

In finishing pigs (above 50kg), there is a risk of reduced feed intake at temperatures above 20°C. To maintain feed intake:

- Check the ventilation system to ensure optimal airflow to reduce the room temperature
- Ensure there are enough drinker points, optimal flow rate and clean, easy-to-access water
- Consider cooling systems such as sprinklers, shades or wallows
- Speak to a nutritionist about diet specification
- Keep check of grading sheets from the abattoir.

For more information visit www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/finishing