

Effect of Restricted Feeding During Mid-gestation On Sow Performance

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A group of 16 sows was divided after all sows were bred. One group was fed 4 pounds per head per day; the other, 4 pounds per head every other day for 60 days, then 4 pounds per head per day until taken to the farrowing house a few days before farrowing.

All sows had access to fair alfalfa brome pasture. The ration fed (sorghum grain, soybean oil meal, dehydrated alfalfa meal, minerals and vitamin) contained about 17 percent protein.

Weight changes of the sows are shown in Table 45. The sows gained about the same during the 60 days. Limited fed sows apparently consumed enough more pasture to gain as much as those fed every day. However, 2 weeks after farrowing, sows fed every day had gained 17 pounds more from the start of the test than those limited fed during mid-gestation.

There was no difference in the performance of the two groups (table 46). Other research has shown that too much feed and over fatness impairs reproduction. The data indicate that feed costs can be reduced considerably and good sow performance can be obtained by limiting the feed intake of sows on pasture during mid-gestation.

Table 45
Weight Changes of Sows as Affected by Level of Feed Intake

Feed level/head	4 lb/day	4 lb. every other day*
Initial weight, lb.	426	397
After 60 days, lb.	461	424
At farrowing, lb.	520	472
2 weeks after farrowing, lb.	450	404
Gain initial to 2 week after farrowing, lb.	24	7

* After 60 days feed increased to 4 lb./day

Table 46
Sow Performance as Affected by Level of Feed Intake during
Mid-gestation

Feed level	4 lb/day	4 lb. every other day*
No. of sows	8	8
Pigs farrowed/litter	10.8	10.7
Pigs at 2 weeks/litter	9.2	9.1
Birth weight/pig lb.	2.6	2.9
2 week weight/pig lb.	7.1	7.9

* After 60 days feed increased to 4 lbs./day