

## H19 - Feeding of sows - liquid feed



**A sow is ready to nurse if she is in body condition score 3**

**Feeding restrictively in the first week of lactation and then following the sow's appetite is the recipe for optimum feeding of sows.**

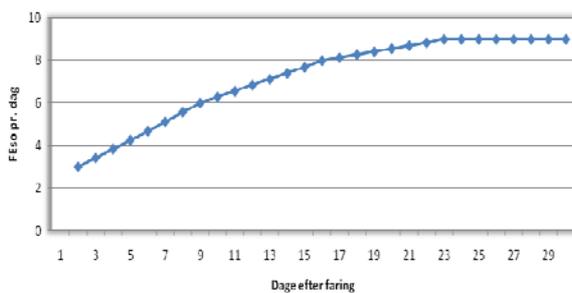
### Before farrowing

1. Until farrowing, the recommended feed dose is 3.5 FU-sow a day.
2. The day before expected farrowing (day 115), reduce the feed dose to 3.0 FUsow a day.

### After farrowing

3. It is recommended to feed sows 3 times a day.
4. The sow must have eaten all her feed 25-35 minutes after each feeding - check this min. once a day.
5. The day after farrowing, give the sows 3.0- 3.5 FU-sow/day.
6. Increase daily by 0.25-0.5 FUsow a day. See Appendix 19 - Guiding feed charts.
7. The aim is for the sows to reach 5.5-6.0 FUsow after one week of lactation. A feed dose higher than this will increase the risk of the sow stopping later during lactation.

Vejledende foderkurve til diegivende søer



### Guiding feed chart in the farrowing facility.

It is generally not recommended to adjust the feed dose individually during weekends unless some sows have not eaten up.

The values for the liquid feed chart are shown in Appendix 19 - Guiding feed charts. See item 6 on the back of this fact sheet.

Feed doses should always be adjusted by the same person.



**Poor hygiene reduces feed intake and thereby milk yield**

### If the sows' feed intake is generally below the feed chart, check

- Liquid feed quality and hygiene.
- Water supply and feed dose.
- Temperature in the sows' activity area.
- Body condition / feeding in the gestation facility.

### If the sows lose weight

- The feed dose may be inadequate.
- The sows do not get the expected energy supply due to incorrect feed composition or due to loss of amino acids in the pipeline.
- The feed soup is too thin.

If just one sow does not eat up, see H21 - Individual adjustment of a sow's feed dose after farrowing.

| <b>Additional comments - Feeding of sows - liquid feed</b> |   |
|--|---|
|  | A high feed intake is important to the milk production of the sows and the subsequent reproduction cycle. Medium body condition at farrowing ensures a high feed intake and minimises the risk of shoulder lesions. See Appendix 20 - Evaluation of body condition and feeding.   |
| 1.   | Upon transfer to the farrowing pen, continue with the feed dose used in the gestation facility of 3.5 FUsow/day.  |
| 2.   | <p>Three daily feedings are recommended. However, only 2 daily feedings are recommended in the period from transfer to the farrowing facility until a feed dose of 4.5 FUsow (5 litres three times a day) is reached, if the system can handle this. You can make the sows stand up more often by supplying straw 1-2 times a day.</p> <p>A high feed dose up to farrowing increases the risk of M.M.A. and doubles the prevalence of metritis compared a feed dose of approx. 3.0 FUsow a day on day 115. This reduction does not affect birth weight negatively, but is enough to reduce the risk of problems during farrowing.</p> <p>Sows may have a lower appetite around farrowing. Therefore always empty the trough 1-2 hours after feeding. Despite using liquid feed, additional water is necessary as liquid feed only covers max. 50% of sows' water requirement.</p> |
| 3.   | <p>The smaller the amount of feed to be fed, the lower the feeding accuracy. Generally, do not feed more than 5 litres at a time. You can check feeding accuracy together with your liquid feed advisor.</p> <p>3-4 daily feedings may help increase the sows' feed intake and thereby reduce weight loss. If your liquid feeding system can handle it, increase to 4 daily feedings when the sows have reached more than 7 FUsow a day. A sound feeding strategy could look like this:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 34% of the feed in the morning at 6 - 8 o'clock.</li> <li>• 33% of the feed before noon at 11 - 12 o'clock.</li> <li>• 33% of the feed in the afternoon at 15 o'clock (or at 21 o'clock in warm periods).</li> </ul> <p>Aim for 8 hours of rest between evening and morning feedings.</p>  |
| 4.   | <p>Generally, if the sows have not eaten up within 25-35 minutes after feeding, the cause may be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The feed chart being too steep. See Appendix 19 - Guiding feed charts.</li> <li>• Gastric problems in the herd.</li> <li>• Disease.</li> <li>• Different taste of the feed - possibly because of changes in ingredients.</li> <li>• Inadequate water supply.</li> <li>• Temperature in the facility is too high.</li> </ul>   |
| 5.   | Too little feed will give the sow too little energy to tend to her piglets and to recover after farrowing. Too much feed will increase the risk of the sow stopping. See H21 - Individual adjustment of a sow's feed dose after farrowing.  |
| 6.   | Slowly increase the feed dose (see Appendix 19 - Guiding feed charts) to avoid the sow stopping and for the energy intake to follow the milk yield. Only <b>one</b> person should be in charge of adjusting the feed dose. Do not increase the feed dose during weekends as that will make supervision and weekend task easier. This will have very little effect on the sow's production.  |
| 7.   | There is no need for sows to reach more than 5.5-6.0 FUsow a day after one week of lactation. If the feed dose is higher than this, the sow may stop later in the lactation period. After two weeks, they should have reached 8-9 FUsow a day. For the rest of the lactation period, feed the sows according to appetite to limit loss of body condition.   |