

Improving Sow Productivity when Feeding Medium- or High-energy Diets

**Swine Feed Marketing Group
Land O'Lakes Purina Feed LLC**

With longer lactations (to improve piglet survivability in the nursery) the industry is pressing sow's to produce more and better milk while not losing body condition. Fortunately, PUSH® sow feed from Land O'Lakes Purina Feed has been proven to enhance sow performance by increasing the number of pigs weaned and improving litter weaning weights.

“PUSH® sow feed was introduced in the fall of 2003 and continues to improve productivity of lactating sows”, says Dan Moran, Swine Feed Marketing Director, “PUSH® feed is a proprietary patented sow feed product that is intended to deliver more income potential per sow. This unique feed is a combination of nutritional technologies that when fed to sows pre-farrow through weaning, increases the number of pigs weaned and results in heavier pigs at weaning. These improvements combine to increase total litter weaning weight and therefore, more income potential per sow.”

The key benefit is of using PUSH® is up to 1 additional pig per sow per year weaned without a negative impact on sow body weight, sow body condition score, days return to estrus or feed intake. Research at University of Minnesota showed that sows fed PUSH® feed have a 10% higher concentration of milk fat over control, and therefore, this exclusive product may be acting at the level of the mammary gland to improve the efficiency of nutrient utilization.



Research from LongView Animal Nutrition Center, MO documented that PUSH® sow feed improves pig survivability and litter weight gain when supplemented in medium or high-energy lactation diets. This experiment evaluated two levels of fat (2.5 and 5.0%) with and without PUSH® feed on 152 litters using the following treatments:

- 1) A corn-SBM diet containing 2.5% choice white grease (CWG).
- 2) A corn-SBM diet containing 2.5% CWG with 3% PUSH®
- 3) A corn-SBM diet containing 5.0% CWG.
- 4) A corn-SBM diet containing 5.0% CWG with 3% PUSH®

As has been observed in several previous experiments and field demonstrations, PUSH® significantly reduced pre-weaning mortality and increased litter weaning weights. Regardless of dietary energy concentration, PUSH® performed. In addition, sows fed PUSH® tended to express estrus sooner after weaning.

	2.5% CWG	2.5% CWG + PUSH	5% CWG	5% CWG + PUSH	
Number of Pigs Born Alive	12.6	11.8	12.1	12.3	
Number of Pigs Weaned	9.7	10.3	10.2	10.3	P=0.15
Litter Weaning Weight, lbs	131	142	140	141	P=0.15
Litter Weight Gain, lbs	93	106	103	105	P=0.15
Pre-Weaning Mortality, %	20.1	15.4	17.2	15.0	P=0.10
Return to Estrus Interval, d	4.95	4.62	4.91	4.70	P=0.17

What do PUSH® sow feeding trials indicate:

- More pigs weaned per sow per year
- Heavier pigs at weaning
- Heavier total litter weight
- Significantly improved pig uniformity within litter
- 'Enriched' milk (more fat)

We have done this without negatively affecting:

- Sow body weight loss
- Sow body condition score changes
- Days return to estrus
- Feed intake

PUSH® sow feed is available in 60lb bags and is directly added at 60lbs/ton complete feed. It can also be top dressed. The key to its effectiveness is to ensure each sow receives 0.36 lbs/ day from the moment she enters the farrowing house, through the lactation period.

Learn more on www.feedPUSH.com

For further information, please see your local feed sales representative at a Land O'Lakes Feed Co-op or Purina Mills Dealer. Visit us on-line at www.LOLFeed.com, www.PurinaMills.com

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