

Popular Article

Scientific Feeding Management of Pig

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Abstract

Pig farming constitutes the livelihood of rural poor belonging to the lowest socio-economic strata and they have no means to undertake scientific pig farming with improved foundation stock, proper housing, feeding and other management. In India pig rearing is very popular amongst the tribal backward and weaker section of the society, especially North Eastern region (NER). Moreover, pig farming fits very well with the integrated farming and also be complementary to intensive crop production programme. NER also has the tremendous potentiality of improvement of pig production through scientific management, as in NER the deficit is aggravated due to traditional ways of pig rearing like feeding of locally available feed stuff and scavenging, improper breeding, sizeable population of non - descript pigs and non-availability of good quality pig germplasm always remains matter of concern.

Introduction

Feeding management

The growth and mortality of pigs largely depend on their feeding regime. Pig is the most efficient animal in converting feed to meat. About 70 - 75 per cent of the total production cost of the pig farm is due to the feed cost. Generally, farmers want to rear pigs with zero inputs like kitchen waste as well as vegetable waste mixed with rice polish/ wheat bran only. However, with this feed it is not possible to get desired body weight and other production norms. It is therefore, very much important to feed the animals with economical but balanced feed which will contain all the nutrient requirements for growth and to support the life. Generally, two types of feeding are practiced. They are

- Concentrated feed computed with different feed ingredients
- Concentrated feed mixed with other locally available agro - industrial by - products, tuber crops like sweet potato, tapioca, Colocasia, vegetables and kitchen waste etc.

Feed formula for different categories of pigs

Ingredients	Weaner (18-20%) protein	Growers (15-17%) Protein		Gilt/Sow/boar(14-16%)protein
		12th Weeks to Market age	9-12 Months	
Maize	55	58	60	15
Ground Nut Cake	17	15	8	30
Wheat Bran	20	20	25	20
Rice Polish	-	-	-	10
Fish Meal/soya Meal	6	5	5	5
Mineral Mixture	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5
Salt	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Total	100	100	100	100

The poor and marginal farmers in the villages who cannot afford to provide the above feed, can feed their pigs with sweat potato (6 0%), protein source, vitamins and minerals. Besides the above the pigs can also be maintained with vegetables waste and kitchen waste consisting of cooked rice, vegetables etc. and also with brewery waste and other feed waste. A good feed ration should contain the required nutrient in right proportion as per the need of body weight along with adequate drinking water.

Particulars	Body Weight				
	Below 10	10-20	20-30	30-60	Above 60
Growth Stage	Creep	Grower	Grower	Developer	Finisher
Required Protein level %	20	18	16	16	13
Conc.Feed required per day (Kg)	0.5	1	1.5	2	2.5

Feeding of pregnant animal

The demands resulting from pregnancy and need for conserving nutrients for ensuing lactation are accelerated during the later stage of pregnancy. The increased needs are for proteins, vitamins and minerals. Mature sows gain 30 - 35 kg and gilts 40 - 45 kg during pregnancy. Feed should be so regulated that sows and gilts are never over fat or thin. Feed lightly with bulky laxative feed immediately before and after farrowing. Bring the sow to full feeding in 10 days. Plenty of greens may be provided. Feed allowance may be calculated as 2.5 - 3 kg/100 kg body weight plus at the rate of 0.2 kg feed per piglet with the sow. Thus, a sow weighing 100 kg with 8 piglets should receive 4.6 kg feed per day. The piglets may be provided with special nourishing diet called creep feed separately.

Creep feeding

The practice of self - feeding concentrates to young piglets in a separate enclosure away from their mother is known as creep feeding. Creep feed should be given when piglets are two weeks old. Each active and healthy piglet may consume about 10 kg feed before reaching the age of 8 weeks and two - third of this consumed between 6 - 8 weeks.

Orphan pigs

When a sow dies or fails to produce milk or does not claim her pigs, the piglings should be promptly shifted to a foster mother. Some sows may refuse to suckle alien piglings. Care should be taken to simulate the conditions including the odour and body size of piglings when admitted to a foster mother or another suckling sow. Cow's milk is the best substitute for sow's milk for hand feeding if a lactating mother is not available. Buttermilk or sweet skim milk can also be used. Each pigling may consume 300 - 500 ml milk per day. Best results may be secured by feeding 5 - 6 times a day for the first few weeks and thereafter the frequency may gradually be reduced to 2 - 3 times. Any standard vitamin preparation two or three times the quantity used for infants may be administered to the piglings until they start taking feed. Injectable iron preparation (e.g., Imferon) may be given as usual. A 60 - Watt electric bulb may provide enough warmth for the piglings during the early days of life.

Flushing

It is the method of increased feeding to sows and gilts before breeding to enhance litter size. A good grower ration fed to pigs for seven to ten days before breeding to increase ovulation rate in them. After breeding animals should be fed a limited but well-balanced ration until the last six weeks of pregnancy and then full feeding should be resumed to avoid pregnancy complications.