

Cooperative Research Farms

SOW NUTRITION RESEARCH FARM

Cooperative Research Farms' sow nutrition research is conducted in a 600 sow breeding to wean facility owned by La Coop fédérée. This farm, located near Frampton, Quebec, Canada, utilizes a highly productive female line of genetics, early weaning, extensive management, and a strict biosecurity program. 100% of the research capacity is devoted to breeding herd nutrition and management trials conducted for the benefit of CRF members and their collaborators.

- 600 sows from a highly productive genetic line
- 4 farrowing rooms (30 crates each)
- Gestation capacity of 480 sows
- 100% artificial insemination
- Weaning at 21 days
- Management of sows is in five groups (110-115 sows per group – 4 weeks between each group)

Experimental Features

- Electronic scales to weigh sows (accuracy within 500 grams)
- Individual pig weights at birth and weaning; other weight intervals possible
- Individual feed intake data for both gestation and lactation
- Feeding cart with electronic scales and portable computer system that allows for recording feed intake data systematically and with reduced transcription errors
- Ultrasound imaging system to measure backfat and muscle thickness and to perform pregnancy checks
- Numerous feed bins that allow flexibility in the number of feeds that can be fed during experiments
- Flexibility in the number of possible treatments, replications and trial designs

CRF Sow Research Farm - Performance

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Total born/litter (without mummies)	12.56	13.07	13.21	13.55	13.44
Born alive/litter	11.10	11.85	11.86	12.52	12.39
Weaned/litter	9.42	10.26	10.10	10.49	10.66
Productivity (wean/productive sow/year)	22.35	23.32	23.99	24.26	25.56
Weaning age	19.90	20.10	19.80	20.10	20.40
% mortality (farrow to wean)	17.22	13.95	16.81	16.68	14.73
Fertility rate, %	89.22	85.28	88.40	85.50	86.63
Weaning to success breeding interval, d	8.30	14.40	9.40	11.30	9.80
Stillbirth rate, %	11.61	9.31	10.21	7.60	7.80
Replacement rate, %	37.21	44.10	50.81	51.09	40.30
Sow mortality rate, %	5.24	5.05	7.26	6.29	9.08
Litter/culled sow	4.60	4.74	4.26	4.51	4.54



For additional information please contact:

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CRF is an innovative, international cooperative that utilizes member resources and expertise to provide information and concepts that can be used by its members to develop unique and/or proprietary products, programs and technologies for the commercial and companion animal feed markets. This is accomplished through research, information exchange, and partnerships, resulting in economic benefits for CRF members and their customers.

