

## Management of Newborn Piglets in Pig Farming

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### **Abstract**

Nowadays pig farming is an emerging enterprise in India. But there is a lack of scientific knowledge among pig farmers. For sustainable pig farming, more number of piglets births and a low mortality rate is required. The piglet's mortality can be avoided with proper care and management of the piglets. Cleaning of piglets immediately after birth, cutting of umbilical cord aseptically, immediate suckling of colostrum and feeding of creep feed are the important managerial practices required for healthy piglets.

### **Introduction**

The profit in pig rearing depends on the number of newborn piglets, their growth, and their mortality rate. It is necessary to properly manage the piglets to gain weight properly to avoid death and get better weight gain.

### **Care of Newborn Piglets**

1. As soon as the piglets are born, they should be kept in a warm place.
2. All piglets should be cleaned of sticky secretions, and nasal discharge so that the piglets can breathe properly.
3. The umbilical cord of the piglets should be tied tightly with a thread at a distance of 2.5 cm and the umbilical cord should be cut aseptically and the cut part of the umbilical cord should be immersed in tincture of iodine to avoid contamination from the umbilical cord.
4. Piglets should be allowed to suckle colostrum immediately after cleaning and cutting the umbilical cord. They will get enough immunity to fight diseases or prevent disease. Piglets should be helped to drink 8-10 times a day.
5. Piglets have 4 pairs of sharp, pointed teeth in their mouths at birth, these teeth can cause damage to the udder during suckling and should be cut as soon as possible.
6. The milk of sow is deficient in iron and copper, thus causing anaemia in piglets. Due to this, piglets become weak, breathing becomes difficult.

7. To prevent this anaemia, the udder of the sow should be coated with a solution/coat of ferrous sulfate for 4-6 weeks so that the piglets can get these salts during suckling. The most effective method is iron dextran injection @ 100-150 mg for the first three days after birth. If necessary, iron dextran injection should be repeated after 3 weeks in smaller doses.
8. Maintain sanitary and hygienic environment for newborn piglets so as to avoid diarrhoea, skin diseases and so on.
9. Provide clean and fresh drinking water to sows and piglets so as to avoid water born infections.
10. Sows should be properly fed so as piglets can get more milk.
11. To enhance foetal growth arginine, folate, betaine, vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, carnitine, chromium, and zinc are mainly required. Therefore, piglets should be properly fed.
12. Allow early microbial colonization by using probiotics.

### Creep feeding

After 2 to 3 weeks after birth, the piglets try to eat solid food, while the piglets need more nutrients for optimal growth. Creep feed makes the piglets stronger and stronger by accelerating their growth of the piglets. During this period, only the milk of the sow is not enough for the piglets. Creep feed contains about 25 to 30 % protein. This creep feed should be kept in a separate container and used in the feed of piglets.

In general, creep rations should have the following nutrient composition.

Ingredients	level %
Maize	60 to 65
Groundnut cake	14 to 25
Molasses	5
Wheat bran	10 to 12
Mineral mixture	1
Fish meal	5

### Weaning of the piglets



1. In general, the young one should be separated from the sow 7-8 weeks after birth. To reduce the stress on the piglets during weaning from the mother, the piglets should be kept with the mother for some time a day.
2. Piglets that do not have a mother or ice milk should be nursed by other sows or fed milk replacers.

### References

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