

agriculture

Department:  
Agriculture  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

## **HOW TO USE THIS MANAGEMENT FLOW CHART**



### **At Weaning (Day 25)**

1. In a commercial piggery, piglets are normally weaned at between 28 days (4 weeks) and 35 days (5 weeks).
2. If in the right body condition, 80 - 90% of weaned sows will come on heat 3 - 6 days after weaning.
3. To stimulate the sow to come on heat, close boar contact should be allowed.
4. They should smell each other regularly, whilst nose contact and boar chanting is encouraged.
5. The stockman must visit the weaned sows at least twice a day, since different sows come on heat differently.

### **Mate at the correct time**

1. The stockman must be on the lookout for the first typical signs when a sow comes on heat:
  - ✦ The standing reflex where she will allow the pressure test.
  - ✦ The prick ears of the Large White sows will be prominent.
  - ✦ The vulva will be swollen and have a clear mucus discharge.
2. The best time to mate or inseminate (when AI is used) is 18 - 36 hours after the first signs of heat.  
Hence, the three matings within a 24 hour interval is recommended.  
In summer it is recommended that the morning matings be completed well before 10 o'clock in the morning and only after 4 o'clock in the afternoon.
3. All matings must be supervised. Do not use a young boar before 10 months of age.
4. Normally try and bring the sow to the boar. Never rush the mating process.
5. Assist young, inexperienced boars.
6. Never trust or become complacent with the boar.
7. Allow one boar to mate one sow per week successfully.
8. Allow the mated sow to be calm and stress free for at least the first three weeks after mating.  
Allow for proper implantation in the uterus.

### **Follow up Matings**

1. The heat cycle of a sow is 19 - 21 days.
2. Bring back the boar 19 - 21 days after your recorded mating to see whether she conceived or not.
3. If she did skip, she should be mated again within the 24 hour interval.
4. Sows that did not return to the boar should be pregnancy tested with an ultrasound apparatus 30 - 35 days after mating.



5. The sows that did skip initially should be exposed to the boar again at days 40 -42 to see whether they skipped again, whereafter the ones that skipped for the 2nd time should be culled.
6. The initially skipped sows should be pregnancy tested at day 50. [Remember weaning is day 0 to indicate the start of a new cycle].

### **PRE FARROWING MANAGEMENT**

- ✦ At day 94 (three weeks before farrowing) the sow must get her E-Coli injection.
- ✦ At day 109 ( $\pm$  1 week before farrowing), disinfect the farrowing pen. An ordinary white wash with a plaster brush is recommended. Units that have access to electricity and sufficient water pressure should use a high pressure machine.
- ✦ Allow proper drying of pen(s) for a day or two.
- ✦ Treat the sow for mange with Triatic pour on.
- ✦ Put the sow in farrowing crate and allow her to settle in. Put sawdust or clean straw in the farrowing pen.
- ✦ Dilute the ration on a 1:1 basis with bran.
- ✦ Make sure the water pressure is sufficient and that enough clean fresh water is always available.
- ✦ Sows can also be fed a few handfuls of fresh green lucern or kikuyu each day.
- ✦ In winter make sure that the heaters are turned on or that more bedding is made available.
- ✦ Keep the sow cool in summer.
- ✦ Regular daily inspections are essential (= 3 times per day).



### **MANAGEMENT DURING AND AFTER FARROWING**

- ✦ Constant supervision during the farrowing process is essential.
- ✦ Assist the sow only when necessary.
- ✦ Be on the lookout for the MMA (Mastitis, Metritis, Agalactae) syndrome.
- ✦ Clipping of teeth is optional (within first 36 hours).
- ✦ Check and allow proper water pressure and water flow.

- ✦ Disinfect the feet and navel (umbilical cord) within 24 hours. (Lanodip solution).
- ✦ All piglets must get colostrum and suckle well.
- ✦ Make sure that the sow eats well.

### **DAY 5 AFTER FARROWING**

- ✦ Count the teats of the piglets and eliminate those with less than 12 teats (punch a hole in the ear and market them later).
- ✦ Give ICC Fe-injection to the piglets.
- ✦ Inspect the teats of the sow carefully. (If wounds, rashes, scratches and cuts do appear, are indicative of lack of milk.)
- ✦ Ear notch the piglets.
- ✦ Lanodip their feet again to avoid bacterial infection.
- ✦ Daily inspection (especially the first week after farrowing) is essential to avoid overlaying.



### **DAY 12 AFTER FARROWING**

- ✦ Introduce creep feed in small quantities.
- ✦ Monitor the sow's condition, especially Landrace sows that tend to milk off their backs and require additional feeding.
- ✦ Be on the lookout for scours for at least the next 10 days. (Treat with Norodine 24 for three consecutive days)
- ✦ Castrate male piglets according to market demands.
- ✦ See that there is clean fresh water for the young piglets.

### **DAY 21 AFTER FARROWING**

- ✦ Monitor the sow's condition and increase her mass if deemed necessary.
- ✦ The sow can be moved out of the crate.
- ✦ Weighing of the piglets at day 21 is indicative of the sow's milk production.



## DAY 35: WEANING OR DAY 0

- ✦ This day indicates that the reproductive cycle of the sow will start again.
- ✦ Weigh the piglets at weaning. (They should each weigh between 8.5 - 10kg at weaning.) Weigh the sow as well. (She should increase between 15 - 20kg during each parity.)
- ✦ Be on the lookout for scours in the newly weaned piglets. Treat with Norodine 24 for three consecutive days.
- ✦ Cull old or unproductive sows.
- ✦ Introduce the new replacement gilts.

## GILT MANAGEMENT

- ✦ Some farmers want to retain their own replacement gilts.
- ✦ Keep select replacement gilts from sows that have performed well (above herd average) for three consecutive parities.
- ✦ Do a proper visual appraisal test with the emphasis on reproductive organs (vulva and teats). Ensure that there are no less than 12 - 14 evenly and well developed teats. All four legs, the eight clays and conformation should be conducive to functional efficiency.
- ✦ Feed the replacement gilts ad lib until  $\pm$  100kg live weight.
- ✦ Thereafter restrict them to 2 kg / gilts per day (sow and boar ration).
- ✦ 4% Lucerne can also be included in the gilt ration.
- ✦ Introduce the boar at 160 - 180 days of age.
- ✦ Gilts should conceive on the 3rd heat cycle ( $\pm$  120kg live weight).
- ✦ After final gilt selection is conducted, 30 - 35% overmating is encouraged.



## TARGET WEIGHTS DURING CERTAIN WEEKS

Week	Target live weight	Type of ration
5	8,5 – 10kg	Creep
6	10 – 12kg	Creep
7	12 – 16kg	½ Creep: ½ Growth
8	16 – 20kg	Growth
14	$\pm$ 45kg	Growth
24	$\pm$ 90kg	Finishing

(During weeks 14 - 24 you can switch to a finishing ration or stay on the growth ration, but if the latter is preferred, restrict the individual feeding to 1,8 - 2,3kg / day).

## FEEDING THE SOW

- ‡ At weaning monitor the condition of the sow.
- ‡ Very thin sows (especially Landrace genotypes) should get 4 - 6kg of feed to build up body reserves.
- ‡ Once the desired body reserves are achieved, return to the normal 2kg sow and boar ration per day.
- ‡ During the cold winter months the ration can be increased to 2,2 - 2,3kg per sow.
- ‡ Dilute the ration on a 1:1 basis with bran a few days before farrowing.
- ‡ After farrowing, gradually increase the feed intake of the sow up to 6 or 7kg per day. SHE IS NOW ON A LACTATION DIET.
- ‡ Always allow clean, fresh water for the sow - produced under the right pressure.
- ‡ She is fed these high levels of feed intake, until weaning.

## GENERAL TARGETS TO AIM FOR IN YOUR PIGGERY

- a) Pre weaning mortality less than 10% per litter.
- b) Market more than 20 weaners / sow / year.
- c) Gilts should wean 9 piglets per litter.
- d) Aim for more than 2 litters / sow / year (ideally 2.25).
- e) Cull a sow if she weans less than 6 piglets.
- f) Cull a sow after the 6th litter.
- g) Aim to produce more than 100kg of weaner pigs per litter.
- h) Aim for an inter farrowing period of less than 160 days.

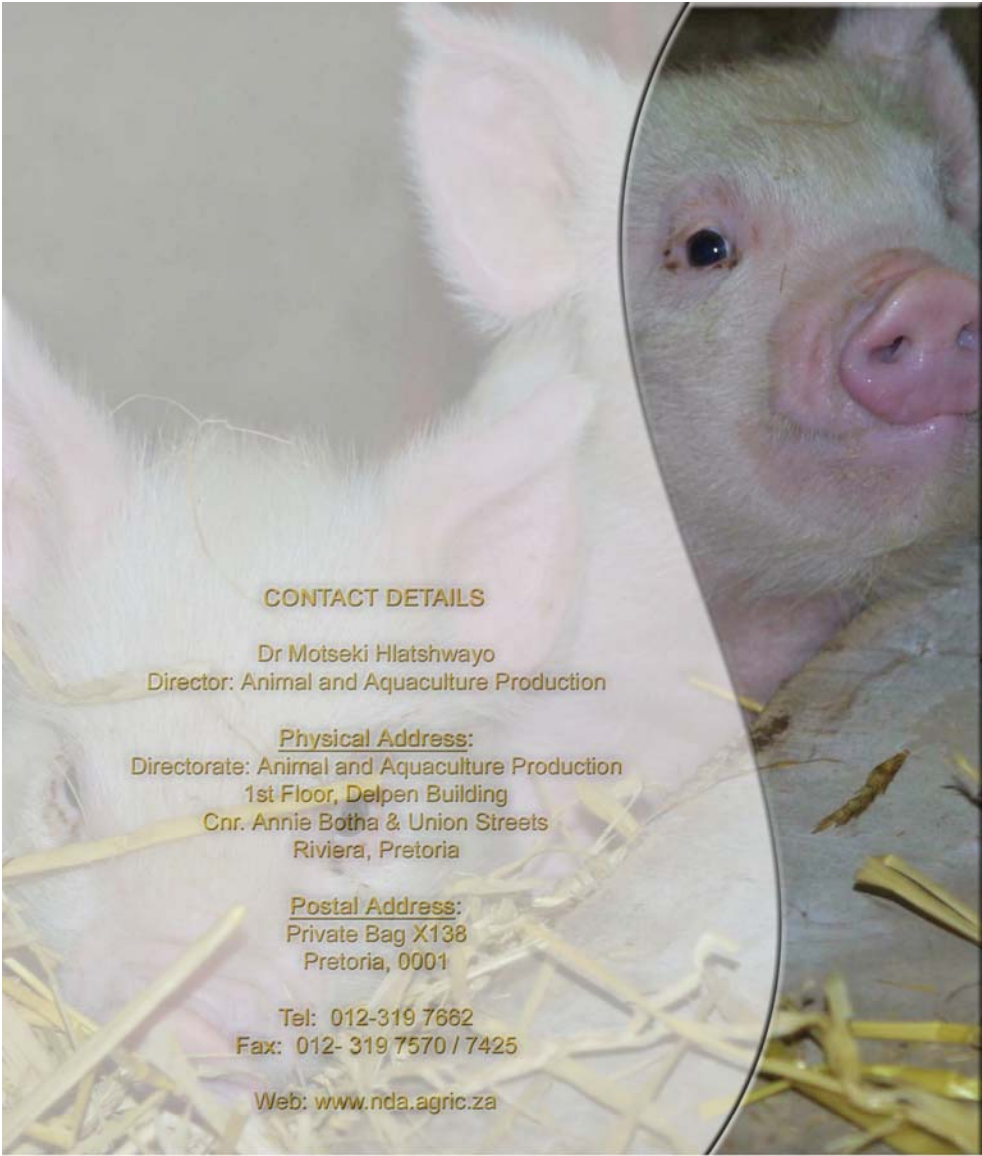


## FINALLY

In modern pig production, biosecurity and health has become of the utmost importance. Appoint a pig veterinarian to visit you regularly (at least 4 times a year) and assist you with the compilation and execution of your health programme!!

*Best of luck with your pig production dreams.*





**CONTACT DETAILS**

Dr Motseki Hlatshwayo  
Director: Animal and Aquaculture Production

Physical Address:

Directorate: Animal and Aquaculture Production  
1st Floor, Delpen Building  
Cnr. Annie Botha & Union Streets  
Riviera, Pretoria

Postal Address:

Private Bag X138  
Pretoria, 0001

Tel: 012-319 7662  
Fax: 012- 319 7570 / 7425

Web: [www.nda.agric.za](http://www.nda.agric.za)