Growing Gilt Specs

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TS Contributors: Health, Nutrition, Reproduction and Wean to Finish

Gilt Growing - Barn Design Specs

Nursery (12-50lbs)-Gilt Growing (50-300lbs)

Vital Space

Floor Space (100% slat, sqft/gilt)
- 12 - 60lbs : 2.80
- 60 - 260 lbs* : 7.50
- 260 - 300 lbs** : 8.50
- Boar Exposure : 12.0

Pen Size : 30-60 gilts
Alley Width : min 36”
Gate Height : 36-40”
Slat top Width : 6-8”.
Slat Gap Width : 1”

Hospital Pen: Consider 5% of pig population
Pen size must match with feeder/drinker capacity

**Consider gilt selection stage and an adequate ADG expression.*
** If boar exposure hasn’t started

Feeders

Nursery
- Dry Feeder (linear) : 1”/pig

Growing Gilt
- Dry Feeder (linear) : 2.0-2.1”/gilt or 8 gilts/feeder hole
- WD Feeder* : 1.25”/gilt or 12-13 gilts/feeder hole
- Feeder Hole Width : 15-16”/gilt
- Hopper Capacity : 24hrs of feed intake/pig (8+ lbs/day/pig)

Consider feeder with solid divisions
Tube/Round feeders aren’t recommended

** Consider a rubber mat at base WD feeders ending at a slat gap*

Environmental

Minimum Ventilation
- Nursery : 2.0 CFM/weaned pig
- 60lb pigs : 3.5 CFM/pig
- Pre-Boar Exposure : 14-15 CFM/gilt

Maximum Ventilation (0.1 SP)

a) Tunnel
- Air Speed (center of barn) : 350-400 FPM
- Air Exchange : 35-40 seconds
- Inlet Capacity : 35-50 CFM/gilt
- FPM at Curtain : 650 FPM

b) No Tunnel
- Nursery : 35-45 CFM/gilt
- Growing Gilt : 120-150 CFM/gilt
- FPM at Wall Inlet : ~800 FPM
- FPM at Ceiling Inlet : 600-800 FPM

Nursery Comfort Zone
- Mat Space : 0.4 sqft/weaned pig
- Brooder Capacity
  - 17,000 BTU : 120-160 pigs
  - 10,000 BTU : 80-120 pigs
- Hospital Pen: Extra heat sources and drinkers

Drinkers

Drinker Availability : 10 gilts/drinker
Drinker Type : Bowls or Swing
Drinker/Pen : Never less than 2
Drinker Height
- Swing Nipple: 2-3” above shoulder level
- Bowl: lip height 40% of shoulder level

Drinker Position
- Bowl drinkers beside feeders
  - 24”- 36” spacing in Nursery
  - 36”- 48” spacing in Gilt Growing Barn
- Swing nipples in damp/dunging area

Water Flow : 0.5 lt/min (nursery)
: 1 lt/min (gilt growing)

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Never Stop Improving

Important Considerations

- ***Keep High Biosecurity Standards*:** Isolation, growing gilt and GDU facilities capable of being managed under strict biosecurity protocols.
- ***Special Attention***
  - Daily observations: discipline - early detection and treatment to sick gilts.
  - Good maintenance of flooring/gates - pens/halls = avoid trauma/lacerations
  - Tail Docking: Avoid too short tails, ensure a consistent tail length and a correct disinfection procedure, if tail docking day is delayed, the tail length measure must be adjusted accordingly.

Procedures for Incoming Gilts

- ***Quarantine (if applies)***
  - At least 28 days (separated from the main herd).
  - All-in/all-out flow.
  - Work with veterinarian → develop a specific diagnostic plan before introducing gilts.
- Start with Quality Weaned Gilts groups: right weight/age, healthy, thrifty and consistent.

- ***Gilt acclimatization practices***

  Exposing incoming gilts to resident pathogens → combination of natural exposure and vaccines.
  - Vaccine program based on specific health challenges.
  - Natural exposure to resident pathogens achieved by direct contact with pigs and feedback
  - Avoid immunizations and health challenges within 3 weeks prior to breeding.

Goals of Developing Gilts

- Adequate growth rate
  - 1.35 to 1.70 lbs/d
  - 300 – 350lbs at the time of breeding
- Reproductive tract maturation
  - <195 days for age at puberty or first heat
  - 203 – 225 days of age at the time of breeding
- Sufficient immunity by breeding
  - Health Procedures complete 3+ weeks before breeding
- Sufficient mineral stores and bone development
- Sound foot and leg structure for maximum lifetime productivity

Gilt Growing –Nutrition Specs

Nursery (12-50lbs)-Gilt Growing (50-300lbs)

Nutrient Recommendations

- ***SID Lysine to energy ratio***
  - 97% of the biological commercial gilts req.
  - No lower than 85% of the req. of pigs with beginning weight of the dietary phase
- ***Energy***
  - Can be adjusted to moderate growth rate
  - Minimum levels
    - < 200 lbs: 1,420 Kcal ME/lb
    - > 200 lbs: 1,360 Kcal ME/lb
- ***Phosphorus and calcium***
  - ~8% greater than PIC commercial gilt recommendations
  - Analyzed CA: Analyzed P = 1.25 to 1.50
- ***Vitamin and trace minerals***
  - Greater vitamin and trace mineral levels
  - Addition of vitamins required for reproduction (folic acid, biotin, thiamine, pyridoxine,)

Feeding Program

- ***Particle size***
  - 750 to 900 microns recommended
  - 550 to 650 microns if recommendation is not practically feasible
- ***Developing gilt feeding programs at different stages*** *(see example below)*
  - 50 to 130 lbs: GDU specific diet, commercial gilt diet, or lactation diet
  - 130 to 200 lbs: GDU specific diet(s), multiple diets may be used
  - 200 lbs to breeding: GDU specific diet or gestation diet
- **Weigh developing gilts to evaluate and improve feeding program** (Scale, PIC flank tape, or girth tube)

Click here to access the PIC® Recommendations for Developing Gilts tool for nutrient recommendations according to your specific situation

