

Batch Weaning and Farrowing

The concept of batching sows has several advantages.

- ability to cross foster better at farrowing.
- ability to wean and sort with larger groups
- all in and all out with nursery or farrowing areas
- better use of boar power, and works well with Artificial Insemination because you order what you need as far as number of services
- better health breaks with batches of small pigs

Often the practical way to get started with batching is to wean a large number of sows all at one time. Ordering semen to arrive on day 4 after weaning is often a good idea. IE wean sows on a Friday, order semen for a Tuesday Delivery.

With smaller sow herds, batching is often a great management choice, as it allows you to plan your work better and do the jobs well. IE when you need to farrow out large numbers, you can plan to be in the farrowing area to assist. IE when you are washing crates, you can do a better job of cleaning when it is completely empty IE when you go to do the breeding you have a large number to inseminate, and can make better use of your boars or purchased A.I.

Often batches are done in a 2 or 3 or 5 week interval. Different herds have different reasons for choosing the interval that best suits them. For example, on a 3 week interval, your repeats come back on a breeding week more typically. On a 2 week interval, it is easier to get sows grouped together as you are only dealing with a 14 day span.

One consideration to batching is how you introduce and breed gilts to match the intervals. For example you may want to use PG 600 more to introduce breeding cycles to your gilts, to then get them arranged to fit your batch.

For more information, contact your veterinarian or OSI Genetics at
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