

by injection in the neck. (*Ferratas* available in both oral and injectable preparation)

Scour. In most of the cases unhygienic conditions causes the condition. While treating, great care should be taken that the operator treating the sick piglets does not transfer the infection to other litters. Use a disposable apron when treating, only enter scouring pens, clean and disinfect footwear when finished, dispose of apron safely and clean hand thoroughly.

Crushing (Mereks) Right from birth piglets are able to stir around, although walking is difficult. They may move towards the sow to get warm and to suckle. Here is the danger of crushing. For this reason it is useful, even in tropical climates, to provide warm condition in the creep area.

Tail docking

- ✓ It reduces tail biting and infection when the piglets are older.
- ✓ Leave a stub on the tail about 80 mm long.
- ✓ Tails and teeth should be clipped before the piglets reach three days of age.

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Care and Management of Piglets



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For a farmer who keeps breeding sows the performance of the piglets is of utmost importance. Small litter size, high mortality and health problems can incur significant economic losses. Thus proper care and management of the piglets in addition to the dam is a very important prerequisite for achieving profitable returns.

Some operations that need to be carried out immediately after birth are

1. Navel cord

- ✓ The navel (umbilical cord) should be cut as soon as possible, a few days after the piglets' birth.
- ✓ The length of navel cord is about 12 cm and a section of 2 cm should be left. Use disinfected scissors.
- ✓ The navel should be disinfected by using an iodine solution to prevent bacterial infection.



2. Teeth clipping

- ✓ It prevents injuries during fighting among piglets and it also prevents biting and scratching of the sows' teats.
- ✓ Take care when clipping teeth to avoid damage to the gums.
- ✓ It is safe and effective to leave about half of the tooth.
- ✓ It is also advisable to clip teeth using a suitable tusk clipper.



3. Protect from cold by providing hygienic litter material (especially during cold season)

4. Ensure that all the piglets gets sufficient first milk (colostrums) which contains good quality proteins, sugar, fat and sufficient vitamins and minerals

particularly calcium and phosphorus, it also provides the antibodies circulating in the sow's blood, to the young piglets to protect them against diseases.

In case the sow dies or has agalactia, make necessary arrangement for a foster mother.

Even when all such care is taken it should not be taken for granted that the piglets will do well, constant care and management should be continued.

Some other important health and behavioural conditions are:-

Piglet Anaemia: This condition arises due to iron deficiency and is common especially in undernourished sows. Piglets are born with limited iron reserves and the sow's milk does not provide the iron requirements of the piglets that are reared on concrete floors. Affected piglets become weak, difficult breathing, poor appetite and growth and may die in a few days. It can be prevented by painting the sow's udder with ferrous sulphate or by supplying iron either orally or