

R&D Snapshot

Influence of birth litter size and suckled litter size on gilt ovarian development

Investigators: Assoc Prof Roy Kirkwood

Purpose:

- To determine if measures of plasma anti-mullerian hormone (AMH) at weaning and at 20 weeks of age can identify gilts that will have a greater propensity to reach puberty at an earlier age.

Take home messages:

- Gilts born in large litters (> 12 piglets) with high AMH levels at weaning had an increased capacity to reach puberty at a young age (140 days)
- AMH levels at weaning could represent a viable strategy to increase herd productivity by reducing the number of gilts selected as replacements
- Further investigation is required on lifetime reproductive performance of gilts born from large litters and with high AMH levels at weaning.

Additional information:

- For further information or a copy of the full report, please contact Robyn Terry at robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au on 02 6270 8820.

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