

R&D Snapshot

Split suckling to improve colostrum ingestion, survival and performance of gilt progeny

Investigator: Dr David Lines

Purpose:

- To determine if split suckling, a management technique which separates the larger piglets from the smaller piglets for a short period of time, will increase colostrum ingestion and thereby reduce farrowing house mortalities, improve piglet post-weaning survival and growth rates.

Take home messages:

- Survival of small piglets from the conventional split suckling treatment was 13% greater than small piglets in the rotational and control treatments
- Small piglets in the conventional split suckling treatment had improved vigour from day zero to day one
- Results indicate that split suckling may improve the vigour of small piglets leading to improved survival
- Split suckling had no effect on colostrum ingestion, survival or performance of gilt piglets compared to sow piglets

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

APL Project 2014/490

