



# R&D Snapshot

## Does feed intake of gilts affect progeny performance?

**Investigator:** Robert Hewitt, SunPork Solutions

**Purpose:**

- To improve the quality of gilt progeny at birth and subsequent lifetime performance
- Gilts were either floor-fed 2.5 kg/hd/d or ad libitum fed from ~160 days of age until mating. At day 42 of gestation, gilts were allocated to either a restricted (stepped gestation and lactation feeding program) or a diet allowing ad libitum intake during lactation.

**Take home messages:**

- By the time piglets are born, it is often too late to apply interventions to improve lifetime gilt performance.
- Fewer gilts within the ad libitum gilt development treatment presented for mating.
- Lower wean-to-oestrus intervals found for gilts fed the two 'crossover' diets.
- Lower birth weights of piglets resulted from sows whose nutritional treatments were 'crossed'.
- Limited impact on gilt progeny performance from nutritional treatments imposed on gilts.
- Progeny of gilts that had been fed ad libitum during gestation/lactation were fatter and heavier, with no other effects found on gilt progeny performance.

**Additional information:**

- For a copy of the full report contact Lechelle van Breda on 02 6270 8823 or at [lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au](mailto:lechelle.vanbreda@australianpork.com.au).

**APL Project 2014/468** – Optimising gilt progeny performance through gilt development and lactation feeding interventions.

