

Section 7.7

Farrowing and Weaning

REFERENCED IN THIS SECTION:

Number/ Identifier	Name	Importance
	STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES	
7.7.1	Farrowing Room	Mandatory
7.7.2	Newly Weaned Pigs	
	RECORD	
R-M	Mortality Record	Mandatory

SECTION 7.7

FARROWING AND WEANING

REQUIREMENTS

1. A Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) must be developed, adequately implemented and include the following:
 - a. training for personnel in charge of this protocol
 - b. checks to ensure that creep areas are available to piglets
 - c. frequent observations of sows around their expected farrowing times, when possible
 - d. assistance when necessary for sows having farrowing difficulties
 - e. checks that newborn piglets are able to reach and maintain normal body temperatures
 - f. measures to maximize piglets' chance of receiving colostrum as soon as possible and within 12 hours of farrowing
 - g. practices such as cross-fostering that prevent piglets from dying of inadequate nutrition
 - h. administration of supplemental iron to all piglets
 - i. provision of creep feed at no later than 28 days of age
 - j. a provision to limit the amount of time a sow can spend in a farrowing crate to no more than six weeks, except in exceptional circumstances.
2. A Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) must be developed, adequately implemented and include measures to minimize negative impact on the health and welfare of the newly weaned pigs.

For your convenience, templates for the SOPs listed above have been developed for you to use.

RATIONALE

- a. Observing sows frequently before, during and after farrowing is crucial to prevent health problems that occur more commonly around this time period. This will ensure the welfare of sows and piglets is not compromised.
- b. Post-farrowing care for piglets, such as access to colostrum, adding an extra heat source, cross-fostering and nutritional supplementation, can help prevent nutritional deficiency and future issues.
- c. Providing creep feed to nursing piglets can help the transition at weaning, reduce lactation requirements and maintain sow body condition.
- d. Weaning procedures that reduce stress are crucial to minimize negative impacts on the health and welfare of the piglets.

GUIDANCE

- a. Farrowing gilts or sows can sometimes be aggressive towards their piglets; they may attempt to bite or injure piglets that approach their head during and after farrowing, so it is important to also monitor piglets closely during this period.
- b. Newly weaned pigs are susceptible to disease challenges, so adherence to high-level hygiene protocols is important.
- c. Regardless of age, low-weight piglets require additional care and can benefit from being kept in specialized pens until they are able to be moved to the common nursery area.
- d. Signs of impending farrowing include: milk (colostrum) that can be squeezed from teats; increased respiration rate; expulsion of blood-stained fluids from the vulva; increased restlessness of the sow; nest building; a firm, swollen udder; and twitching of the tail.

AUDIT QUESTIONS

Q#	Audit Question and Interpretation	Verification			
		Compliant	NC-Minor	NC-Major	N/A
Q7.7.1	Verify that a Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) has been developed and includes all required elements.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.7.1: Farrowing Room			
	Has a Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) been developed that includes all required elements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.7.2	Verify that a Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) has been adequately implemented. Ensure the measures listed in the SOP are followed.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.7.1: Farrowing Room ➤ observation (full validation only) ➤ interview			
	Has a Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) been adequately implemented?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.7.3	Verify that a Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) has been developed and includes measures to minimize negative stressors and impact on the health and welfare of the newly weaned pigs.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.7.2: Newly Weaned Pig ➤ observation (full validation only) ➤ interview			
	Has a Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) been developed that includes all required elements?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Q7.7.4	Verify that a Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) has been adequately implemented. Ensure the measures listed in the SOP are followed.	Full and partial validation: ➤ SOP 7.7.2: Newly Weaned Pigs ➤ observation (full validation only) ➤ interview			
	Has the Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) been adequately implemented?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

N/A = not applicable; SOP = standard operating procedure



LEVELS OF COMPLIANCE – EXAMPLES

COMPLIANT

- The Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) and/or Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) are available with all required elements addressed.
- There is evidence the Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) and/or Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) are being adequately implemented.

MINOR NON-COMPLIANCE **Timeline: 12 months**

- The Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) and/or Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) are incomplete or not available.
- There is evidence the Farrowing Room SOP (SOP 7.7.1) and/or Newly Weaned Pigs SOP (SOP 7.7.2) are not being adequately implemented.

MAJOR NON-COMPLIANCE – Not applicable