



## SOP 7.7.1 FARROWING ROOM

This standard operating procedure (SOP) can be used as a template.  
If you develop your own version, all required elements must be included.

PID#: .....

Site Manager: ..... Person in charge: .....

### PROTOCOL

Designated personnel must follow this protocol during farrowing, throughout lactation and at weaning.	Applied On-Farm	Importance
1. The Site Manager must ensure the personnel in charge of this protocol are adequately trained.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
2. Preparation of farrowing room		
a. Before placing sows, clean and disinfect the farrowing rooms thoroughly, including floors, crates, feeders, walls, fans, and lights.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended
b. Ideally, the room should be allowed to dry completely before sows enter.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Check for sharp edges in the crates that may cause injuries to the sows or piglets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
d. Check to see that waterers and heaters are functioning properly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Adjust the size of the crates to accommodate the sows that will be housed in them.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
f. Ensure the farrowing crate provides a creep area to which the piglets can retreat when the sow moves.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
g. Beginning 24 hours before expected farrowing, turn on and check heating devices (heat lamps, heat pads, radiant heaters) to ensure proper functioning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended
h. <i>Other good production practices:</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Designated personnel must follow this protocol during farrowing, throughout lactation and at weaning.	Applied On-Farm	Importance
<b>3. Frequent observation during farrowing</b>		
a. When possible, frequently observe the sows around their expected farrowing.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
b. If farrowing is not progressing smoothly, determine if the sow has finished farrowing and promptly assist her, if necessary.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. <i>Other good production practices:</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended
<b>4. Care of suckling piglets</b>		
a. Ensure newborn piglets are housed at temperatures that will help them reach and maintain normal body temperature.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
b. Attempt to ensure that all piglets suckle as soon as possible (within 12 hours of farrowing) to receive colostrum.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Help piglets that have not received colostrum to access it. If performing split-suckling, make sure all piglets being separated from the sow have already received colostrum, if possible.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended
d. Wait to perform elective husbandry procedures on piglets until after they have received colostrum (see SOP 7.7 Elective Husbandry Procedures).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
e. Cross-foster, split-suckle, hand-rear or euthanize in a timely manner any piglets at risk of dying from inadequate nourishment.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
f. Administer supplemental iron to all piglets.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
g. Provide creep feed to piglets at no later than 28 days of age.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
h. Continually monitor piglets and euthanize, when necessary (refer to sections 7.6 and 7.10).	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended
i. <i>Other good production practices:</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended

Designated personnel must follow this protocol during farrowing, throughout lactation and at weaning.	Applied On-Farm	Importance
<b>5. Time in farrowing crate</b>		
a. Do not keep sows in farrowing crates for more than six weeks in any one reproductive cycle, except in exceptional circumstances (e.g., when a sow is needed to foster a second litter).	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
b. <i>Other good production practices:</i> _____ _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Highly recommended

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**RECORD**

Name of Record		Importance
<b>R-M</b>	Mortality Record	Mandatory

