



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
3. Frequent observation during farrowing		
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
4. Care of suckling piglets		
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
5. Time in farrowing crate		
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

RECORD

Name of Record		Importance
R-M	Mortality Record	Mandatory