

Thermal environment for the smallest pigs

Weaning is a dramatic change in a pig's life in terms of nutrition as well as immunity, and the smallest pigs have the largest requirements to their immediate environment.

Improving the thermal environment for the smallest pigs

The images to the right provide ideas for improving the immediate environment

1. Lower covers in the creep area
2. Temporary curtain made of paper or plastic
3. Front edge all the way down to the floor in part of the pen
4. Heat lamps in the cover of the creep area
5. Bedding
6. Straw board

Temperature requirement of the smallest pigs

Weight (kg)	Temperature under cover (°C)	Floor under cover (°C)	Room temperature* (°C)
5.5	31-32	32	25-26
6.0	30-31	32	24
7.0	29-30	32	24

* Adjust room temperature to reach the desired temperature under the cover.

Housing of the smallest pigs

- House the smallest pigs in warmest pens in the facility
- These are the green pens in the picture
- Do not accommodate the smallest pigs in end pens, in pens under, under ventilation points (●) or in pens with temperature and humidity sensors (☒)

Move weaned pigs to the weaner facility

- The pigs are assured of optimum environment and feeding
- Transmission of disease to piglets is avoided
- If weaned pigs remain in the farrowing house, they must be assured of the same environment and access to water and feed as if they were housed in the weaner house

Modify access to feed and water

- The smallest pig must be able to reach feed as well as water
- Make a pen especially for the smallest pigs



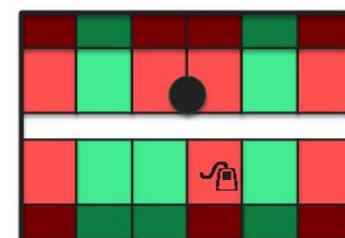
Improving thermal environment with straw board



Improving thermal environment with curtain



Partial closure of cover



Place the smallest pigs in the green pens

Fact:

A simple curtain in front of the cover increases the temperature under the cover by 1-2°C