

# Questions about possible birth issues?

## Let us provide some facts and suggestions.

QUESTION: Will a boar with large blade size and thickness cause farrowing difficulties?

FACT: Swine are unlike cattle - there is no scientific correlation between sire to birth weight and there is no correlation between blade size and thickness to birth weight.

FACT: The unborn baby pig will put on 50% of its birth weight during the last 30 days of gestation. Fat gilts will produce larger piglets.

Suggestion: Manage the feed bucket during this time and you will see the benefits. Do not feed too hard. Gilts will eat better in the farrowing house, come back to feed quicker, and be in better shape to go thru the farrowing process and hopefully farrow easier.

QUESTION: How can I minimize farrowing difficulties?

FACT: Gilts with smaller litter size produce bigger pigs and have lower hormone production.

FACT: Lower hormone production correlates to increased gestational period (gilts going over 114 days), and thus higher birth weight.

Suggestion: Use Estrumate at day 113 after the last day from insemination.

Suggestion: Given that your female is acceptable in her vulva and birth canal size, you can lessen or eliminate farrowing problems with this simple step - use an extra dose of semen. It can add three or more pigs to your litter, thus increasing hormone production and decreasing birth weight.

Suggestion: Gilts need to be at least 8 months old before breeding them and smaller framed more compact (Heavier muscled) gilts need to be even older.