Sow Lactation Feeding Program

1. The goals of a proper lactation feeding program
   a. Ensure Good Milking Performance
   b. Increase 21 Day Weaning Weights
   c. Maintain Sow Protein and Energy Balance Through Lactation
      - Research - University of Minnesota has shown that feed intake during lactation can dramatically effect reproductive results, namely weaning to service and weaning to conception intervals
         o Study factors resulting in lower intakes included
            - Low parity sows
            - High room temperatures
            - Lighter litter weights
            - Longer lactation length
            - Sows that are too fat
         o These factors must be examined and if possible controlled when using a feeding program. Keep the limitations of lower parities in mind when feeding young sows so they don’t get pushed too hard and end up off feed

2. Goals for Average Daily Lactation Consumption
   a. 900 grams of protein/day
   b. 45 grams of lysine/day
   c. 16 mega-calories of energy/day
   d. Body condition of sows (3.0-3.25)
      - Overweight sows don’t eat as much as properly conditioned sows in the farrowing barn
   e. The last 3-4 weeks of gestation is where the lactation feeding program should begin
      - The purpose of this is to increase birth weights on the pigs at farrowing and increase consumption for a better appetite
      - Either gestation feed or, if possible, lactation feed can be used
   f. The Last 2 Days Before Farrowing
      - Cut the lactation feed back to 4 lbs/ day
      - This helps to increase appetite and reduce the amount of udder problems at farrowing
   g. Day of Farrowing
      - Feed a minimal amount of feed (2 lbs) if the sow is up and wanting to eat, otherwise withhold feed
   h. Day after Farrowing
      - Limit feed (3-4 lbs) to help keep a good appetite in sows
      - Step them up 1-2 lb increments, ideally reaching 12-14 lbs at 7 days post farrowing
   i. 7 Days Post Farrowing
      - Challenge feed the sows to get as much consumption as possible
      - Care must be taken not to push the sows too hard &/or fast which can result in the sows going off feed
      - Step up in 1-2 lb increments only when they have cleaned their feed up completely in about 40 minutes to 2 hour after eating

Swine Vet Center can provide you with sow feed lactation consumption charts which allow you to follow an individual sow’s performance in the farrowing barn and identify potential problem areas