



Pig Improver

Early Pig Care: Placement Plan Placing Pigs Properly So That Every Pig Thrives



Every weaned pig must thrive to maximize the profitability of a pork operation. Previously in the Pig Improver, we have emphasized the importance of good early pig care in achieving optimal lifetime performance. Proper early pig care can lead to better animal well-being and reduced losses associated with fallback pigs, disease treatment and extra care. **Good early pig care is about minimizing health challenges, minimizing stress at reception and assuring a good start in the first 10 days after weaning.**

Early pig care should focus on:

- Hydration
- Early feed intake
- Comfort zone
- Proper room temperature
- Proper placement

Today in this exciting new edition of PIC's Pig Improver, test your knowledge about executing a proper placement plan.

Choose the correct answer to these questions about minimizing stress at reception through proper placement:

1. The goal of proper placement is:

- a) to minimize competition between pigs
- b) to allow for feed training for all pigs, including small pigs and fallbacks
- c) to use space efficiently
- d) all of the above

Answer: d) Proper placement minimizes competition, enables efficient feed training and optimizes space usage in the barn.

2. Proper placement is a management tool that involves categorizing pigs and placing them in separate pens. True or False?

Answer: True.

Typical examples of pen categories are:

- Normal pigs
- Poor competitors (called Open Pen)
- Hospital pen
- Bottom pigs

3. Bottom pigs are the:

- a) Smallest 5% of pigs
- b) Smallest 10 to 15% of pigs
- c) Smallest 50% of pigs

Answer: b) Bottom pigs are defined as the smallest 10 to 15% in your population. At arrival sort these pigs into separate pens (according to weight and health) to allow for specialized support to increase their performance.

4. Bottom pigs should be placed in open pens with the same temperature the normal pig population receives, but with gruel feed. True or False?

Answer: False. Bottom pigs should be given gruel feed in pens that are in the WARMEST part of the barn. Preferably, these pens may also have more comfort zone tools (such as a heat lamp, mats or heat radiators) than the normal pig population pens might receive.

5. When gruel feeding, ensure all pigs can eat at the same time by providing a minimum of __ inches of linear gruel feeder space per pig.

- a) 0.5
- b) 4
- c) 3
- d) 2

Answer: c) Three inches of linear space will allow all pigs to eat at the same time. This simulate pigs nursing as litter.

Here is a summary of how various early pig care factors fit into the four main Placement Plan grouping categories:

Early Pig Care: Placement Plan

	Small Pigs	Hospital	Open Pens	Normal
Sorting	Bottom 10-15%	Sick Pigs	Pulled Pigs	Population
Local Temperature	Warmer Pens	Warmer Pens + Supplemental Heat	Warmer Pens + Supplemental Heat	--
Extra Water Sources	--	Yes	--	--
Extra Feeders	--	Red Dishes with Fresh Feed	Red Dishes with Fresh Feed	--
Mat Feed Training	3 days @ 3x/day	7 days @ 6x/day	5 days @ 6x/day	3 days @ 3x/day
Gruel Feed	2 days @ 2x/day	Customized	4 days @ 4x/day	--



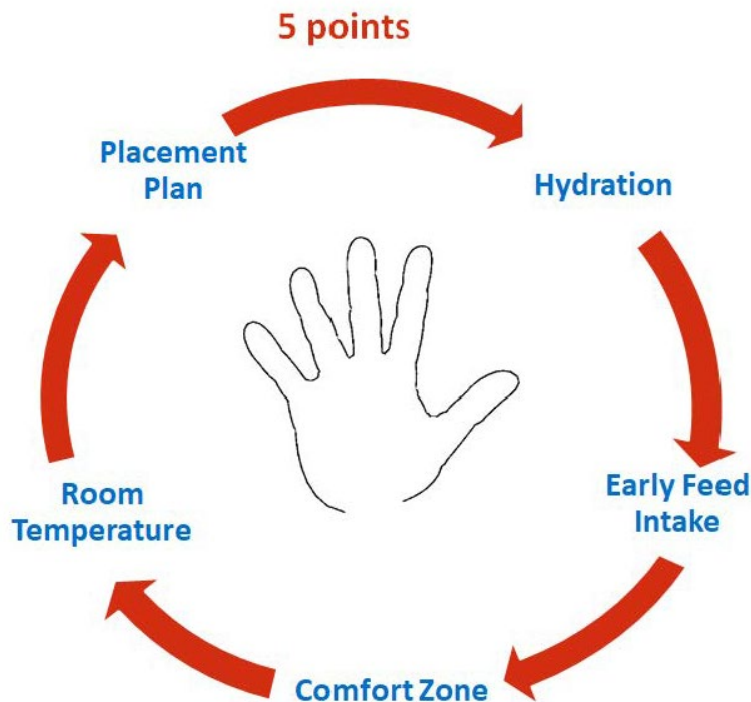
A typical sorting plan (for a 1200-head room stocked with 1280 animals) looks like:

Sorting Plan	%	# Pigs	# Pens
Bottom Pigs	12%	154	2
Hospital Pen	7%	90	1
Open Pen	12%	154	2
Normal Population	69%	883	11
			16

REMEMBER

Early Pig Care Success involves five major areas of care:

How Can We Ensure Success In the First 10 days?



Energized focus and implementation of a proper placement plan and the other early pig care basics by a well-trained and motivated staff will ensure the genetic potential of your PIC pigs is maximized as they stay on the road to optimal lifetime performance.



For more support on proper early pig care or any other topic needed to support your business achieving its goals, please reach out to your account manager.

Our future – and yours – has never looked so bright, as PIC continues to deliver on our promise to Never Stop Improving.

In the next Pig Improver: A Biosecurity Update