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Breeding Herd Education Series
2008-2009
Timely, relevant & convenient learning

Day One Piglet Care
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Sow Bridge
September 2nd

Hord Livestock Co., Inc.
• Family owned farm
• North Central OH
• High health
• 13,500 sows
• Farrow to finish
• High production – 28+ PSY
• Crop and cattle operation

What is needed for day one success?
• People
• Preparation
• Assisting sows
• Hot boxing
• Split suckling
• Pig movement
• SOP/Protocols

Person
• Dedicated to Day 1 care.
• Their only focus - not a task done when there is time.
• Not everyone is cut out for it.
• Important to have at least two people per farm to fill in for time off and on busy days.
• Make sure they don’t become a “sleeper”

Preparation
• Small tubs with drying agent
• Boxes cleaned with feed in them
• Strategically placed
Preparation cont.

- Have crates scraped
- Number of teats written on card
- Supplies

Assisting Sows

- Minimum use of Oxytocin – “Rub-a-tocin”
- Sleeve as needed
- Use this time to evaluate attitude of sow
- Calcium – Effective and Cheap
- ID Problem sows

Hot Boxes

- Use powder
- Put in a heated box
- Approx 15-20 minutes

Hot Boxes cont.

- Once warmed and mobile put in crate
- 100% of pigs while we are there
- Helps keep mat dry

Split Suckling

- Transition from hot boxes
- Make every pig feel like the first 8
- Get colostrum early
- Get colostrum from their mother

Split Suckling cont.

- ID at risk pigs and fix them
- Mark pigs
- Keep pulling until pigs can nurse
- 4 hours in box max
Pig movement

- Minimize disruption
- Move based on farrowing time
- No later than 18 hours
- Realistic chance of survival

SOP/Protocols

- Important to make sure procedures are being followed
- Can be changed when needed/appropriate
- Great tool for accountability
- Still allow flexibility

Questions?