

Zinpro Performance Minerals® Reduce Production Costs and Sow Livability

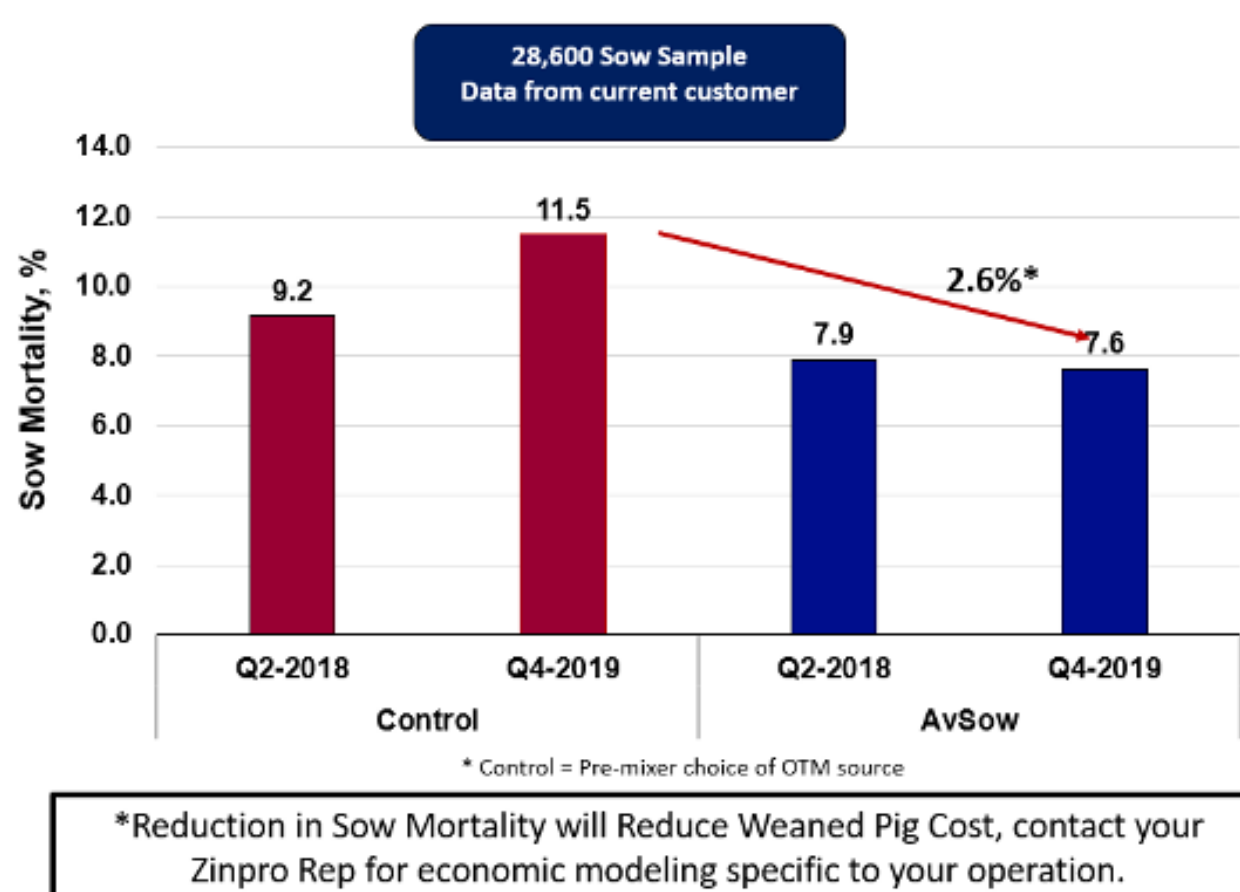
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PERFORMANCE MINERALS®

Minor changes can have major impacts when feeding Availa®Sow throughout gilt development, gestation and lactation. Sow mortality continues to be a challenge in the U.S. market with systems commonly experiencing greater than 10% sow mortality on average (www.piglivability.org). Addressing sow mortality and the root causes of sow mortality to lower sow farm replacement rate simultaneously addresses cost of production; by lowering your replacement rate you lower your cost of production. Cost per weaned pig is one of the three variables that explain 98% of the variation system profitability. Effective trace mineral nutrition using Zinpro Performance Minerals is a tool that can help you achieve a lower cost per weaned pig by lowering input costs through reduced sow mortality and increasing output with increased born alive.

Inflammation impacts nutrient utilization, physiological priority and system profitability. More than 50% of sow mortality is attributed to “unknown” reasons (www.piglivability.org), and while it’s real that we don’t know why many sows die, it’s reasonable that inflammation is at the core of the problem. Inflammation is necessary for positive health outcomes. It alerts the immune system to challenges; when left uncontrolled it can rob animals of necessary fuel for production and, in extreme conditions, result in natural death or euthanasia, impacting system profitability. Persistent immune responses divert nutrients away from measurable KPIs and ultimately impact system profitability in the form of involuntary culls, re- treats or other profit robbing scenarios.



Have you considered the cost of sow mortality in your system and its impact on the cost of production? What value could your system see if you were able to lower sow mortality, and ultimately replacement rate by 1 or 2%? Would you be willing to invest in strategies to help achieve this through nutrition, so your health and management strategies had greater impact?

Zinpro Performance Minerals® have demonstrated not only to lower systemic inflammation in sows, but also mitigate system mortality which is ultimately what impacts cost of production. In recently completed field work, inclusion of Zinpro Availa- Sow, part of the Nutra Blend Availa- Sow TM Plus sow premix, resulted in mitigation of sow mortality on a system level (Figure 1).

Past research has indicated that Zinpro technologies improve the robustness of the feet and the gut, ultimately leading to optimal health outcomes and survivability. 1,2 By lowering sow mortality, reductions in replacement rate can be recognized leading to a lower cost per weaned pig as a result of fewer gilt entries. Reducing cost of production is a combination of lowering input costs and increasing output. By lowering inflammation, Zinpro Performance Minerals re-direct more nutrients towards a productive outcome, and on the sow farm the KPI that matters is cost per weaned pig.

By improving a sow’s ability to cope with immune pressure, more nutrients are available for the last physiological priority, reproduction. A recent meta-analysis of Zinpro sow data revealed a 0.32 pigs per litter increase in born alive.

While an increase in total born alive doesn’t guarantee and increase in pigs per sow per year (PSY), adding effective trace mineral nutrition to your sow program is a means to improve management opportunity to increase PSY and further lower cost per weaned pig.

The inclusion of Availa-Sow in the sow’s diet provides zinc, manganese and copper from performance trace minerals. By making a minor change to the sow’s diet and including Zinpro Performance Minerals® from Availa-Sow or the Nutra Blend Availa-Sow™ Plus sow premix, a major impact can be achieved on cost per weaned pig directly linked to sow performance.

To learn more about including Availa-Sow in your swine feeding and nutrition program, contact your Nutra Blend account manager or a Zinpro Swine account manager today.

