

## H10 - Weaners - Liquid feeding ad lib



Feed cart for feeding of gruel feed. The weaner diet is given as dry feed or liquid feed / gruel feed.

**With ad lib feeding, pigs are assured of the amount of feed they can eat:**

### Introduction

1. Give the weaner diet as dry feed 3-4 times a day the first 14 days on the floor, on a board or in a long trough. All pigs must be able to eat at the same time. Alternatively, use liquid feed / soaked (gruel) feed.

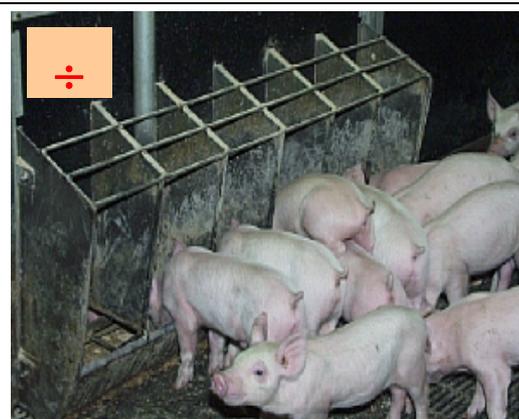
**From day 14** start on liquid feed. Start with small amounts of approx. 10 l per feed period so that the pigs have eaten all the feed after 15 minutes. Over the next five days, gradually increase the amount depending on how quickly the pigs eat up.

**From day 18** give liquid feed in all pens in controlled amounts. Gradually, increase to ad lib.

**From day 20** only use liquid feed. The pigs must have eaten up within 30 minutes after each feed period.

### After introduction

2. Enter an allowed deviation from the chart of + 20 % on the feed chart (see mini manual section 12).
3. Check feeding points - one feeding point must measure min. 22 cm per pig. Five pigs can share one feeding point.
4. The sensor in the trough must be clean and be placed 1.5 cm from the bottom of the trough.
5. Feed the pigs in four periods (eg. at 7, 11, 16 and 19 o'clock) of 2-3 hours each. At the beginning of the feeding period, the sensor in the trough frequently (every 5-7 minutes) records whether the trough is empty, and when demand drops after approx. half an hour, it records the level approx. every 15 minutes.
6. Surplus feed in the pipeline must constitute max. 50% of the feed in pipe and tank before feeding.



At the beginning of a feeding period when the pigs are very hungry, the system must frequently check the feed level in the trough

### Several factors may cause a too low feed intake:

- Too many pigs in the pen - too few feeding points.
- The sensor is placed too close to the bottom of the trough.
- The sensor is dirty - it must be clean between feeding periods, otherwise the amount fed will be too small.
- The trough is dirty - it must be cleaned once a day.
- The system does not check often enough in the beginning of the feeding periods.
- Surplus feed exceeds 50 % of the feed - the result is highly fermented feed, which reduces feed intake.
- Loss of amino acids in case of too much surplus feed.

### **Additional comments - Weaners - Liquid feed ad lib**

- 1.** Many pig producers find the transition to liquid feed difficult to manage. However, once the pigs have adjusted to liquid feed, they often grow extremely well. Early transition to liquid feed will often cause problems as the consumption of the first diet is relatively small. The consumption must be so high that there is a max. Surplus feed of 50%:

It is recommended to feed with liquid or soaked feed right after weaning in order to minimize the risk of diarrhea. Use these guidelines:

Day 1- 3: Approximate ad lib. Guiding amount day 1 is approx. 150 g dry feed/pig/day.  
Day 4- 5: Possibly ½ of day 3 ration.  
Day 6- 8: Gradually increase to ad lib.  
Day 9-14: Dry feed ad lib.

Recipes for a liquid weaner diet:

  - a)** Make a supplementary diet of easily digestible ingredients, amino acids, minerals and vitamins to supplement liquid feed for weaners the first two weeks post-weaning so that it meets the requirements for a weaner diet. Pour liquid feed into a feed cart, mix with the supplementary diet and feed the mix manually. Such a diet can contain 0.45 feed units per litre.
  - b)** Mix a dry weaner diet with water. Use surplus feed or other inoculation culture to make it sour, if necessary.
  - c)** Supplementary feed, fermented grain + water.

Feeding liquid feed / gruel feed immediately post-weaning can only be recommended if the pigs are fed manually from a feed cart or if a liquid feeding system without residue is being used.

Give the pigs liquid feed when they are big enough, ie. when they no longer need the weaner diet.
- 2.** To ensure that the pigs are fed ad lib, enter an allowed deviation on the feed chart of + 20%. This is important as feed is mixed according to the chart. If the pigs can eat more, mix again and feed the pigs ad lib.
- 3.** The recommendation is feeding points measuring 22 cm with head partition in the weight interval 7-30 kg. If the feeding point is narrower, aggressions may arise among the pigs and feed wastage will increase.
- 4.** The location of the sensor is essential to release the intended amount of feed. If the sensor is placed too low, feed will not be released often enough as the sensor will record even small amounts, whereas if it is placed too high the trough will not be emptied.
- 5.** The sensor must record frequently, for instance every 5-7 minutes, at the beginning of the feeding period. When demand drops, after approx. 30 minutes, the sensor records less often, for instance every 15 minutes. Feed 8-10% of the entire day ration at each feeding. Small amounts of feed, less than 10 kg, increase uncertainties (uncertainties often higher than 20%). Surplus feed must be kept under control and be as small as possible between feedings.

At least once a day, follow a round of feeding to thoroughly inspect the pigs.
- 6.** If the residue is too large, the pigs' feed intake may drop and amino acids may be lost due to fermentation.