



TECHNICAL REPORT

by Groupe Cérés and Nutrition Athéna



FEEDING OF SMALL AND FALL-BACK PIGLETS

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One of the challenges that can be encountered when starting a new group of weaned pig in the nursery barn, is a percentage of fall-back pigs. Several factors can cause this: age, weight, disease, etc.

To address the situation, here are a few tips that can be implemented to reduce the incidence of fall-back pigs and to help you provide them with better care:

- When the pigs arrive, it is recommended to sort only the smallest ones (about 5-10%). Grouping them in pens will allow them to receive different interventions and treatments if needed. Make sure to select a pen close to a heat source and where workers circulate frequently so that they can easily monitor them.
- These pens will have to be fed regularly during the day (3-4 times/day). Be sure to make all the piglets stand to stimulate them to eat the first phase feed.
- It is possible to put a few large pigs throughout the smaller ones to act as teachers. The big ones will quickly understand where to eat and drink and the smaller ones will copy them.
- The use of bowls is recommended especially for pens of small pigs.
- Pens of smaller pigs should stay on the *Miza 1* longer than other pens. Instead of the recommended 1.25 kg/pig of *Miza 1*, the little ones should receive 2 kg/pig.

- If you order the *Miza 1* in bulk, we suggest to have a few extra 25 kg bags of *Miza 1* that can be used when the *Miza 1* feed bin is empty. You can also have a cart of *Miza 1* feed on the side.
- During the nursery walk-through, if you see fall-back pigs, you must group them together and feed them some gruel feed.
 - You only need to mix *Miza 1* with water (you can also put milk powder, if available).
 - The piglets must have access to a feeder of dry *Miza 1* as well.
 - The water in the pen must be turned off. Since these pigs miss their maternal milk, they tend to drink a lot and refuse to eat. Cutting off the water forces them to eat the gruel and develop a taste for food.
 - After 2-3 days on gruel, it is important to give them access to water again. A piglet drinks almost one liter a day, so it will not be sufficiently hydrated by the gruel.
 - Recovered fall-back piglets can return to conventional pens.

A high incidence of fall-back piglets is not normal. If this is the case for your nursery, contact your representative for evaluation and correction of the situation.