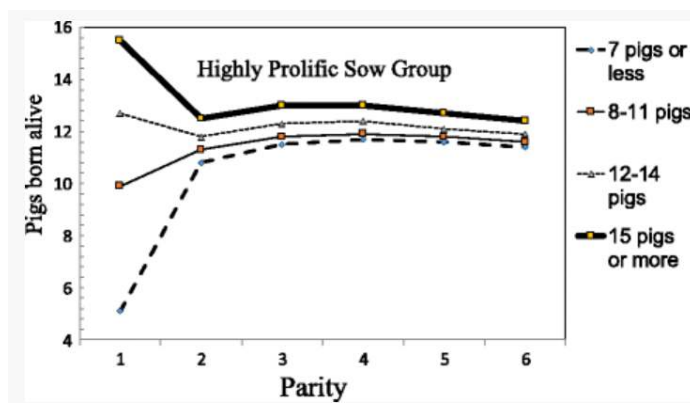




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## Getting it right the first time around – Your future is in your gilts

One of the things that's consistent among all top farms is proper management of the gilt. High gilt production will improve overall farm farrowing rate, total born and weaned average. When gilts are managed correctly, they can achieve 92-94% farrowing rate, greater than 15 total born and greater than 14 born alive ...and production will continue to increase throughout their lifetime. This has become common knowledge in the industry, yet many farms still fall short in realizing the full genetic potential of the gilt in this regard.



Shown is a graph looking at total born by parity. As you can see, if a female performs well as a gilt, she will continue to perform better throughout her life. Said another way however, a poor performing gilt will continue to do poorer for the rest of her parities. She doesn't catch up.

*Fredericks et al. 2018 AASV Annual Meeting*  
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40813-016-0049-7>

So how do top farms “do gilts right”? It starts with the basics of breeding.

Here are the hallmarks of gilt breeding:

- More than 300 lbs. body weight
- Crate broken for at least 10-14 days prebreeding
- Full feed prebreeding—she should be eating 8-12 lbs. per day
- Breed on 2nd or 3rd heat
- Breed and leave...no moves from days 5-30 post breeding

**SUCCESSFUL GILT PROGRAMS  
DRIVE HIGH PRODUCTION  
AND  
DECREASE SOW DEATH LOSS**



## Don't Skip the Chute!

It's getting cold outside and cold weather is the perfect environment for SIV, PED, TGE and PRRS viruses to thrive. Don't let the chute and other outside equipment be the weak link in your biosecurity program. These items can be disinfected with a mixture of Intervention™ and propylene glycol. On the next page you will find a concentrate that can help you stick to your biosecurity program by keeping the chute from icing up when disinfecting during freezing temperatures.

Disinfection Dilution Rate	Intervention™ Conc. (Per 1Gal/128oz of Solution)	Water (Per 1Gal/128oz of Solution)	Propylene Glycol (Per 1Gal/128oz of Solution)	Temperature Degrees ( F)	Contact Time
1:16	8 oz	90 oz (70%)	38 oz (30%)	32 to 14	40 minutes
1:16	8 oz	77 oz (60%)	51 oz (40%)	13 to 5	60 minutes
1:16	8 oz	77 oz (60%)	51 oz (40%)	4 to -4	80 minutes
1:8	16 oz	90 oz (70%)	38 oz (30%)	32 to 14	20 minutes
1:8	16 oz	77 oz (60%)	51 oz (40%)	13 to 5	30 minutes
1:8	16 oz	77 oz (60%)	51 oz (40%)	4 to -4	40 minutes

1. Remove manure, bedding and any other organic matter from chute or equipment to be disinfected
2. Mix up the spray mix as directed above in a pump-up sprayer or foam gun or bucket and brush
3. Thoroughly wet the surfaces with the mixture
4. Keep surfaces wet with solution for the stated amount of contact time

## Feed Quality and Mycotoxins

With record fall moisture this year, the potential for mycotoxins is elevated. Mycotoxins are produced by fungi under specific conditions of oxygen, temperature, moisture, and carbohydrate (grains). Extreme weather is what typically produces mycotoxins. The unseasonably, wet fall and varying temperatures should cause a greater concern for mycotoxins this year. Uncovered storage is another factor that may raise the risks. An important thing to realize is whether or not mycotoxins were found in your state or area does not mean all crops are contaminated; however, it does call for increased awareness.

Four major mycotoxins and their effects in swine include:

- DON or vomitoxin: Feed refusal, vomiting, diarrhea, and depression
- Fumonisin: Fatal pulmonary edema (fluid-filled lungs) and liver toxicity
- Aflatoxin: Slow and/or poor growth, poor feed conversion, poor milk production, and liver toxicity
- Zearalenone: Early puberty in gilts, swollen vulvas, false signs of estrus, and vaginal or rectal prolapses

There can be synergistic relationships between some mycotoxin groups. When certain mycotoxins are found together in a diet, these combinations can cause toxicity higher than the sum of the 2 parts. For example, the toxicity of a low to medium level of DON mycotoxin could be magnified if fumonisin is also present in the diet. While our understanding of mycotoxins has increased significantly over the years, the combination-effect of multiple mycotoxins is still widely unestablished given the difficulty in stimulating research to understand more.

If you are questioning whether or not you're dealing with mycotoxins on your farm, immediately collect a representative feed sample from where the issues are occurring. A gallon-sized Ziplock bag filled with feed should be collected and can be put in the freezer for storage if necessary until submission for testing. Mycotoxin testing is available from Iowa State University as well as North Dakota State University diagnostic labs.

Commercial mycotoxin binders are available that can be added to your rations to reduce the toxic effects. Contact your nutritionist or Swine Vet Center veterinarian for more information about these products.

### Neogen Confirmed Mycotoxin Report 11/11/19

State	DON	Fumonisin	Aflatoxin	Zearalenone
Kansas			> 50 ppb	
Missouri		> 7ppm		
Indiana	> 2 ppm			
Illinois	> 3 ppm		>60 ppb	
Iowa	> 5 ppm			> 1000 ppb
Ohio	> 3 ppm			
Michigan	> 2 ppm			
Nebraska	>10 ppm	>8ppm	>200 ppb	>1000 ppb
Oklahoma			>100ppb	
Minnesota		>6 ppm	>20 ppb	>500 ppb
Texas		>10ppm	>300 ppb	
Too high for food	>1 ppm	> 2ppm	> 20 ppb regulatory limit for food and feed	
Too high for some animal species		>5ppm		> 500 ppb
Too high for finished feed	>1 ppm			