



Gruel Feeding

Gruel feeding weaned pigs is a very important process to help in the transition of milk to dry feed. Especially in the challenged and undersized pigs. The quicker they learn how to drink and eat, the better they will do. This will result in better feed conversion, average daily gain, and mortality.

Gruel feeding general population

1. Start with a clean and dry gruel bowl or trough.
2. Mix equal parts of water and feed. Should mix to an oatmeal-like consistency. Example of mix: In 5 gallon bucket, add 1 lb. of Intensive Care Formula, 10 lbs. of feed (mash or pellets) and enough water to make it like oatmeal. Mix thoroughly together with a paint mixer or by hand. This will make enough gruel to feed 450 to 500 pigs at once.
3. Mix only what pigs will eat in 30 to 60 minutes. All pigs must be able to eat at one time.
4. Gruel feeding should be done at least 4 times per day minimum. More is better here.
5. Do this for the first 2 to 3 days with less water each day. By day 5 to 7 you want to be on dry feed.

Gruel feeding critical and small pigs

Day 1 & 2: Mix 1 lb. of Intensive Care Formula in 1 gallon of water.

Day 3: Mix ½ lb. of Intensive Care Formula in 1 gallon of water and add ½ starter feed.

Day 4 & 5: Mix ½ lb. of Intensive Care Formula in 1/2 gallon of water and add 1 lb. starter feed.

Day 6 & 7: Mix ¼ lb. of Intensive Care Formula in 1/2 gallon of water and add enough starter feed to make oatmeal texture.

Day 8 to 10: Only dry starter feed.



Mat Feeding

The goal of mat feeding is to stimulate the activity level of the pigs and act as a dinner bell to eat. The key to mat feeding is small amounts, multiple times per day.

Use the mixture set up in the general gruel feeding guide. With the oatmeal texture you will not lose as much feed into the pit as you will if feed is dry.

Feeding amounts

½ cup per 25 head (minimum of four times per day, preferably more)

General population: first 5 to 7 days.

Critical and small pigs: first 10 to 14 days.