

COLD STRESS IN PIGS

WHAT IS COLD STRESS?



Cold stress occurs when the body's temperature drops below average. Pigs raised in cold temperatures are at risk of cold stress. Pigs in a cold environment require a higher energy diet to maintain their body condition and to maintain a normal body temperature. Younger animals are more susceptible to cold stress than adults. Newborn piglets are extremely susceptible to cold stress and if they are chilled it can lead to death.

WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?



Shivering (may stop if condition worsens)



Tucking legs under the body



Low rectal temp (< 35°C)



Unable to get up



Piling on top of one another



Laying near a corner or wall

WHAT CAN I DO?



Deep bedding in winter



Provide shelter from wind and dampness



Provide clean water*
*Snow is not a suitable water source



Winter feeding protocol**

**With additional high energy feed



Provide supplemental heaters



Indoor farrowing pens
(for outdoor farms)

LEARN MORE!

NATIONAL FARM ANIMAL CARE COUNCIL
CONSEIL NATIONAL POUR LES SOINS AUX ANIMAUX D'ELEVAGE

<u>The Code of Practice for the Care and Handling of Pigs</u>

1.4 Environmental Management: Temperature, Ventilation and Air Quality – Page 15





