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National Agricultural Research Institute

## Good Piglet Weaning Practices



NARI TOKTOK SERIES

LAB010 (E)

## Good Piglet Weaning Practice

Weaners need to be well grown but they should not be left with their mother for too long or she will lose condition and be difficult to get pregnant again.

Piglets for weaning should weigh 10-15 kg at 6-8 weeks.

### How to feed the pigs

- It is best that piglets must be fed as much as they can eat of a pig starter feed after the first week from birth, rather than relying on what they can steal from their mother's feed in addition to the milk. This expensive feed should be fed where the sow cannot reach it—creep feeding. This will ensure heavy, healthy weaners.
- It is best to feed weaners with the feed in a feeder or trough, rather than on the floor. Allow 250 mm of feeder length for each piglet.
- Avoid sudden changes of feed at weaning. The feed should be gradually changed from the pig starter to the grower feed when the piglets are 15-18 kg at 8-12 weeks.

- Weaners must have plenty of clean drinking water at all times.

### What you should do during the time of weaning

- Remove the sow from the piglets rather than the piglets from the sow to avoid too much upset at once. The piglets should remain where they are for at least a week.
- Do not mix piglets from different litters at weaning. Any mixing of sows and litters should have been done when the piglets were one or two weeks old. Sows with litters of about the same age can be mixed early on in the pen which will become the grower pen for the weaners.
- From about 2 weeks after weaning the piglets can be transferred to a clean grower pen if necessary.