



Pig Improver

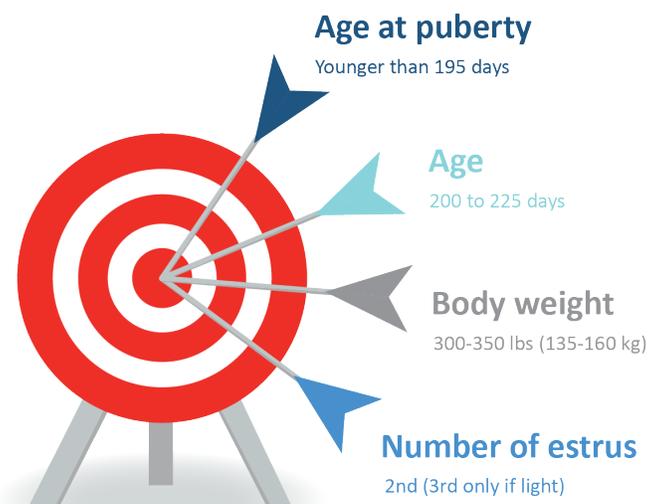
Breed Gilts at the Right Time to Optimize Performance

Hit these targets for best lifetime performance, cost savings

As genetics advance, so have parameters for gilt eligibility at first breeding. Meeting eligibility requirements set gilts up for a successful first parity and subsequent parities for maximum lifetime performance. PIC defines gilt eligibility using these four components:

- Age at puberty
- Age at first breeding
- Body weight at first breeding
- Number of estrus at first breeding

Within each of these components, specific targets are identified. Hitting all targets on each gilt serviced is vital to optimize cost-efficiency, [longevity](#) and lifetime performance. Each target is equally important. Research shows meeting just two or three of the four targets will not have the same positive results.



Age at Puberty - Target younger than 195 days of age.

Industry research confirms a link between early sexual maturity and improved sow lifetime productivity. Manage gilts to stimulate an early puberty onset and identify and record the gilts in estrus. Gilts expressing puberty younger than 195 days (28 weeks) of age tend to have higher lifetime performance.



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Age at First Breeding - Target 200 to 225 days of age at breeding.

In general, gilts over 225 days of age are likely overweight. Gilts bred over 240 days show a litter size decrease in their second parity, longer wean-to-service interval and a shorter production life overall.

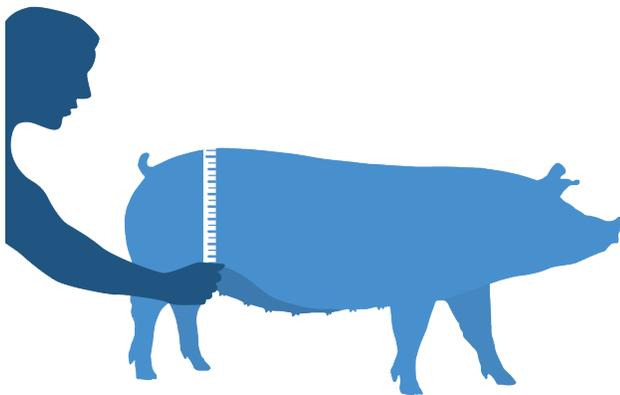
Body weight at First Breeding - Target 300 to 350 lbs. (135 to 160 kgs).

This weight will set gilts up for ideal weight at farrowing and overall lifetime maintenance demands. The [average daily gain should be between](#) 1.32 and 1.76 lbs. (600-800 g.) per day to reach target weight between 200 and 225 days.

Average Daily Gain from Birth to 1 st Breeding		
Age, Days	225	200
Weight, lb (kg)	300 (135)	350 (160)
ADG, lb (kg)	1.32 (600)	1.76 (800)

Gilts bred below the target weight have lower litter sizes in their first farrowing and decreased performance during their first lactation. Gilts over 350 lbs. (160 kgs.) at first breeding are likely to remain heavy and will be more expensive to maintain in the herd. Heavier gilts are prone to locomotion issues in subsequent parities.

Weight is likely the most challenging component of gilt eligibility to measure. In collaboration with Kansas State University, PIC developed an easy to understand and action-driven “flank to flank” tape to help determine if a gilt is within the ideal weight range. The tape features a red, amber, green color code and associated action for quick decision making.



Too light – Do Not Breed	<300 lbs (135 kgs)
Eligible to Breed	300-350 lbs (135-160 kgs)
Too Heavy	>350 lbs (160 kgs)

Number of estrus at First breeding - Target breeding on second estrus.

[Accurately track estrus](#) and breed on the second estrus. Research shows delaying breeding to the second estrus has a positive effect on litter size. Only delay breeding to the third estrus to meet minimum weight targets.

To learn more about the updated gilt eligibility targets or to get a flank tape, reach out to your PIC team.