



 Never Stop Improving

Successful Boar Training

2019

 PIC[®]

Goal

To provide practical information on how to setup a successful boar training program

Outline

Expectations – Desired outcome of a successful training program.

Requirements – Elements to have prior the beginning of the training.

Description – A day by day description of the critical steps of the training.

Practical tips – A set of recommendations based on years of field experience to overcome common challenges in AI boar training.

Expectations

Less than 5% non trainable boars per shipment.

Have 90%+ boars trained after 4 weeks.

Reaction time (enter collection pen – jump interval) shorter than 5 minutes.

Requirements

- 2 experienced/patient trainers (very important)
- Boars at least 180 days of age.
- No training prior day 5 after arrival.
- Calm surrounding without distraction.
- Warm up and collection pen.
- Height adjustable, sturdy, well fixed dummy.
- (Commercial prostaglandin)*
- Syringes and needles (1.5 inch).
- Clock to check duration of training sessions.
- Materials to log collection data.

* Check if prostaglandin treatment of boars is legal in your region

Prostaglandin Treatment

The use of prostaglandin in boars might be regulated different among countries. Only use the drug if it is in agreement with local laws.

Some boars seem to be not responsive to prostaglandin. Stop treatment if no effect is seen on two application days.

After finishing the training, use of prostaglandin should be reduced to a minimum.

The number of treatments after the training period should not exceed 5% of all collected animals.

Training Day 1

Treat boar #1 with 2 cc of Prostaglandin and place him in warm up pen.

After 5 minutes transfer him to the collection pen. At the same time, provide 2 cc of Prostaglandin to boar #2 and put him in the warm up pen.

Help boar #1 jump the dummy.

If boar #1 doesn't jump after 5-10 min. take him back home, continue with boar #2.

Training Day 1

If boar #1 does jump the dummy, collect him for 1 minute.

Let boar # 2 access collection pen and watch, sniff boar #1 being collected.

If boar # 2 jumps or pushes boar #1 off the dummy, stop collecting boar #1, take it out the collection area and let boar #2 jump the dummy and start collecting it.

Training Day 1

Try to create a chain; when boar #2 enters collection area, treat boar #3 with Prostaglandin in warm up pen also.

Follow steps until all the boars have jumped the dummy.

If the chain is interrupted, start again with boar that wasn't successful at jumping earlier that training day.

Always pay attention to your own safety first!

Training Day 2

Apply **1cc** Prostaglandin, place boar in warm up area

After 5 minutes transfer him to the collection pen

Collect all boars fully that jumped the dummy Day 1

Train boars that did not jump yesterday according to Day 1 protocol

Training Day 3 and After

Day 3 is a non training day.

Day 4 try to fully collect boars that were successful on day 2 without Prostaglandin treatment.

Only if no signs of libido are seen in the warm up pen, apply 1cc Prostaglandin and transfer boar to collection pen 5 minutes afterwards.

Repeat the procedure as many days as needed until all boars are trained successfully.

Within 2 weeks >60% of all boars should be trained successfully.

Within 4 weeks >90% of all boars should be trained successfully.

Tips From the Field

Raise competition

- Put young boar with low libido in pen with active (young) boar.
- As low libido boar starts to jump the other one take him directly to collection pen.
- Have 2 boars jump the dummy simultaneously (see picture next slide).

Olfactory stimulation

- Use a cloth that was exposed to other boars* urine and plug to lure low libido boar on dummy.

Two Boars, One Dummy



Boar Jumps Boar



Tips From the Field

Positive priming

- Let boar that does not jump the dummy thrust in hand and only fix grip if they have jumped.
- If he jumps off again, loosen grip again and let thrust until he hops on again.

Mimic the female

- A dummy on wheels can be used as to simulate a moving sow. If not on hand a barrel could be an alternative (see pictures next slide).

Barrel as “Moving Sow”



Further Considerations

Field observations have shown that success rate of training decreases after 8 month of boar age

Training in quarantine is preferable:

- Training of boars at earliest recommended age
- Boars arrive at stud “ready to use”
- Easier to dedicate time/emphasis on training process

Training days and results should be logged and handed over to the production barn staff along with the boars to make them profit form observations/experience during the training.

Example on Training Protocol

Group name:

Delivery date:

Boar ID	Training Date	Technician	Outcome	Volume	Total cells	Motility	Morphology	Prostagalandin	Comments
19001	01.09.2016	MF	No interest	-	-	-	-	Yes	Stopped after 5 min.
19001	02.09.2016	MF	Jump only	-	-	-	-	Yes	
19001	04.09.2016	MF	Collection	80ml	-	-	-	No	No full ejaculation
19001	05.09.2016	MF	Collection	70ml	-	-	-	No	
19001	12.09.2016	MF	Collection	150ml	65B	85%	75%	No	

Safety During Training

Only experienced staff should train boars.

Have at least two person around during training.

Watch boars for signs of fear, aggression. Leave the pen until boars become calm again if necessary.

Ensure easy escape options from training pen

Economic Implications

Each non trainable boar reduces replacement rate (lower average herd index).

Each index point in a (terminal) boar accounts for ~\$ 21,000 opportunity loss in finisher pigs.

Each non trainable boar adds about \$150 to 300 quarantine costs

One Page Summary

Successful training need good/consistently executed protocols

Training has to be a “good experience” for the boar

Stimulation can be applied in different way

- Odor of other boars/sows

- Raise competition between boars

Personal safety is always first priority

Resources

Malcolm Turley (PIC).

Mindy Barden (Birchwood).

Jeff Moore (Birchwood).

Jamie Hundley (Birchwood).

Luis Cândido Alves Rodrigues (Agroceres-PIC).

Juan Carlos Pinilla (PIC).

Michael Kleve-Feld (PIC).