







		Repeat breeders	Mummies	Abortion	Stillborn piglets	Tips & tricks
		Regular repeat breeders: 18-24 days post insemination (dpi) or 36-48 dpi No more than 15% per year <6%	Irregular repeat breeders: between 25 and 35 dpi No more than 4% per year <4%	No more than 2% per year Normally speaking quite evenly distributed over the period 90-109 dpi	No more than 7% per year Piglets that died right before or during the farrowing process.	
NON-INFECTIOUS CAUSES	MANAGEMENT	No insemination due to suboptimal heat detection and an incorrect insemination moment: caused by errors made during insemination or poor quality (storage) of the semen. Successful insemination, but early embryonic death: this can be due to poor ovum and/or semen quality (late insemination, poor quality and/or storage of the semen).	 <p>Excessive litter sizes may lead to "crowding", which means that the room in the uterus is insufficient for the number of embryos. This causes some embryos to die, which then mummify. It usually involves one or only a few mummies and the number of piglets born alive is normal.</p>	 <p>The bigger the litter size, the longer the farrowing takes and the greater the risk of stillborn piglets. On the other hand, there is also a risk for litters with a small number of piglets, as these piglets are usually heavier.</p>	In case of pure heritage lineage, the percentage of stillborn piglets is higher on average than for hybrid breeds. There are individual differences as well. A sow that had a lot of stillborn piglets in a previous litter will run a higher risk of having stillborn piglets in the following litters. The risk of stillborn piglets depends on the parity ; for older sows (from the 6th litter) this risk is higher because the muscles of the uterus loosen up and farrowing may take longer. In young sows, a narrow birth canal can make farrowing more difficult and may lead to stillborn piglets. The risk of stillborn piglets increases if the gestation period is shorter than 114 days or longer than 117 days. The average time between births is about 15 minutes. For the piglets born first and last, the time between births is usually a bit longer. If the time between births increases and the farrowing takes more than 5 hours in total, the risk of stillborn piglets will be increased.	Print the data sheets for high-risk sows in a different colour and arrange supervision during farrowing. Aim for an average parity of 3,5 and try to remove less than 30% of the sows before litter #4. Never apply induced farrowing before day 113 of gestation. Arrange supervision during farrowing and record the time between births on the sow data sheet to get a clear picture.
	LITTER SIZE					
	STRESS	Stress mainly has a negative effect during the first 5 weeks of gestation. Possible stress factors: - Change of accommodation (moving to group housing) - Barn climate: high temperatures in summer, cold in winter, draught - Sudden changes to feed composition or feeding method (feeding station)	Acute and severe stress may cause embryos in the uterus to die. If one or only a few embryos die after day 35, mummification will occur. The mummies will then have the same size.	In group housing, establishing hierarchy or competition for feed may cause chronic stress and abortions.	Stress lengthens the duration time of farrowing and increases the risk of stillborn piglets. Possible stress factors: - washing the sows in cold water - obstipation - an unfavourable barn climate (too hot, drafty, etc.) - frequent rounds and inspections by the pig producer.	Try and avoid stress as much as possible. Be careful when handling the animals.
	SEASON/ BARN VENTILATION (temperature/humidity)	Sows that are serviced in the autumn run a greater risk of coming into heat again irregularly. This is related to the shortening of the days.	 <p>Excessive loss of body condition during the lactation period is accompanied by an extended weaning-to-oestrus interval, a lower ovulation number, reduced quality of the ovaries, reduced gestation percentage and increased embryonic death.</p> <p>Acute intoxication by zearalenone can lead to signs of heat and can cause sows to come into heat again irregularly. Chronic intoxication is more likely to cause heat suppression and reduced fertility results.</p>	Excessively high temperatures and extreme cold may lead to abortions. Extremely high temperatures are observed during summer in poorly ventilated barns. Low temperatures may occur in unmodified barns during winter and are mainly harmful to skinny sows.	Excessive ambient temperatures (especially in the summer) may lengthen the farrowing and increase the risk of stillborn piglets.	Make sure that the ambient temperature in the farrowing barn is not too high during the farrowing period (preferably 22 degrees).
	BODY CONDITION	 <p>Excessive loss of body condition during the lactation period is accompanied by an extended weaning-to-oestrus interval, a lower ovulation number, reduced quality of the ovaries, reduced gestation percentage and increased embryonic death.</p>		Intoxication by fumonisin and zearalenone may result in abortions.	 <p>Overly fat sows run a greater risk of having stillborn piglets because the surrounding adipose tissue narrows the birth canal. For very skinny sows, a shortage of energy reserves can make the farrowing difficult and increase the risk of stillborn piglets.</p>	Assess the condition of the sows (visually or by means of a backfat thickness measurement) at regular intervals and adjust the feeding schedule if required.
	MYCOTOXINS	Acute intoxication by zearalenone can lead to signs of heat and can cause sows to come into heat again irregularly. Chronic intoxication is more likely to cause heat suppression and reduced fertility results.			Intoxication by zearalenone may lead to reduced resistance in the sow and more weak and stillborn piglets.	In case of a suspected outbreak, have the feed checked and use a toxin binder if necessary.
	LACTATION PERIOD	If the lactation period is too short (<20 days), the uterus will not be able to recover sufficiently.				