



## Mitchell Veterinary Services

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### Pauly Veterinary Clinic

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### The Pigs Prayer to the Herdsman:

- ❖ Remember that I'm your good friend.
- ❖ Look at me and I'll tell you what you need to know.
- ❖ If we are making pyramids, then we are cold.
- ❖ If we are pale and without energy, maybe something is wrong with the feed or water.
- ❖ Remember that I am a top genetic, lean meat machine, but pigs also have a digestive system much the same as yours.
- ❖ If the feed is finely ground, I can't process it in my stomach and intestines because I do not receive strong signals from the feed. You eat raw vegetables!
- ❖ Water: If you close the alternative drinker aside the feeders I'm not able to regulate my salt/water balance!
- ❖ This goes for liquid feed systems too!
- ❖ Why? Because in the water in the feed station there are always dissolved minerals. I need fresh water to keep my salt/water balance optimal.
- ❖ It is the water intake that determines the feed intake.
- ❖ If my body is thoroughly rinsed with fresh water I am healthy and happy and want to eat.
- ❖ You also regulate with fresh water – maybe just a glass per day.
- ❖ Most of us are LY/D – that is my father is a Duroc. Them Durocs are very primitive and tolerate both heat & cold very well. But Durocs also like fresh air whether it is hot or cold.
- ❖ To grow at max speed you feed me a lot of protein that I have to process. This biological process produces a lot of heat. If the surrounding have a high temperature, then I have a serious problem. I become thermal intoxicated and get sleepy. So I don't want to eat to avoid this intoxication.
- ❖ If the feed is too fine it moves slowly in my intestines – this causes E.coli and Clostridia bacteria to grow in large numbers. These guys produce different toxins, and I become a little bit poisoned. This causes my immune-system to use a lot of effort to produce a lot of antibodies, stealing protein from my build-up of muscles.
- ❖ So maybe you can lower the temperature to where I am piling (making pyramids) and then 2 degrees of centigrade up!
- ❖ Remember that it is not the technician from the ventilation company or the professor from Guelph that are to decide the temperature in the rooms – it is you and me.
- ❖ If I'm treated well I'll grow more than 1000 grams a day.
- ❖ Remember that the more I grow the more I need the costly things like minerals and vitamins.
- ❖ So: more coarse feed, more water and a lower temperature.
- ❖ Feeder stations: Open a little bit too much in the start – then close a little bit when we have learned how to manage the stations. Open again when we are about 45 kilo. This is when our growth rate starts to accelerate.

Thank you very much

The finishing pig