



5

THINGS THAT
INCREASE COST
OF PRODUCTION



High cost of production is an issue every producer grapples with, regardless of the size of their operation. While numerous components affect production costs, some on-farm factors can increase costs without producers even realizing. Below are five factors that increase production costs, along with some tips to help producers mitigate them.



1. Water, water, water

We often focus on feed, as it is the biggest expense to cost of production. But what about water? Water is an important — but often forgotten — nutrient. Pigs tend to drink about 10 percent of their body weight per day, or roughly two times the amount of feed they eat. Does the water your pigs drink impact their performance and productivity, thus adding to the cost of production? Simple things that are easy to control, such as biofilm buildup, can cause performance issues. Remember to check your water lines and implement a program that monitors and maintains proper levels of these five water quality indicators: total bacterial count, pH, hardness, total dissolved solids, and nitrates and nitrites.





2. Pre-wean mortality

The reproductive performance of sows continues to increase, but larger litters can challenge the standard practices of managing newborn pigs. Producers are grappling with lower birth weights, which affect piglet health and often lead to higher pre-wean mortality. Many variants come into play when it comes to pre-wean mortality. One of the most critical factors is making sure the sow gets attention. Everything you want the piglet to receive comes through the sow until weaning. With this in mind, make sure the sow's nutrition program is fully implemented as planned and that she can transfer trace elements like selenium to the piglet.

3. Sow mortality

There has been an industry-wide increase in this area of production — but despite this increase, many nutrient levels have stayed the same. Genetics are progressing at such a fast pace that nutrition can't keep up. Feed intake patterns have changed. One area to focus on is matching intake with the level of nutrients provided and delivering those essential nutrients in the most available form possible.



4. Not reaching genetic potential

Why do some farms within a system not perform as well as others? How do mentoring programs implemented at higher levels within a company benefit the farm? Farm employees are essential to helping us reach company goals, and developing programs that help us achieve those goals will lead to an increase in performance levels across all areas of production.





5. Low feed quality

What is in your feed? Are you sacrificing growth and performance as a result of the feed being delivered? Although it may seem like a cost savings now, in the long-term, buying low-quality feed will end up costing you more than you are currently trying to save.

