ALTERNATIVE FARROWING OPTIONS

Larry Bowman
Jones Feed Mill
2555 Lobsinger Line, Heidelberg, Ontario N0B 2M0
E-mail: LarryBowman@jfm.on.ca

ADVANTAGES OF ALTERNATIVE FARROWING

1. **Providing for niche markets**
   - Greater return on investment
   - Setting yourself apart from the industry norm

2. **Conscience of animal welfare standards**
   - Growing awareness of animal welfare
   - Producers recognizing animal husbandry

3. **Opportunities for sustainable hog production**
   - Stability for next generation producers
   - Cost of production opportunities

4. **Setting an example that Ontario can supply pork that meets all global demands**
   - Providing markets with superior product
   - Opportunity to meet buyers and consumers of your product

CHALLENGES OF ALTERNATIVE FARROWING

1. **Higher pre-wean mortality**
   - Farrowing pen challenges
   - Restriction on antibiotics

2. **Higher labour expenses**
   - Bedding, straw, etc.
   - Slat restrictions

3. **Stringer Protocols set out by prospective meat buyers**
   - Farm to fork traceability
   - Varied certification protocols

4. **Higher square footage requirements**
   - More barn space needed
   - Dealing with aggressive animals