

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