

CONSTRUINDO SABERES, FORMANDO PESSOAS E TRANSFORMANDO A PRODUÇÃO ANIMAL

EFFECTS OF MATERNAL ARTIFICIAL VOCALIZATION ON HYPERPROLIFIC LACTATING SOWS AND PIGLETS BEHAVIOR

Rennan Herculano Rufino MOREIRA¹, Rodrigo Fortunato de OLIVEIRA², Jorge Yair Pérez PALENCIA¹, Marina Alves Gomes LEMES¹, Cesar Augusto Pospissil GARBOSSA³, Márvio Lobão Teixeira de ABREU¹, Giselle Borges de MOURA¹, Rony Antônio FERREIRA^{1*}

*corresponding author: rony@dzo.ufla.br PET Zootecnia - UFLA

¹ Federal University of Lavras, Lavras, Minas Gerais, Brazil

² São Paulo State University, Jaboticabal, São Paulo, Brazil

³ University of São Paulo, Pirassununga, São Paulo, Brazil

The objective of this trial was to evaluate the behavioral patterns of lactating sows and their litters under the effect of artificial vocalization. The experiment was carried out in two maternity barns. The experiment was conducted using 28 sows and their litters. The sows from the same genetic pattern (DB-90) between the 3rd and 5th parity. The farrowing occurred on the same day. In this way, the design was completely randomized in a 2x2 factorial scheme (artificial vocalization and lactation week). The experimental unit comprised sows with similar body condition and their respective litters. Based on preliminary observations of our research group made to determine the nursing interval during the 1st, 2nd and 3rd week of lactation, the interval was reduced in 40% and used as reference for intervals between the sound emission during the experiment. Being played for two minutes and a silence period of 14.5, 17.6, and 19.6 minutes for the first, second, and third week respectively. During the experimental period, artificial vocalization was performed daily from 6:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. The lights remained on during the period. The behaviors of the sows and their respective litters were monitored for 24 hours starting at 6:00 am on the 7th and 15th days of lactation. The images were captured by cameras and stored on a DVD recorder. The behavioral variables analyzed were number and interval of suckling. Suckling was considered to have commenced when half of the litter started the act with teat in the mouth. The behaviors evaluated for the sows were feed and visits to the water fountain, stereotyped behavior, biting, inactivity, and inactive alertness. Artificial vocalization promoted higher frequencies of eating for sow and nursing for piglets ($P < 0.05$), increased inactive sow behavior ($P < 0.05$), and reduced sow alert inactivity ($P < 0.05$). The number and duration of suckling sessions at the 15th day of lactation were reduced ($P < 0.05$). The use of maternal artificial vocalization during lactation of sows promoted greater lactation efficiency and longer rest time, favoring the sows' welfare.

Keywords: behavior suckling, piglet, sow grunting, nursing, vocal communication

Acknowledgments: CAPES, CNPq, INCT-CA and FAPEMIG

Promoção e Realização:



Apoio Institucional:



Organização:

