

Activity 5.5.4
Sarah and Katie

Situation: Swine females grow quickly and use less feed

Management Practice: Segregate feeding by sex

Description: In swine, males and females differ in growth and feed efficiency rates. Females grow more quickly than the males and use less feed to produce lean muscle. This means that you don't want the females and males together in their pens because you will end up wasting feed, one of the most expensive components of raising livestock. The best approach to this situation is to segregated feeding, where the wine are sorted into different pens based on their sex to maximize growth and meat quality. The benefits of this management practice are less feed waste and consistent growth rates between the animals in each pen. Growth rates will also be more consistent overall. The disadvantages of this management practice include the need for extra space, the cost and maintenance of extra fencing and the fact that all animals shouldn't receive the same ration (this takes more time).