

# Fresh New Ideas in Farrowing Management



# Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> Farrowing Mats



A bright, clean, inviting place for piglets to sleep

# Contents of the Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> Farrowing Mat

- Cornstalks and wood products



# Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> Advantages



- Pathogen-free
- Biodegradable
- Excellent source of feedback material
  - Unbred gilts
  - Prefarrowing sows
- Promotes piglet comfort

# Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> Advantages

- Lightweight, easy to handle
- Promotes excellent hygiene
- No washing / disinfecting





# Are the mats comfortable?

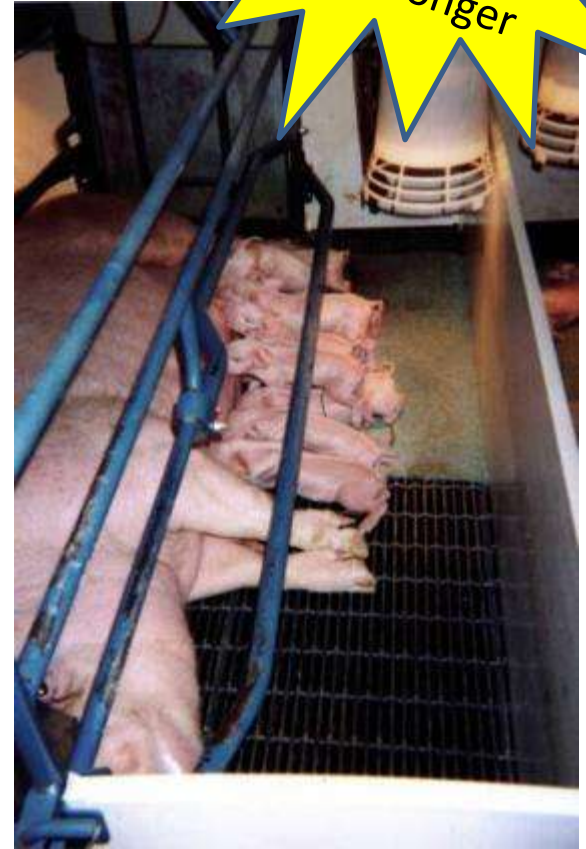
- Yes!
  - Soft to lay on
  - Absorbs heat from heat lamp
  - Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> will draw young pigs to it



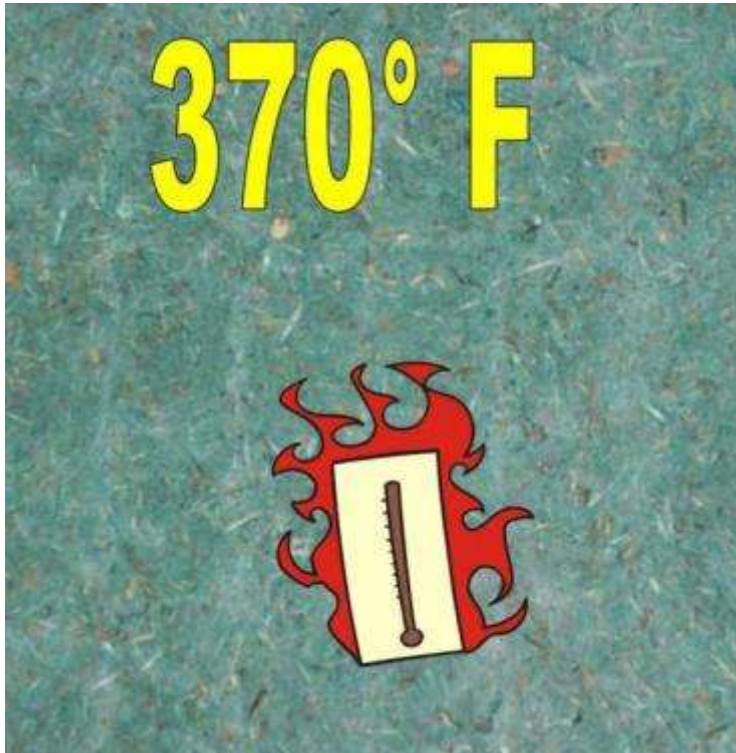
# How long do the mats last?

- Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> has been improved and is now 46% stronger
  - The mats should last 10 and 19 days

New and Improved!  
46% Stronger



# Can the mats harbor outside diseases that I could bring into my barn?



- Processing temperatures exceed 370°F twice
  - Enough to kill disease organisms in the cornstalks and wood
- Tested and found free of swine specific pathogens



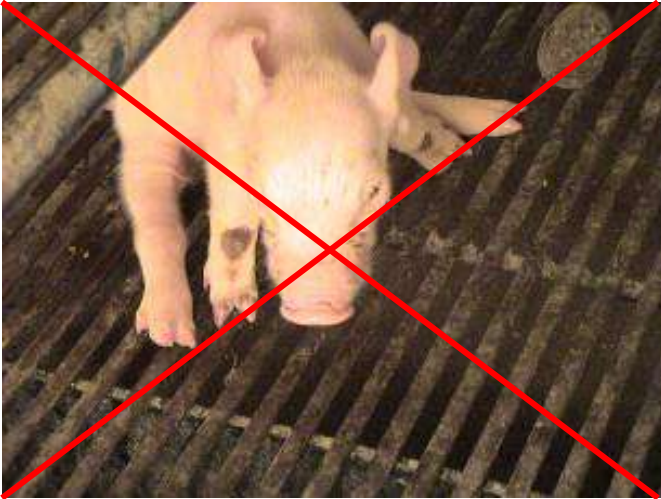
# Are the mats flammable?

- Tests concluded the mats will not ignite into flame when exposed to a normal heat lamp.



# Are the mats slippery?

- No
  - Actually, they provide more traction than the traditional rubber mats
  - May reduce spraddle / splay injuries



# How much do the mats weigh?

- 105 -125 grams per square foot



Rubber mat farrowing mat  
~15 lbs



Compost-A-Mat® farrowing mat  
~2 lbs

# How are Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> delivered?

- Shipped on pallets
- 400 mats per pallet
- Wrapped in plastic





I can't use 400 mats at once.  
Will they break down or get moldy before I get to them?



- Low moisture content (<3%)
- Wrapped in plastic

# Are the mats reusable?



- The mats are designed for a single use
- After use, the mats can be...
  - An excellent source of feedback material
  - Composted



**So...**  
**just how well does**  
**the**  
**Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup>**  
**product work?**



A trial was conducted on an better than  
average 2500 sow farm  
by the Swine Vet Center of St. Peter, MN



Traditional rubber mats

vs.



Compost-A-Mat®





# Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> beat out rubber mats

- Results:
  - Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> = 6.97% PWM
  - Rubber mats = 7.62% prewean mortality
  - Over 1% more rubber mat litter's had scours



# Financial Comparison

- Compost-A-Mat™
  - 110 sows \* 10.8 BA
  - 1188 pigs born/week
  - PWM of 6.97%
  - 1105 pigs weaned per week
  - Cost of mats \$164.45
- Rubber mats
  - 110 sows \* 10.8 BA
  - 1188 pigs born
  - PWM of 7.62%
  - 1097 pigs weaned per week
  - Cost of Mats ??



# Financial Comparison (Based on trial results)

- Decreased Pre-weaning Mortality
  - **.65%**
- Increased number of pigs per week
  - **7.72**
- Increased revenue
  - **\$231.60 per week**
- Mat cost: 55 mats \* \$2.99 = **\$164.45**
- Improved bottom line of **\$67.15**
  - **40%** return on investment



# Improved PWM On An Average Farm

- 110 farrowings per week at 10.8 born alive
  - **1188 pigs per week**
- Improved Pre-weaning Mortality
  - **1.5% (from 13% to 11.5%)**
- Increased number of pigs per week
  - **17.82**
- Increased revenue
  - **\$534.60 per week**
- Mat cost: 55 mats \* \$2.99 = **\$164.45**
- Improved bottom line of **\$370.15**
  - **225% return on investment**



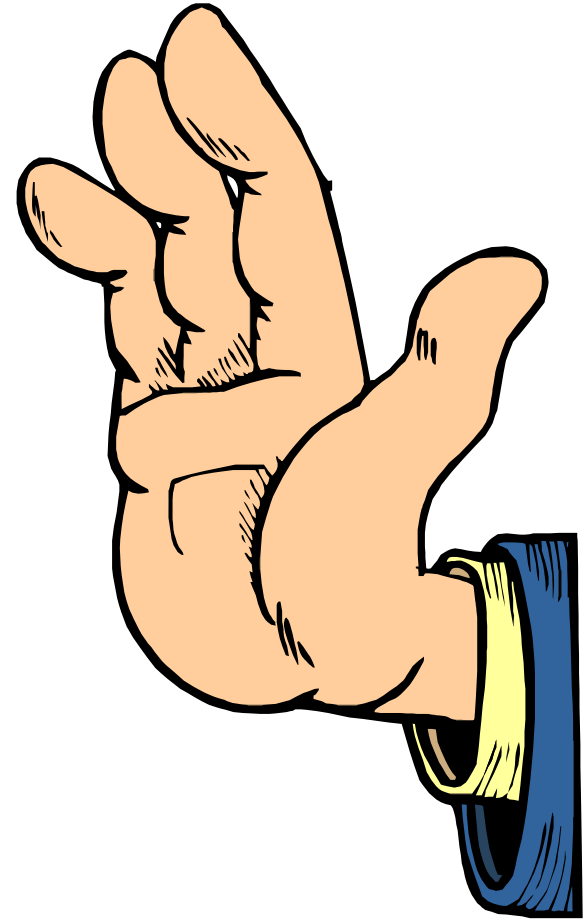


# On an annual basis:

- 2500 sows
- 24 pigs weaned per sow per year
- Lower PWM by 1.5%
- Extra 900 weaners per year @ \$30
- Less cost of mats
- **\$23,496.00 return**



Wait!  
There's more...



# Diseases of the Farrowing Barn

- The following bacteria and virus are routinely found in the farrowing barn
  - E. coli
    - K-88
  - Clostridium
    - Type A
    - Type C
    - Difficile
  - Coccidia
  - Rotavirus



# How can the Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> help with a scour outbreak?

- Give your mats a break
  - Use disposable mats to buy enough time to thoroughly and correctly clean the old farrowing mat
- Reduce the bacteria/virus in environment
  - Remove one of the most obvious sources of the re-infection





# Other Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> benefits

- Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> one time use saves labor (and money)
  - Labor investment for rubber mats
    - Washing
    - Disinfecting
    - Soaking in bleach
    - Hang them for drying
    - Prepare the crate for pigs



# Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> is cleaner

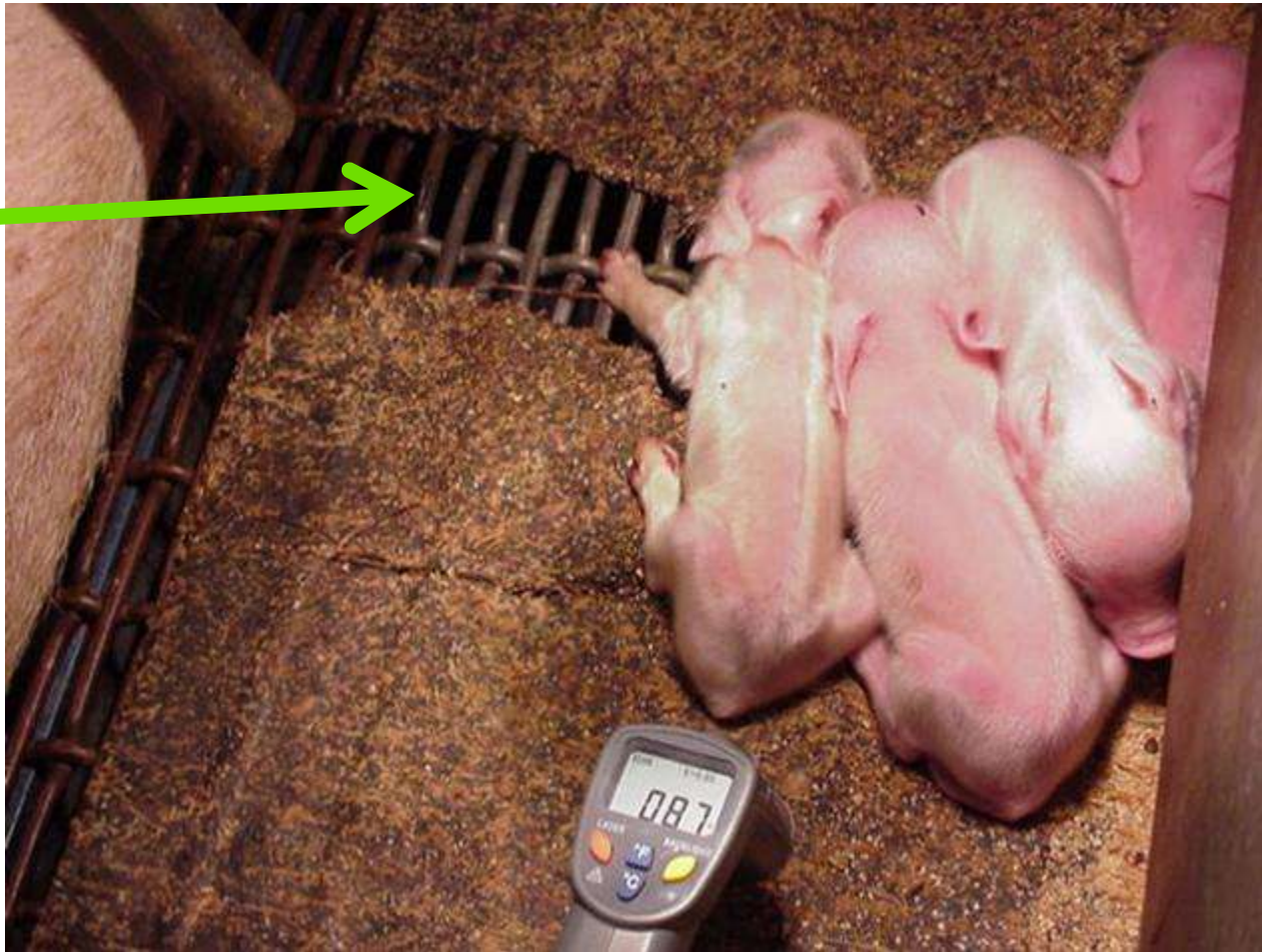
Average # of colonies per plate

Compost-A-Mat<sup>®</sup> :  
38.6 colonies



Rubber Mat:  
Too numerous to count  
(>400 colonies)

# Rubber mats don't last forever



# Rubber Is Not Absorbent





# Choose Compost-A-Mat® In The Farrowing House



Your Pigs (and labor) Will Thank You

