



Surveyors tape for Sow Identification

Animal variability means sow condition will rarely be completely uniform throughout a gestation facility. Individual sows need variable amounts of feed over the course of their gestation period. Different coloured surveyor's tape or clothes pins on a line in front of the stalls will ensure more consistency in individual sow rations when different people are doing the feeding.

For example, green tape can be used to indicate that a sow should get 5 pounds of feed, a yellow tape means 6 pounds, red means 7 pounds, and so forth. The person that is feeding sows only has to match the colour of tape on the sow crate with a colour-coded scoop that holds the right amount of feed. If it is necessary to use two scoops, then use two scoops for each colour. When it is time to increase a sow's ration from 5 to 6 pounds a day, just pull off the green tape and "tie a yellow ribbon 'round the old sow crate..."

The tapes can of course be used to flag individual sows for any other reasons such as reproductive management.

Figure 1: survey tape for quick identification



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