

# SURE•CHAMP®

## IN THE CLASSROOM

### **5 Ways to Maintain Livestock's Appetite**

By: Team Sure Champ

A good appetite is a sign of a healthy animal, but can sometimes be hard to maintain, especially in the heat. Here are 5 quick tips for promoting a steady appetite in your livestock.

#### **Clean Water:**

Water is one of the most important nutrients for your livestock and often one of the most overlooked. Your livestock need access to clean drinking water in order to maintain optimum health. Monitoring your animal's water quality is an inexpensive and effective way to promote healthy livestock.

#### **Fresh Feed:**

Whether you get your feed fresh from the mill or use a pre-mixed ration from your local feed store, your animals become accustomed to certain textures and smells. Stay consistent in where you purchase feed as well as the length of time you store feed. Also, if you need to transition to a new formula, mix the new feed in gradually so your animal adapts easily and stays on feed.

#### **Temperature Regulation:**

Loss of appetite is one of the first signs of heat stress. Keeping your animals cool by providing shade and proper ventilation and air circulation will help to keep them on feed.

#### **Clean Bedding:**

It is important that your animal's bedding is cleaned on a regular basis. Clean, dry bedding helps prevent the spread of disease and bacteria and promotes overall health in your barn. Healthy, comfortable animals naturally have more appetite.

#### **Routine Wellness Monitoring:**

A sudden drop in appetite might be an indication of parasites. Performing routine deworming and wellness monitoring of your animals will help prevent problems from occurring.

#### **Give them a Boost:**

Sometimes a poor appetite can be due to other unforeseen circumstances or stressors. If you have tried these other methods and have not seen a change, administering Vita Charge® would be a great next step. Vita Charge increases appetite and helps speed recovery from stress. It can be easily administered as a gel, stress tub or even through your animal's water with the new Vita Charge Liquid Boost®.

**For additional livestock nutrition and stock show resources, visit [surechamp.com/blog](http://surechamp.com/blog).**

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### *Livestock Nutrition 101: Pigs* QUIZ

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**How does the environment factor into your pigs' nutritional needs?**

- a. In the winter the pigs require more nutrients and energy.
- b. When the weather is cold your pig does not need as much water.
- c. When it's hot you do not have to have as much high energy feeds in their diet.
- d. All the above.
- e. Both A and C.

**How often should I feed my pig?**

- a. Once in the evening.
- b. Twice a day around 6 hours apart.
- c. Once in the morning.
- d. Twice a day around 12 hours apart.

**What is the most important nutrient in your pigs' diet?**

- a. Protein
- b. Energy
- c. Water
- d. Amino Acids

**How do you determine the correct amount of feed to give your pig?**

- a. Weight, age and maturity
- b. Height and weight
- c. Height, weight and age
- d. Maturity and weight

**Which of the following is not an important supplement for your pigs performance?**

- a. Fiber and Filler Supplements
- b. Fat Supplements
- c. Muscle Supplements
- d. Digestive Supplements
- e. Hoof and Joint Care supplements

**Why would you feed slop (wet feed)?**

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**Why would you feed slop (wet feed)?**

When you wet feed, you can get increased consumption. Also when you start to feed supplements, it is a very good way to keep those supplements in the diet so the pigs don't pick through them.

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