

MIRACLE OF BIRTH CENTER FARROWING PROTOCOL INFORMATION

**For VOLUNTEER VETERINARIANS AND STUDENTS.
Our Policy on Farrowing is:**

1. Sows at the MBC are at or near their term dates and are induced 24 hours earlier. Most of the births are occurring during the exhibit hours. Each sow has a chart of previous production and for treatments given.
2. As long as farrowing is progressing at a normal rate of delivery the litter within a 4-6 hour period or less, we don't interfere with the process. It is OK if a student examines vaginally under supervision of the veterinarian but we need to be careful about vaginal contamination. If labor is obvious and no pigs arrive within one hour, exam is necessary.
3. Piglets should be placed under the heat lamp within minutes after birth to prevent chilling but do not assist piglet in nursing and disturb their natural instinct to nurse. It is necessary that the public understands what is normal and natural, and how we can safely assist these animals on the farm to have better survival rates.
4. Unruly or cannibalistic sows will be removed from the exhibit area if it is determined that their behavior is detrimental to piglet survival or dangerous to the public.
5. Any piglets stillborn or "squeaker runts" should be removed to the office as soon as possible for euthanasia and/or disposal. This also applies to placenta.
6. If dystocia occurs that cannot be handled by simple fetal manipulation, the sow will be transferred to CVM for C-section.
7. It is veterinarian and student's responsibility to watch for potentially dangerous situation where children or adults are sticking their hands into the farrowing stalls risking injury. We will have standards to help prevent.
8. Policy on public holding of piglets will be set each year immediately prior to the fair. That decision will be based on human health issues and direction from the MN Department of Health. This information will be provided to MOBC volunteers during the brief orientation prior to your shift.

IF PUBLIC CAN TOUCH PIGS, the following policy applies:

- MOBC volunteers can hold piglets for public to touch; public does not hold!

- Choose piglets for holding that are 24-48 hrs old; Do not hold piglets born today or older piglets
- Piglets that are anxious and/or squealing should be returned to litter immediately
- Piglets **MUST BE RETURNED TO THEIR RIGHTFUL MOTHER!**