# HEAT STRESS: SWINE

Heat stress significantly reduces feed intake, therefore directly impacting growth performance of pigs and profitability.<sup>1</sup>

Heat stress in swine has consistently been associated with:'



Reduced feed intake



Increased sow mortality



Reduced fertility



Reduced growth rate

Increased non-productive sow days



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Temperatures as low as 72 degrees can cause stress on pigs.

#### Average exposure to heat stress<sup>2</sup> (hrs/yr)



	201/2	PIGS
North Carolina	1,126	1,461
Illinois	938	1,204
Indiana	792	1,052
lowa	789	1,010
Minnesota	455	623

Increase in average sow days open<sup>2</sup>



North Carolina	7.2
Illinois	6.2
lowa	5.2
Indiana	4.7
Minnesota	2.6

# HEAT STRESS: SWINE



Heat stress is one of the **costliest issues** facing pork producers.<sup>1</sup>

Total losses by the swine industry due to heat stress range between

1

#### **\$299 million and \$316 million** per year.<sup>2</sup>



Day open loss (\$/d) = \$3.00+ Price of one non-productive sow day



Reduced average daily feed intake value (\$/lb) = \$0,12+ Unit price of intake



Weight gain loss (\$/head) = \$2.50+



Death due to heat stress **1 in 1,000 pigs** 

### **Evidence suggests insulin action is a key component of heat stress response**.<sup>2</sup>

Chromium improves insulin function and results in efficient clearance of glucose from the bloodstream. Increased glucose uptake may improve thermal tolerance in heat-stressed animals.

1. Rhoads. 2013. Nutritional Interventions to Alleviate the Negative Consequences of Heat Stress. Adv. Nutr. 4: 267-276.

2. St-Pierre, N.R., B. Cobanov, and G. Schnitkey. 2003. Economic Losses from Heat Stress by US Livestock Industries. Journal of Dairy Science. 86: E52–E77.



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