



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

TEAM® Electronic Sow Feeding System

Electronic Sow Feeding (ESF) with the TEAM® System allows you to individually manage sows in group housing. With components like the rock-solid feeding station (G-Station™), and the automatic estrous detection station (E-Station™), the Osborne TEAM System can assist in the total reproductive management of gestating, farrowing and unbred sows and gilts.

◆ HOW MANY SOWS CAN USE A TEAM G-STATION?

Based on our extensive research with electronic sow feeding since the 1980s, we have discovered that 60-65 parity segregated animals optimize the TEAM ESF station. Disadvantages were discovered when stocking more than 65 animals per feed station. For example, finding animals in groups larger than 65 and pig flow without mixing or sorting for larger groups are more difficult. Parity segregated animals allows for better target feeding and lessens neck fighting and vulva biting.

Additionally, the average eating time for 65 animals also suggests that this is the optimum group size. Measuring actual total time of ESF station use for any 24-hour period may suggest that open time exists on the feed station and that larger groups can be fed. This conclusion ignores periods during which animals have no desire to eat and the time required for entry and exit from the feed station. Sows and gilts prefer to eat at certain times of the day. If there are more than 65 animals using a single feeding station, some animals will be forced to eat during periods of rest.

◆ APPROXIMATELY HOW MANY MINUTES PER DAY DOES EACH SOW HAVE TO EAT HER DAILY RATION?

24 hours per day x 60 minutes per hour = 1,440 minutes. If 50 sows are stocked on a TEAM ESF station, each has 28.8 minutes per day to eat. If there are 60 sows, that equates to 24 minutes per day. At 70 sows, each sow has 20.5 minutes to eat. Some sows eat slowly while others eat quickly. The system handles all types of eating behavior.

◆ DO SOWS GENERALLY EAT THEIR ENTIRE ALLOTMENT ON ONE TRIP THROUGH THE STATION?

Many times, sows and gilts do not eat their full allotment on the first pass through the station. However, if she does not eat her full allotment on the first pass, she can finish it later in the 24-hour period.

◆ HOW DO YOU ENSURE ALL ANIMALS HAVE EATEN DURING A GIVEN 24-HOUR PERIOD?

The TEAM G-Station is equipped with a water solenoid to dispense a small amount of water into the trough with each feed dump. This quickens eating time and encourages faster clean up. Additionally, with the TEAM Software package, daily reports can be run to ensure all animals have passed through the station and consumed their daily allotment of feed. Any animals who have not passed through the feeding station are "flagged" so farm personnel can find and check on the animal.

◆ WHAT IS THE TEAM G-STATION MADE OF?

The TEAM G-Station is built like a tank: rugged, durable, and solid, weighing 970 pounds! Hot-dipped galvanized steel and Osborne's proprietary RTM-Glas™ fiberglass-reinforced plastic allow the station to withstand years of abuse from large animals.

◆ CAN I USE THE SAME STATION TO TRAIN GILTS?

Yes. Training gilts is easy with TEAM. Start gilts on the G-Station early at 22-24 weeks of age until they are to be moved to breeding stalls. Always allow ample time for training to allow gilts to walk through the station and become comfortable with their surroundings. Removeable gates should be used to funnel gilts into the feeding station. Lighting is also important for training and using TEAM. Barns should always be well lit, with lights above each station to minimize dark areas inside the feeding station. Well lit barns are key for peak reproductive performance.

An Osborne Technical Service Specialist can install each TEAM station and provide important training to farm personnel, with a special focus on training animals to use the TEAM stations.

◆ WHAT KIND OF DATA CAN I CAPTURE WITH THE TEAM SOFTWARE APPLICATION?

With proper system management, reports and information can be generated on sows that include: feed consumption, gestation length (in days), number of services, wean-to-mating, lactation length and much more.

◆ DO I NEED A SEPARATE SOFTWARE PROGRAM BESIDES TEAM?

No. However, if you are already using a software program such as PigCHAMP, PIGKNOWS, MetaFarms, or Herdsman, information captured with TEAM can be exported as a .csv file.

◆ IS TECHNICAL SUPPORT AVAILABLE?

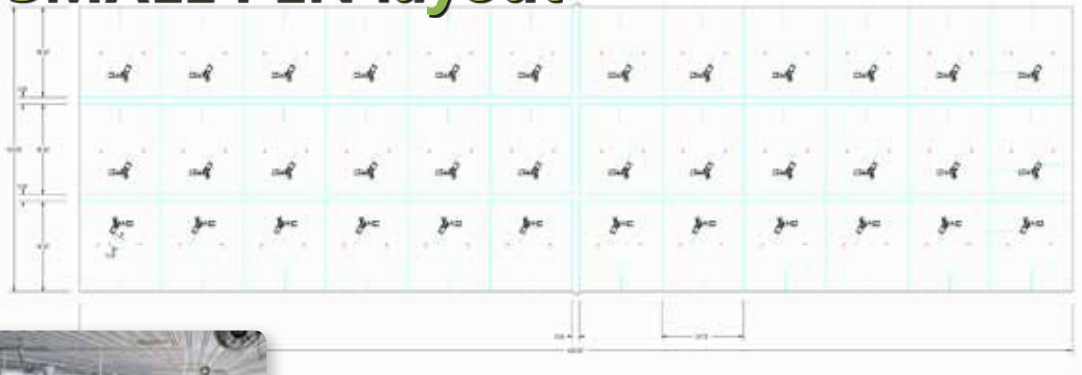
Osborne Technical Service Specialists are just a phone call or e-mail away when you are a TEAM customer. Technical Service can also service you remotely with web based software that is simple to use. Ask about our Planned Service Maintenance Program for TEAM customers. Exclusive benefits like spare parts discounts, reduced rates for on-site visits, and more are included upon signing up.

◆ HOW DOES A TEAM SYSTEM LAYOUT LOOK?

The versatility of many equally acceptable barn layout configurations may be one of the most important benefits of feeding sows with TEAM. Such versatility permits the low cost conversion of existing gestation or finishing barns to ESF, rather than investing in expensive conventional stall barns. TEAM works well on fully slatted or partially slatted floors, and the G-Station can be placed in many different locations throughout the pen. By taking into account space allocation, pen shape, floor type, feed delivery, ventilation, animal flow, facility cost, lighting, and more, an Osborne Design Specialist assists each customer on proper design so each piece of equipment operates at peak performance. Additional key factors to remember include:

- **Creating “zones”** - Station placement creates zones inside the pen based on sow behavior. Penning should minimize sows from circling through the system multiple times a day, yet not obstruct animal flow into or out of the stations, or create excessive walking distances. Feeding and watering zones are common in the front or center of the pen, while loafing zones should be along the back wall of the pen.
- **Static or dynamic groups** - TEAM works with both static or dynamic groups. The benefits of either setup can be utilized with TEAM. An Osborne Design Specialist can assist in layouts for static or dynamic groups.
- **Ample lighting** - Lighting is a factor not only in training sows and gilts to use TEAM, but in reproductive performance. Not only will animals be more comfortable in well lit barns, but personnel caring for the animals will too.

SMALL PEN layout



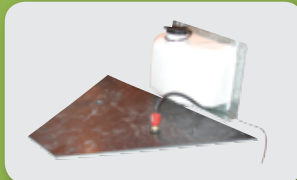
LARGE PEN layout



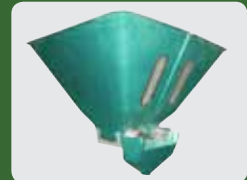
◆ WHAT KIND OF ACCESSORIES ARE AVAILABLE WITH TEAM?



A **Divert Gate Kit** is available for the TEAM G-Station to divert animals away from the main herd for ultrasound measurements, treatments and more.



Spray Marker Kits are available for the E-Station & G-Station. Choose individual animals for special attention or treatment on the basis of calendar events and more.



A **Second Hopper Kit**, which provides nutrition flexibility by feeding different sows separate rations, is available for the TEAM G-Station.