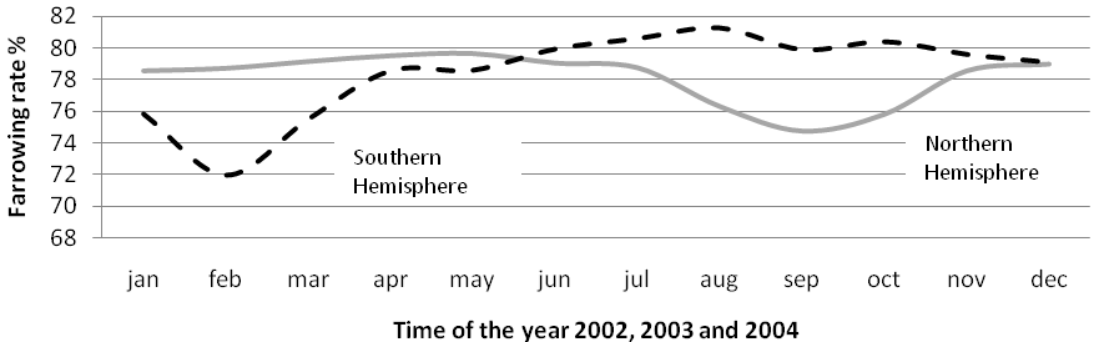
Batch Farrowing Place
Summer infertility issues

Not all farms suffer from summer infertility, but those who do need to grasp the nettle and farm through the issues. They are predictable and occur every year. Looking at global data majority of farms have a summer infertility issue, it just needs to be recognised and farmed.

Summer infertility



The graph demonstrates that in the northern hemisphere the summer infertility issues starts mid Iuly to November it is shallower than that of the Southern Hemisphere but lasts longer. You need to look at your farrowing rate analysis to demonstrate the exact timing of your summer.

Once you have accepted the farm has a summer infertility issue, the next move is the set summer time breeding targets.

Setting the summer real time batch breeding target

Farm season size

The yellow boxes can be customised

Batch time	1	week		Weaning age	4	week		gilt batches	9	
Farrowing per batch	20			Pigs weaned per place	10			breeding batches	6	
Week pregnancy decided	5	week of gestation			9	weeks gilts in acclimatisation		gestation batches	10	
Post-weaning mortality	5	%		Finishing weight	110	kg		farrowing batches	5	
Farrowing rate	Summer	77	%	Winter	85	%		nursery batches	6	
Finishing age	Summer	25	weeks	Winter	23	weeks		finishing batches	15	or 13
daily gain reduction		50	g/day	daily gain	676	g/day birth/finish				

Number of pigs in each accommodation type

	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
Gilt	27	24	483 sows/gilts	468 sows/gilts
Breeding accommodation	156	144		
Gestation accommodation	200	200		
Farrowing accommodation	100	100		
Nursery to 10 weeks of age	1158	1158		
Grow/Finish population	2850	2470		

The above table also considers the impact of season on the finishing herd - which will be discussed in more detail in the finishing section. Note if the herd is bigger in the summer, assessments using pig/sow/year become meaningless.

Gilt pool modification to provide sufficient gilts for the summer time

Once you have determined the time of your summer infertility problems and the batch breeding target, the gilt pool needs to be modified to ensure that these targets are met to ensure that the correct real-time batch breeding target is met - and achieved.

Summer Breeding and Infertility issues

In order to compensate for the lower farrowing rate normally experienced in the summer
additional gilts can be provided to the breeding pool from your genetic supplier or your own finishing pigs

When are these pigs required to be selected/purchased?

When is your infertility period?

Place a 1 in which hemisphere you farm

North	1	South	0	Expected reduction	10	% farrowing rate
Guide:	15/07/2010	to	31/10/2010	period when breeding results in a reduction in farrowing rate		

Important dates in the life of your extra future breeding gilts

These dates allow you to plan the introduction of the extra breeding gilts

			Event in the life of your future gilt
15/07/2010	to	31/10/2010	32 weeks old - optimal breeding age
27/05/2010	to	12/09/2010	25 weeks old - 1st Boar exposure
18/03/2010	to	04/07/2010	15 weeks old - 60 kg
11/02/2010	to	30/05/2010	10 weeks old - 30 kg
03/12/2009	to	21/03/2010	Birth

Today's date 25/04/2010

The pig flow model changes

Required Farrowing places per batch	20	per batch
Batch time	1	weeks
Normal farrowing rate	82	%
Expected summer farrowing rate	72	%
Normal breeding target	25	
Minimum summer breeding target	**28**	**per batch**

Extra breeding gilts required	3	per batch	
Suggested extra gilts to start with	4	per batch	120 % over requirement to allow for some rejection
An extra	56	gilts will be required over the summer period	

This is on top of your normal gilt requirement

Note these gilts should be clearly identified and sold after 1 farrowing

The extra unwanted gilts should be sold with the normal finishing group

There is no reason why summer infertility should affect farm output.