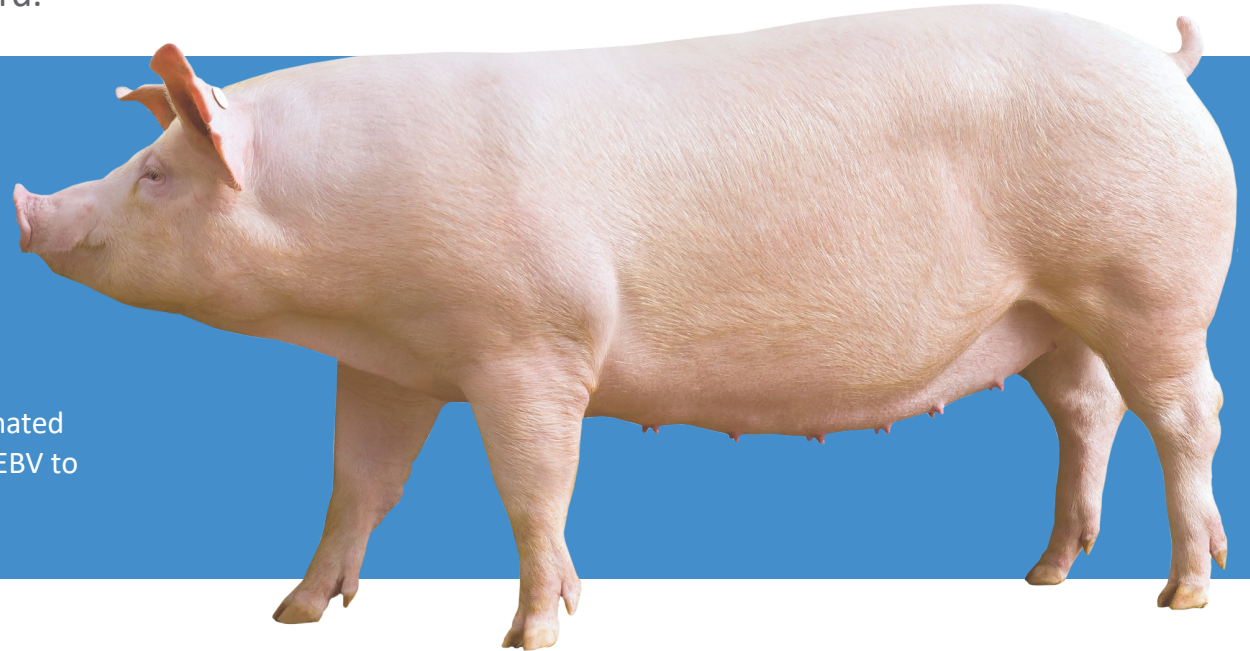


# Genetics are the foundation of sow robustness

Robustness starts with genetics and is elevated through sound management in female development, body condition and feeding, and individual sow care. Focusing on these four areas will drive robustness in your herd.

## INNOVATIVE GENETIC IMPROVEMENT

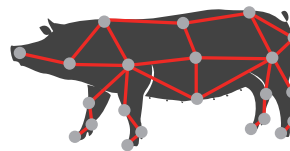
PIC is dedicated to addressing the complex challenges that impact sow longevity. Building a genetic foundation is crucial. To help increase the pace of genetic improvement in your sow barn, we've developed new tools like the robustness estimated breeding value (EBV) and sow reproductive success EBV to evaluate robustness in real sow barn conditions.



### PIC Maternal GNX Program



We developed the Maternal GNX program, through which data is shared from commercial systems to inform genetic selection decisions for the pedigreed Camborough® on robustness traits in real-world situations.



### Digital Phenotyping

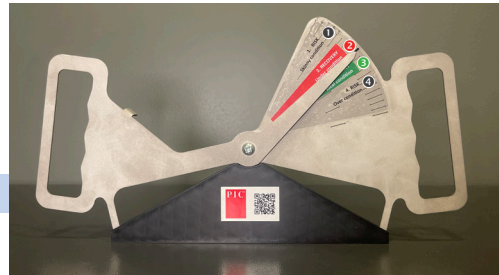
We also increased the pace of genetic improvement by using high-definition digital cameras to collect large quantities of precise data about feet and leg structure and overall conformation, which are highly correlated with longevity.

## BODY CONDITION AND FEEDING

Modern sows have greater genetic potential for lean growth compared to their predecessors. Because of this genetic potential, PIC has updated the body condition scoring caliper ranges and revised feeding recommendations for PIC females.

The new PIC caliper ranges have four categories and two feeding recommendations:

- 1 Skinny condition **RISK**
- 2 Recovery: Under condition
- 3 Ideal condition
- 4 Over condition **RISK**



For every 10% increase in the proportion of thin sows at farrowing, the risk of pelvic organ prolapse is estimated to increase by 20%.<sup>1</sup>

## INDIVIDUAL SOW CARE

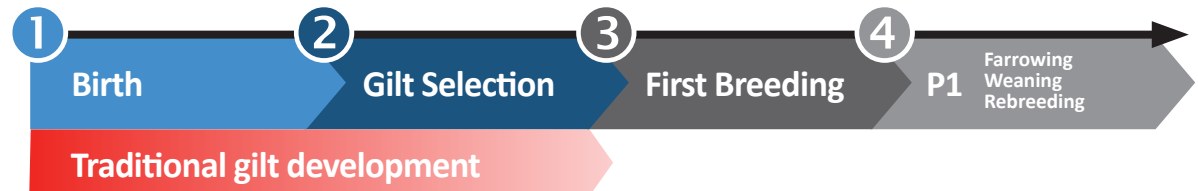
A solid sow care plan is a proven tool to address sow longevity and productivity. Emphasizing preventive care can reduce the need for costly treatments and involuntary removals.

### 4 GOALS OF SOW CARE

- ✓ **Be clear about removals**  
Confirm and record the reasons
- ✓ **Make good breeding choices**  
Only breed sows that are likely to wean their next litters
- ✓ **Manage breeding animal inventory**  
Save space for animals with performance potential
- ✓ **Provide timely interventions and treatments**  
2% is a “normal” or acceptable number of treatments on a healthy farm

## DEVELOPING FEMALES FOR LIFETIME SUCCESS

Extending female development focus through the first parity gives sows a better chance to stay in the herd longer. The goal is to set up a gilt to reach her genetic potential through her first farrowing, weaning and beyond.



### PIC offers science and support

PIC provides tools and hands-on technical support to help your team excel in the three management categories that elevate genetic robustness and sow longevity.

<sup>1</sup> Waltrich et al., 2022.

Find tools at [PIC.com/resources](https://PIC.com/resources) or talk to your PIC representative to identify the right support for your operation.