



The delivery of pre-fattening to the MINAZ units is the main challenge that the Bolondrón Porcine Reproduction Center of the EsAzúcar Company assumes today. The group of the entity belonging to this municipality, strives to obtain better results when the lack of feed threatens the well-being of the offspring. Very little remains of that rustic pigsty nine years ago. Technological improvements, the arrival of better breed animals and the perseverance of the workers, transformed the entity in a short time.

### **DESPITE THE DIFFICULTIES**

Omardo Alemán Hernández, head of the unit, highlights that of the 60 existing breeders at the beginning, today they have 240, while of the plan of eight pups per birth, they have a real of 9.2. “After 96 days we deliver the animals with an average weight of 30 kilograms to the fattening sites, whose destination is the company's meat balance”, he explains. Working in this unit requires consistency and discipline. Yoandry Navarro Durán, a 29-year-old navero, knows this well, who in recent months has celebrated as his own every advance in the breeding area, after zealously complying with the feeding and cleaning

schedules, twice a day.

### **BUT IT HURTS...**

Despite the progress, as Aleman Hernández expressed concern, it hurts when food takes too long to reach the center. "January is essential as it constitutes the starting stage for the whole process. Although there are already 50 expected births out of 40, the future of the offspring depends to a great extent on food," he emphasizes. It is not the first time they have faced a similar situation, but December and January have been the most critical months in terms of the entry of feed. Regarding its unfavorable impact, Henry Linares, the center's veterinary technician, points out:

"The whole process begins with reproduction, a space that must be in optimal conditions to have the best results. But, specific feeding by area is also vital, be it the starter pigs, the breeding pigs and the boars themselves".

"The quality of the diet of the latter, for example, influences their fertility. If the food is not adequate, fetal mummification and other side effects can also occur," he adds.

At the time of Radio 26's visit, it had been five days since no food had entered the entity. Alternatives such as banana leaves and honey have prevented further losses, but undoubtedly this situation threatens the weight, development and health of the piglets.

Today the nation is going through a complex economic crisis, but pursuing the efficiency of each link in this productive chain

## **Achievements and avatars in a pigsty**

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constitutes a vital challenge. Hence the urgency of seeking strategies capable of overcoming the current situation in pursuit of the food sovereignty that is needed.

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