



Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Training course on “Animal Welfare in pig production”

Working Group N.2

IN FIELD EXERCISE

Herning, Denmark, 14-17 October, 2014

Farm description

630 sow unit with electronic feeding

Service area with deep litter and feeding stalls

3000 weaners to 30kg

“UK production”

Established 2008

Weaning 4-5wks

Teeth grinding and tail docking and castration practised

Nursing sows

Data recordings

Medicine records kept initially on paper and transferred to computer - monthly visit from vet in order to store 1 month's supply of medicines- dosage, animal, reason, who administered.

Mortality record: Birth to weaning 7.4%, 1.2 stillborn
: Weaners 1.8%

Environmental controls and recording.

Electronic identification of sows and breeder replacements-individual production records.

General impression

Very good-very modern buildings

Pigs very calm and social

Uniform size in batches

Air quality very good

Biosecurity signage/protocol

Commercially viable- Family happy!

Our findings

Farrowing- Nesting material sparse, 2.7 by 1.65m but not enough space around crate especially on one side (farmer would set up loose system if were to re-build), very large litters

50:50 concrete slat, seemed a little cold but had underfloor heating and heat lamps although full litter could not fit in at one go.

Extra water for sows and yoghurt provided for piglets.
Rubber mats provided when signs of shoulder wound seen.

Feeds 2-3 times/day.

Protocol to deal with sick sows and piglets, all in all out system.

Our Findings

Weaners:

Animals very social, playing, healthy

Extra provision for those not doing so well: warmth, food

Enrichment materials: wooden poles and some straw (sparse- limited by slurry system) some evidence of biting

Feeders and drinkers slightly insufficient as pigs grew larger, food and water mixing in troughs but no sign of diarrhoea.

Sick pens available and in use, more straw required.

Early wean pens in use.

Our Findings

Dry sows:

- Social and big dynamic group

- Large space but more comfortable lying area required

- Gilts and sows managed to minimise fighting

- Signs of dominance fighting but not much of bullying

- Straw sparse

- Bursitis and some lame pigs

- Use feeding records to identify sows not eating

- Sick pen in use

Our Findings

Boars:

Kept in a group (litter mates)

Small pen but no aggression

No enrichment material seen

Conclusions

A very good farm but with some small improvements needed.

Improving suggestions

More nesting material preferable

More enrichment material recommended

More space around crates/ no crates

More space around weaner feeders to reduce competition and more drinkers

Dry sows: More comfortable lying space, possibly use of rubber mats, more hiding places to make space more complex.



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