



Better Training for Safer Food *Initiative*

Training course on “Animal Welfare in pig production”

Working Group N.4

IN FIELD EXERCISE

Herning, Denmark, 14-17 October, 2014

Farm description

800 ha – produces own feed

1000 sows

No weaners on this farm (20 000 fattened on another farm)

33 piglets/sow a year

16,5 born piglets

14,5 weaned piglets

Piglets weaned at 4-5 weeks

Export of weaners to several other countries – awareness of different legislations

6 farrowing stables (one always empty)

22 groups of sows

Data recordings

Manual record keeping - one book for each treatment

Sow charts

Veterinary visit every five week

Sow index to select gilts and sows for recruitment

50 % are culled each year due to age, high number of stillborn, bad milkers, bad legs, not in heat

Born weight 800-1000 g (some 400 g)

General impression

Good management – but a bit “home blind”

Forward thinking

Not enough action taken to prevent aggression

Biosecurity

Our findings

Stereotypes

Straw provided daily, but all animals did not have access to straw

Slippery floor

Tails are docked, but the farmer is participating in a tail docking project

Small crates

Space for piglets? Hard to nurse from both sides

Good water access

Some dirty gilts due to the construction of the boxes

Dirty behind farrowing sows

Some skin injuries, on the lower legs and on mammary glands

Some sows with long claws

Rubber mats for sows with shoulder lesions

Conclusions

Progressive good management but room for improvement

Improving suggestions

Improve biosecurity at the yard

Longer feeding time/more frequent to reduce stereotypes

Retreatment area needed for sows

More straw to farrowing nesting

Take risk factors for tail biting seriously

Find out if it is the same sows that always by the straw racks

Clean the farrowing pens, especially behind the sows

Fire alarm

Computerize the farm



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