



Camera monitoring at each concept farm, used by advisors, farm managers etc., to improve from batch to batch. The picture shows a pen with incorrect floor heating settings, which causes the floor to feel too warm, and the pigs choose to sleep in an area with a draft.



PRODUCTION CONCEPT WEANERS IMPLEMENTING KNOWLEDGE ON A NEW LEVEL

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Background

SEGES Pig Research Centre has earlier showed the effectiveness of implementation projects. There have been several projects with focus at either finisher units or lowering mortality in farrowing units. In each project, the aim has been to improve efficiency on a large group of farms by implementing well known pig research on feeding, climate, and health topics.

Innovation aims to create new knowledge, but also to ensure a wide implementation. In case of pig production, the challenge is that the wide implementation involves employees, owners, and advisors on the farm, and thereby uses a wide range of knowledge both on pigs, but also on how to motivate farm management.

“...how to motivate farm management.”

Objective

To ensure implementation of knowledge and thereby weaner production without the use of medical zinc oxide and to improve the profit by 70 euro cent per pig. The project is in the early stage and scheduled to include another 30 weaner units in 2022.

Materials and Methods

Six weaner herds started in autumn 2021 and have been introduced to the concept by receiving advisory visits and using different digital monitoring methods.

To ensure a wide implementation, the methods are a mix between knowledge on optimizing weaner production and how to motivate the farm management, employees, and owners in the unit. This entails a strong commitment to search for improvements by all the different persons involved at the unit.

This is ensured by three focus areas:

Focus area	Description	Aim
Guideline	List of approx. 100 actions, which the farms must comply with.	Well-known actions to ensure high efficiency.
Monitoring	Digital monitoring with cameras, split times, long distance thermometers etc.	Motivate the farm management by regular follow ups.
Advisory service	Start-up service and follow-up programs.	Changing behavior of the farm management.

An example is the use of split times; how much have weaners grown for the first 14 days in the production? Which actions improve this development, and which do not? Due to the lack of animals in each group, split times are mostly used for motivation purposes.

Results

The development of daily gain, feed usage, and mortality in the 30 units is being monitored and will be published later. Future publication will identify the most important actions to improve the production, enabling the no zinc oxide production.



“How to”-video, explaining some of the steps in the guideline list. The picture is from a guide about actions for handling and preventing diarrhea outbreaks.

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