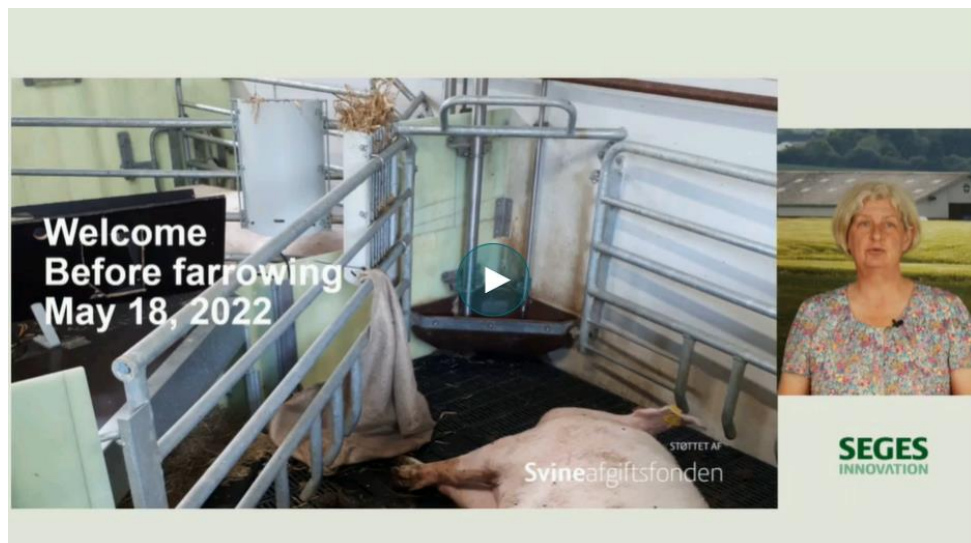


Se webinarer "The piglet's journey – before farrowing" på SEGES.TV:
[The Piglet's Journey - From Farrowing to Weaning – First webinar: Before the Farrowing - SEGES TV](#)



Se tilmeldingsside her: [The Piglet's Journey - From Farrowing to Weaning – First webinar: Before the Farrowing - SEGES TV](#)

Præsentationen fra webinarer kan ses af de følgende slides.

Hvis du ikke kan få adgang til videoen, kan du kontakte SEGES Innovation P/S. Videoen er dokumenteret på SEGES.TV og i projektets arkiv.

STØTTET AF
Svineavgiftsfonden

SEGES
INNOVATION



**Welcome
Before farrowing
May 18, 2022**

STØTTET AF

Svineafgiftsfonden

The speakers today



Flemming Thorup



Camilla K. Højgaard



Dorte Poulsgård

The agenda for today

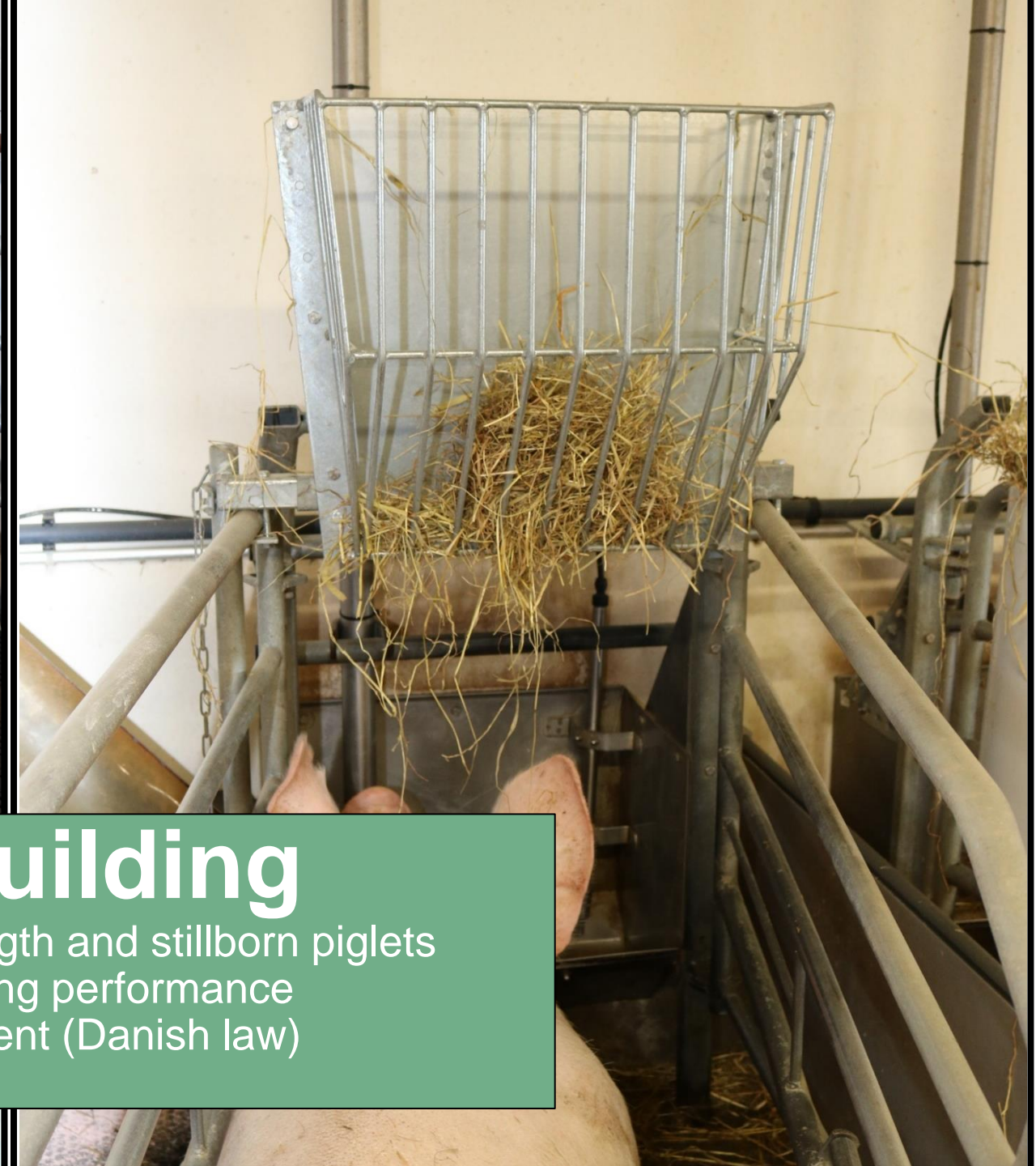
- Moving the sow to the farrowing unit
- Mark the high risk sows
- Teats
- Feeding before farrowing
- Take home messages



Moving the sow to the farrowing unit

- The sow enters a clean and dry pen
- 5-7 days before expected farrowing
 - The sow gets used to the pen
 - Legislation: min. 3 days before farrowing
- Remember to turn on the floor heating





Nest building

Reduces farrowing length and stillborn piglets
Improves nursing performance
Legal requirement (Danish law)

Adjustment of the crate

- Avoid crushing
- Lame sows must be able to get up
- Large sows need extra space

The farrowing pen is ready for farrowing

- Turn on the lamp in the corner
- Straw in the corner



Sows with a high risk of stillborn piglets need extra attention

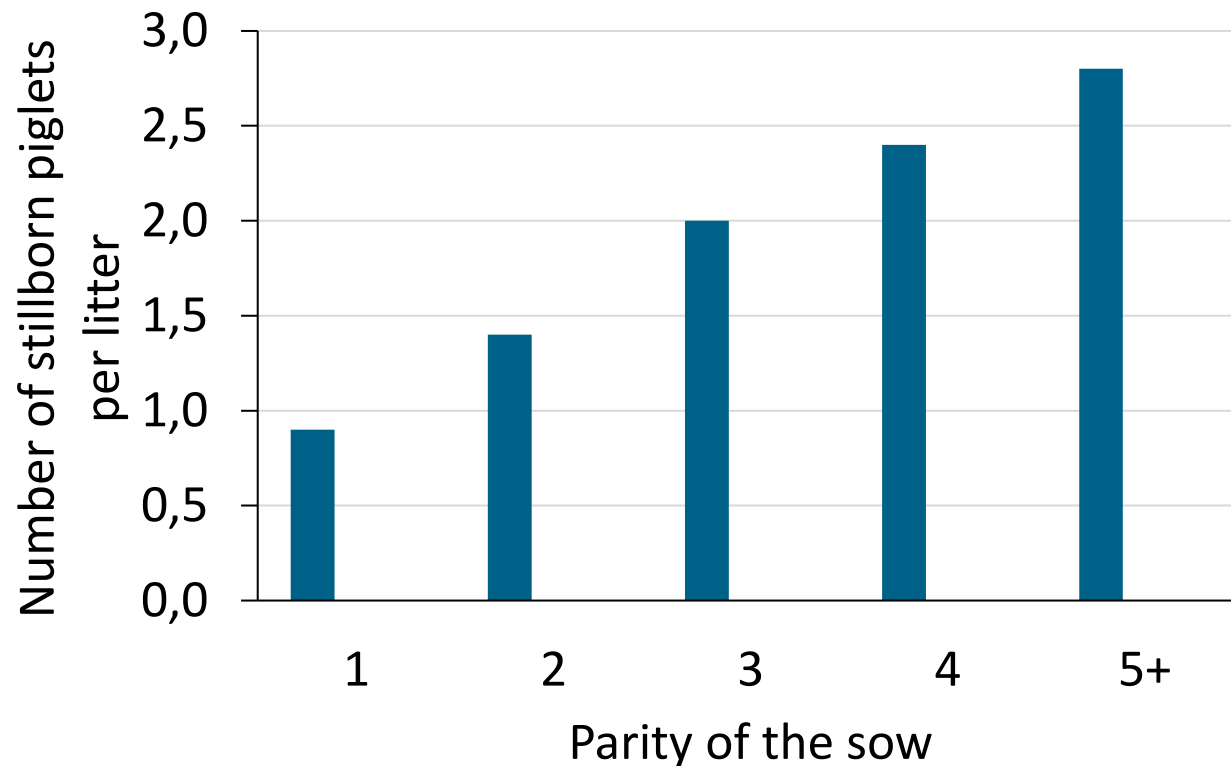
Give them a **RED CARD** before farrowing

- Old sows
- Sows with 3 or more stillborn piglets in previous litters
- Fat sows (more than 20 mm backfat)
- Lamé sows



Plus 0.5 stillborn piglet for each parity

- Assistance is also relevant among gilts
- Assistance is even more relevant among sows
- **Red card** to all sows above 3rd parity



Check this before the sow farrows

- Number of stillborn piglets in the last litter
 - 3 stillborn piglets trigger a **red card**
- Farrowing assistance in the last farrowing
 - Can trigger a **red card**
- Prepare for litter adjustment
- MMA/fever after last farrowing
- Number of good teats
 - Makes litter adjustment easy
- Good mother for small piglets?
 - Helps litter adjustment
- Make notes on the sow card or on the **red card**



Sows that are too fat > 20 mm of backfat

- Fat sows can have problems farrowing
- Give the sow a **red card**
- Give the sow extra room in the crate to get up and to lie down
- Do not reduce feed up to farrowing in the farrowing unit
- Discuss the sow with your colleagues
 - In the gestation unit you cannot reduce the sow's weight, because the sow is not active during gestation
 - During gestation you can avoid that the sow gains more weight
 - You can reduce weight in fat sows during lactation because they are active



Sows that are too lean < 14 mm of backfat

- The sow can be lean due to too little feed
 - Can you give lean sows more feed during gestation?
- The sow can be lean due to disease
 - Stomach ulcer
 - Diarrhea
 - Pneumonia
- Disease increases the risk of stillborn piglets and of the sow being a bad mother
- The sow can be lean due to lameness
- Lean sows have a high risk of shoulder lesions



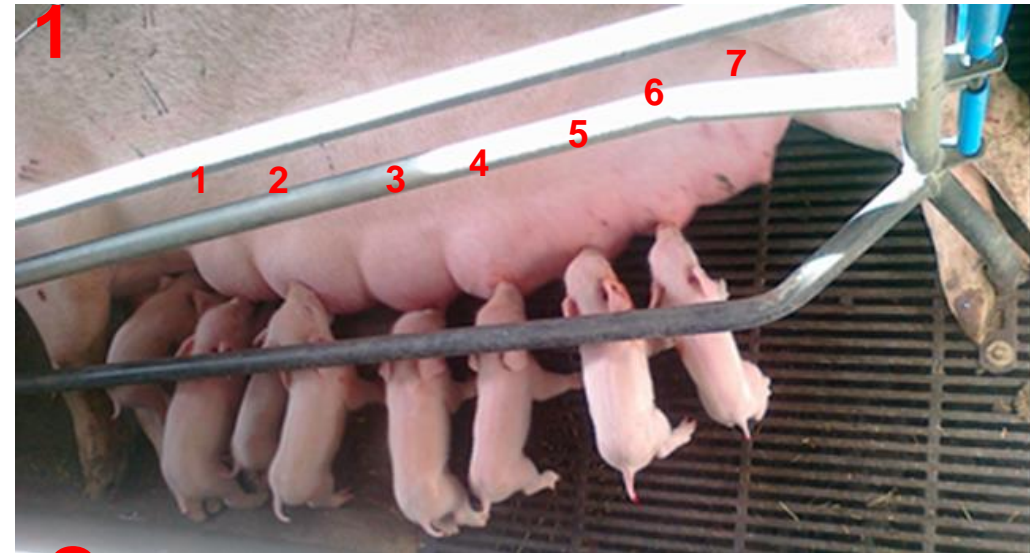
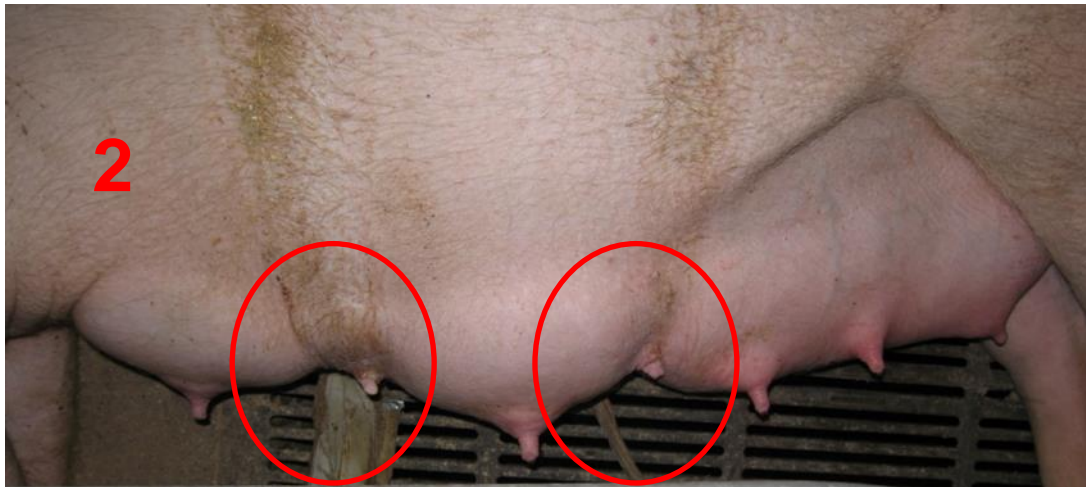
Lame sows

- Lame sows need a **red card**
- Lame sows need extra space to get up and to lie down
- Does the sow get up to eat and drink?
- Is the sow in pain?
 - Give pain killer
 - Small problem: Soft floor/mat under the sow
 - Big problem:
 - Before farrowing: Farrow in a sick pen
 - You may need to kill the sow for welfare reasons



Will the sow be a good mother?

- Count the functional teats (1)
- Gilt teats may develop after farrowing (2)
- Be aware of the crate (3)



Sow activity up to farrowing

- 24 hours before farrowing
 - The sow doubles her activity
 - The sow rises and lies down
 - The sow performs nest building
 - There is clear milk in the udder
- 12 hours before farrowing
 - The sow shows maximum activity
 - There is white milk in the udder
- Just before farrowing
 - Sow activity is back to normal





Feeding before farrowing

Feeding before farrowing must ensure enough energy

Fetal growth
Accelerates



Nest building
Physical activity



Farrowing
Uterine Contractions

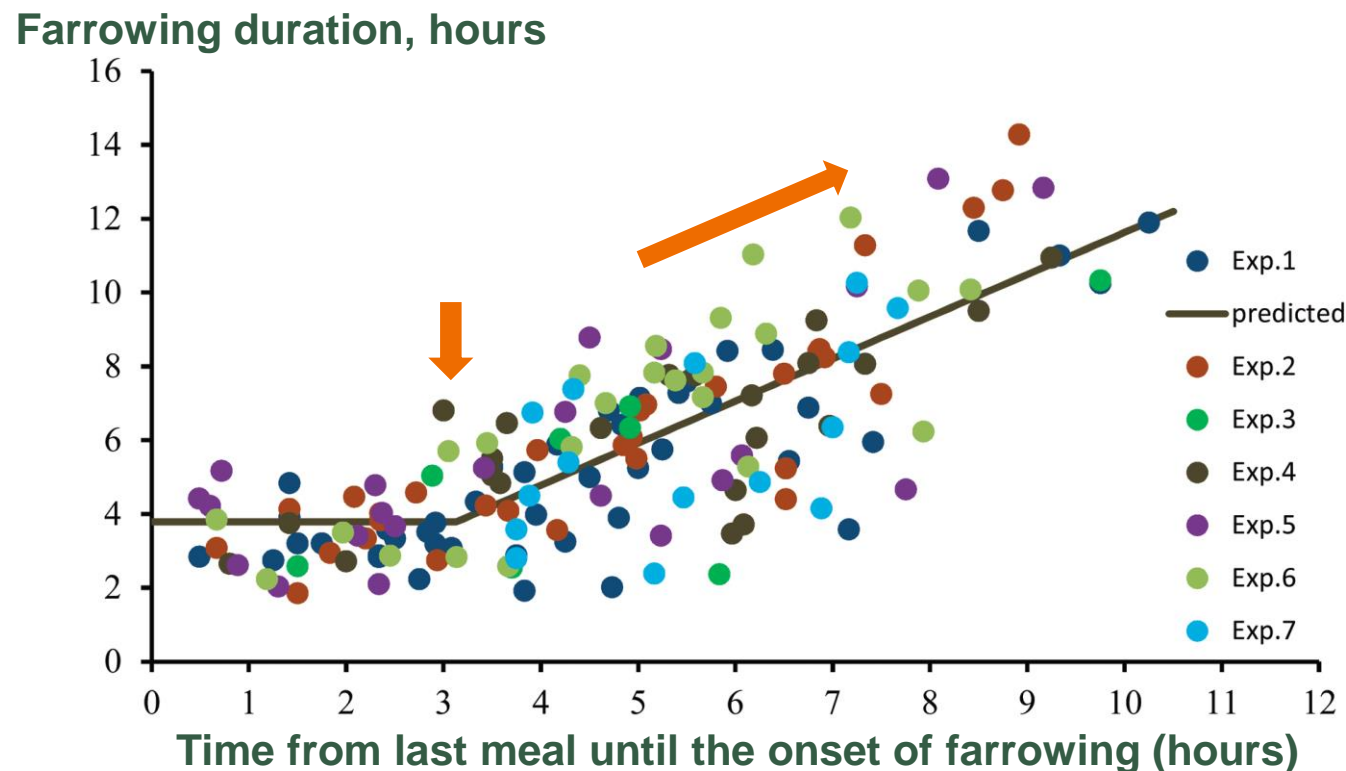


Colostrum
Lactose and fat



Improving the farrowing process

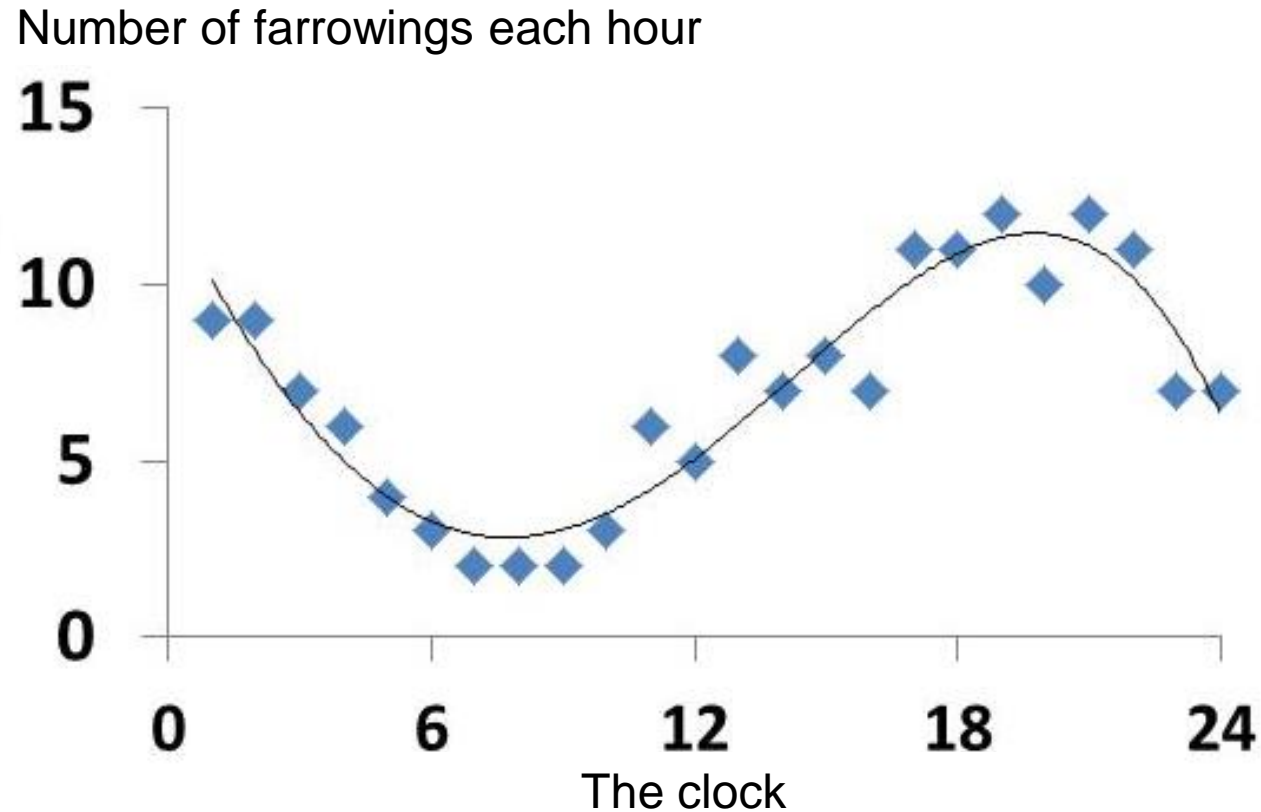
Depletion of energy reserves affects farrowing duration



Short farrowing duration (< 4 hours) and fewer stillborn piglets when the sows began to farrow maximum 3 hours after a meal

At what time of the day do the sows start to farrow?

Most farrowings occur outside the normal working hours



Energy must be available at all times during the dayalso at nighttime – but how?

- 3-4 meals per day in 8-6-hour intervals
- 3.5-4 FUsow per day – gilts should have 0.2-0.5 FUsow less than sows
- Do not reduce the daily feed allowance before farrowing
- Fibre in the diet, especially sugar beet pulp, is good for maintaining a stable blood glucose concentration
 - Reduce the risk of constipation, to increase the colostrum production and to reduce the rate of stillborn piglets
 - 600-650 g fibre per day is recommended ~ 3-3.5 % of sugar beet pulp in the diet

The most typical reasons that sows will not eat before farrowing

1. Sows are too fat
2. No access to straw
3. Differences in gestation and lactation diets are too big



The most typical reasons that sows will not eat before farrowing

1. Sows are too fat

- Too fat sows typically have reduced appetite
- Sows should have 14-17 mm of backfat at farrowing



The most typical reasons that sows will not eat before farrowing

2. No access to straw

- Nest building activity is reduced
- The sow gets lazy
- The digestive tract gets inactive



The most typical reasons that sows will not eat before farrowing

3. Differences in gestation and lactation diets are too big → difference in taste

- Ingredients → Use the same feed ingredients in both diets
- Oil → Don't increase the inclusion of oil too drastically
→ From 0,5-1% to 1.5-2.5% is acceptable
- Energy → Avoid an increase of more than 6-8 FUsow per 100 kg
→ From 102-103 to 108-110 FUsow per 100 kg
- Fibre → Don't reduce the amount too drastically
→ A reduction by less than 50 % is acceptable



Take home message

- Adjust the crate to the sow
- Make sure the sow has nest building material
- Note the sows you have to be concerned about (**red card**)
- Prepare a strategy for feeding before farrowing



A close-up photograph of a pig lying on a dark metal grate. The pig's body is light-colored with some reddish-pink areas. A newborn piglet, which is pink and wet, is lying on the grate near the pig's rear. A blue object is visible on the left side of the frame.

Next session – Farrowing
May 24, 2022