

### Optimal feeding of gilts and sows

Get the best herd performance

Thomas Sønderby Bruun, Senior Specialist, Nutrition & Feeding

22 March 2023  
Fokus 35 Vital Meeting, Porcus



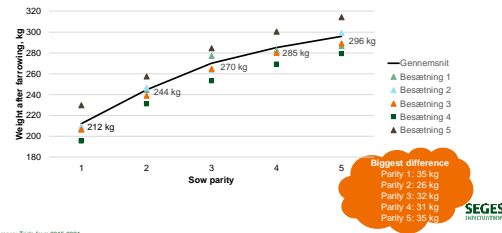
gudp Danish Pig Levy Fund SEGES INNOVATION

Photo: Rasmus Bævre, Bævre Produktion

1

### Weight development from first to fifth parity

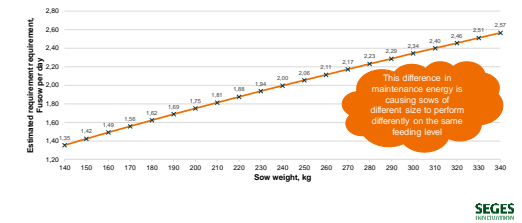
Gilt weight at first service and first farrowing is essential



3

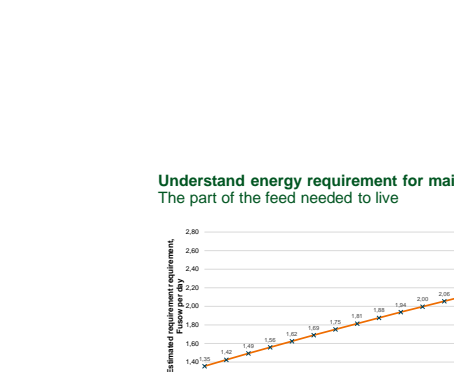
### Understand energy requirement for maintenance

The part of the feed needed to live



5

### Recent knowledge about: Body condition and sow weight development



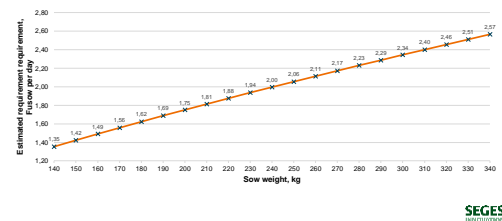
SEGES INNOVATION

Photo: Rasmus Bævre, Bævre Produktion

2

### Understand energy requirement for maintenance

The part of the feed needed to live



4

### Backfat gain

No 100% clear indications on the cost of re-establishing 1 mm backfat

- Best assumption based on figures from AUI
- 20-25 FUsow above maintenance per mm backfat (assumed 22.5 FUsow per mm)
- 3.5 FUsow 0-28 after insemination
  - Sow weight 200 kg: +2.2 mm]
  - Sow weight 230 kg: +1.9 mm]
  - Sow weight 260 kg: +1.7 mm]
- 2.3 FUsow from day 28-84 after insemination
  - Sow weight 200 kg: +1.4 mm]
  - Sow weight 230 kg: +0.9 mm]
  - Sow weight 260 kg: +0.5 mm]
- Difference day 84
  - Sow weight 200 kg: +3.6 mm]
  - Sow weight 230 kg: +2.8 mm]
  - Sow weight 260 kg: +2.2 mm]



Photo: Rasmus Bævre, Bævre Produktion

6

**Recommended feeding curves for gestating sows**  
Current knowledge does not take age/weight into consideration

| Days      | Fat       | Normal    | Thin      | Gilts     |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Backfat   | >14 mm    | 12-14 mm  | <12 mm    | 13-15 mm  |
| 0         | 2,5       | 3,0       | 4,5       | (2,2) 2,4 |
| 26        | 2,5       | 3,0       | 4,5       | (2,2) 2,4 |
| 31        | 2,3       | 2,3       | 2,3 (3,5) | 2,5 (2,7) |
| 76        | 2,3       | 2,3       | 3,5       | 2,5 (2,7) |
| 84        | 3,5       | 3,5       | 3,5       | 3,3       |
| 112       | 3,5       | 3,5       | 3,5       | 3,3       |
| 114       | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,3       |
| 115       | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5       |
| Farrowing | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5 (4,0) | 3,5       |
| Backfat   | 14-17 mm  |           |           |           |



7

**Effect of different feeding levels from day 30-84**  
And at the same time varying lysine levels

| Weight at insemination | Feeding level (FU <sub>sow</sub> per day) | Lysine (g SID per FU <sub>sow</sub> ) | Sow gain, kg |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 3,0                                   | 28,1*        |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 3,0                                   | 30,6*        |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 3,0                                   | 32,2*        |
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 4,0                                   | 47,3**       |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 4,0                                   | 50,8*        |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 4,0                                   | 53,1*        |
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 5,0                                   | 59,7**       |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 5,0                                   | 67,0**       |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 5,0                                   | 71,2**       |

\*Lysine is limiting daily gain = backfat will increase  
\*\* Energy is limiting daily gain from day 30-84 and lysine in the rest of the gestation = slightly less increase in backfat  
\*\*\* Energy will be limiting for the gain in the entire period = potential loss of backfat/skinny sows



9

**Take home messages**  
Body condition and sow weight gain development

- Gilt weight at first insemination and gain in first gestation is the tipping point for your sows
- As maintenance is dependent on body weight the weight and age of the sows should be in focus
  - Body condition + weight/age is better than just body condition
- High protein and lysine is not optimal for gestating sows
  - More money from the slaughter house
  - More leg problems
- Less space in the farrowing pen for large litters



11

**Estimated gain during gestation**  
Different lysine levels and "normal" feeding curve

| Weight at insemination | Lysine (g SID per FU <sub>sow</sub> ) | Sow gain, kg | Weight at insemination | Lysine (g SID per FU <sub>sow</sub> ) | Sow gain, kg |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 140                    | 3,0                                   | 30,6*        | 200                    | 3,0                                   | 28,1*        |
| 140                    | 4,0                                   | 50,8*        | 200                    | 4,0                                   | 45,5**       |
| 140                    | 5,0                                   | 67,0**       | 200                    | 5,0                                   | 54,1***      |
| 160                    | 3,0                                   | 29,7*        | 220                    | 3,0                                   | 27,3*        |
| 160                    | 4,0                                   | 50,0*        | 220                    | 4,0                                   | 42,6**       |
| 160                    | 5,0                                   | 62,8***      | 220                    | 5,0                                   | 49,8***      |
| 180                    | 3,0                                   | 28,9*        | 240                    | 3,0                                   | 26,5*        |
| 180                    | 4,0                                   | 48,4**       | 240                    | 4,0                                   | 39,7**       |
| 180                    | 5,0                                   | 58,5***      | 240                    | 5,0                                   | 45,3***      |

\*Lysine is limiting daily gain = backfat will increase  
\*\* Energy is limiting daily gain from day 30-84 and lysine in the rest of the gestation = slightly less increase in backfat  
\*\*\* Energy will be limiting for the gain in the entire period = potential loss of backfat/skinny sows



8

**Effect of different feeding levels from day 30-84**  
And at the same time varying lysine levels

| Weight at insemination | Feeding level (FU <sub>sow</sub> per day) | Lysine (g SID per FU <sub>sow</sub> ) | Sow gain, kg |
|------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|--------------|
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 3,0                                   | 28,1*        |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 3,0                                   | 30,6*        |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 3,0                                   | 32,2*        |
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 4,0                                   | 47,3**       |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 4,0                                   | 50,8*        |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 4,0                                   | 53,1*        |
| 140                    | 2,0                                       | 5,0                                   | 59,7**       |
| 140                    | 2,3                                       | 5,0                                   | 67,0**       |
| 140                    | 2,5                                       | 5,0                                   | 71,2**       |

\*Lysine is limiting daily gain = backfat will increase  
\*\* Energy is limiting daily gain from day 30-84 and lysine in the rest of the gestation = slightly less increase in backfat  
\*\*\* Energy will be limiting for the gain in the entire period = potential loss of backfat/skinny sows

At a lysine level of 5.0 g SID per FU<sub>sow</sub> and 140 kg at insemination a low feeding level increases the risk of getting into bad body condition



10



12

**Innovative feeding equipment for dry feed in farrowing stables**  
Automatic, individual and slow feeding

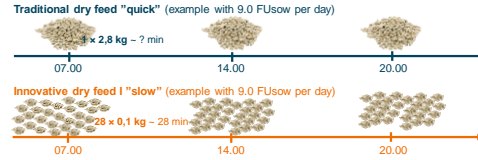


Photos: BoPE, SKIOLD og AgriSys

13

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Afprøvning af den innovative fodringsteknik fra SKIOLD**

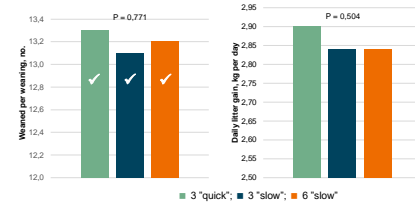


Reference: Bruun et al (2022); Meddelelse nr. 1249

15

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Slow and frequent feedings with SmartFeeder**  
Loose housed sows

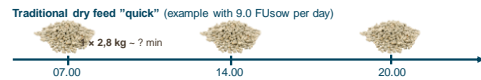


Reference: Bruun et al (2022); Meddelelse nr. 1249

17

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Testing of SKIOLD SmartFeeder**

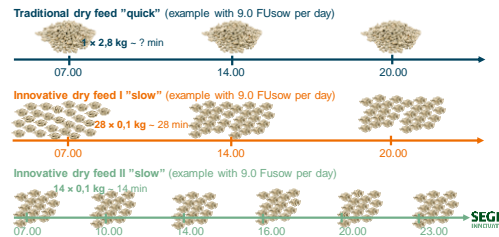


Reference: Bruun et al (2022); Meddelelse nr. 1249

14

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Afprøvning af den innovative fodringsteknik fra SKIOLD**

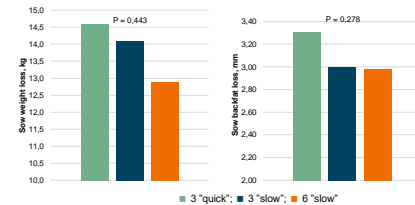


Reference: Bruun et al (2022); Meddelelse nr. 1249

16

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Slow and frequent feedings with SmartFeeder**  
Loose housed sows

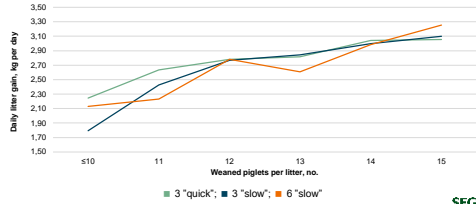


Reference: Bruun et al (2022); Meddelelse nr. 1249

18

SEGES  
INNOVATION

**Slow and frequent feedings with SmartFeeder**  
Loose housed sows

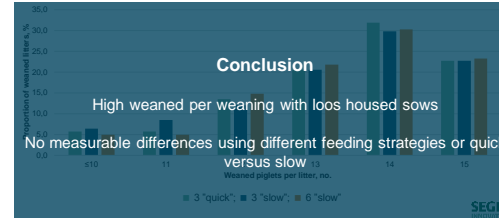


Reference: Bruun et. al (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1249

19



**Slow and frequent feedings with SmartFeeder**  
Loose housed sows

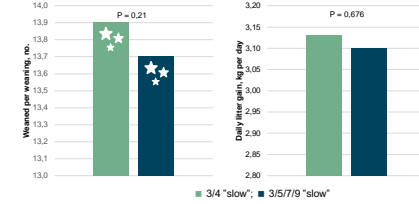


Reference: Bruun et. al (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1249

21



**Different number of feedings per day using MamaDos**  
Results

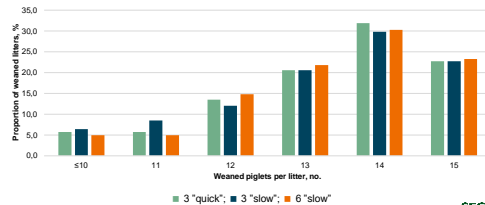


Reference: Bruun & Bache (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

23



**Slow and frequent feedings with SmartFeeder**  
Loose housed sows

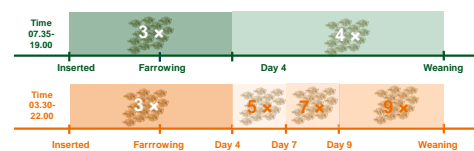


Reference: Bruun et. al (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1249

20



**Testing MamaDos from BoPii**  
Different number of feedings per day – all slow feed

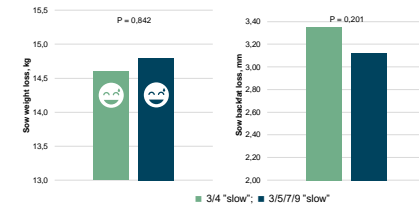


Reference: Bruun & Bache (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

22



**Different number of feedings per day using MamaDos**  
Results

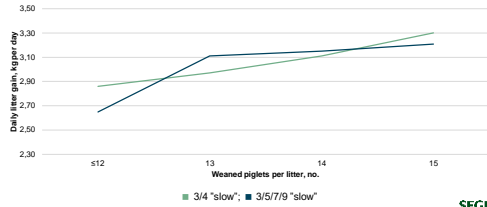


Reference: Bruun & Bache (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

24



**Different number of feedings per day using MamaDos Results**

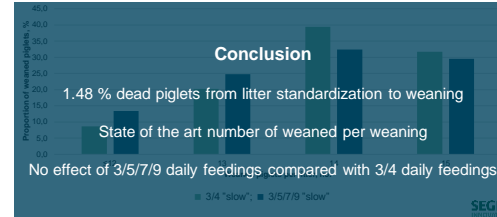


Reference: Bruun & Baché (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

25



**Different number of feedings per day using MamaDos Results**



Reference: Bruun & Baché (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

27



**Take home messages**  
Frequent and slow feeding in the farrowing section

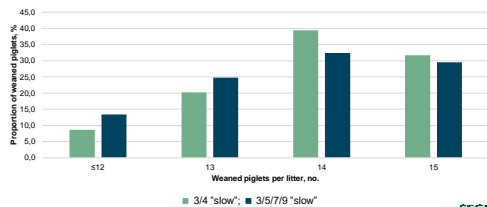
- Two trials showed no effects of
  - 3 quick vs. slow feedings per day
  - 3 vs. 6 slow feedings per day
  - 3/4 vs. 3/9 slow feedings per day
- In both herds
  - High number of weaned per weaning
- Other herds having the equipment says
  - Weaned per weaning is increased by 1 piglet



29



**Different number of feedings per day using MamaDos Results**



Reference: Bruun & Baché (2022) Meddelelse nr. 1250

26



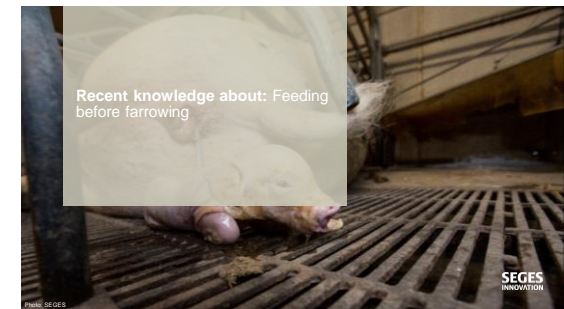
**Feeding frequency**  
How can you make a difference at farm level?

- The easy solution
  - 3 feedings equally distributed around the clock
  - Consider 4 feedings a day
- Carefully consider the following
  - Is the feeding precision ready for 4 feedings a day?
  - What is minimum dosage of dry/wet feed?



Photo: Thomas Sandberg Bruun

28



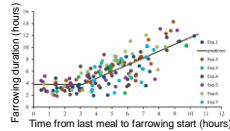
30



### Feeding frequency

Analysis of several trials at AU indicates a potential

- The duration of farrowing increases linearly from 3 hours after the sow is fed
- Glucose uptake decreases after feeding (0-6 hours)
- Fiber must fulfill the need for energy between two feedings (4-24 hours)



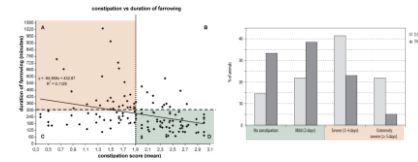
Source: Feyera et al. (2015). Journal of Animal Science 96:2320-2331

31

SEGES INSTITUTION

### Fibre

Reduktion af forstoppelse samt langsom frigrivelse af energi



References: Oliveira et al. (2010). Animal Reproduction Science 115:85-91 samt Oliveira et al. (2009). Research in Veterinary Science 85:314-319

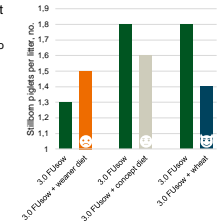
33

SEGES INSTITUTION

### Feeding level

A higher feeding level and less protein before farrowing helps the sow

- Sows inserted in farrowing unit
  - 3.5 FUsow per day
  - 2 days before farrowing reduced to 3.0 FUsow per day
- Extra feed for at least 2 days before expected farrowing
  - 1 FUsow per day as weaner diet
  - 1 FUsow per day as concept diet
  - 1 FUsow per day as wheat



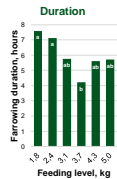
Source: Sarassen & Krogsdahl (2017). Erfaring nr. 1715

35

SEGES INSTITUTION

### Feeding level

A higher feeding level before farrowing helps the sow



Low and high feeding levels may have same effects as constipation

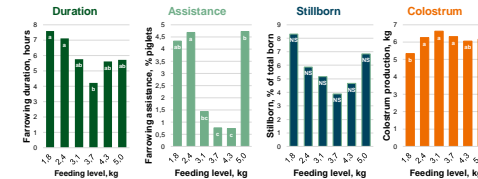
Source: Feyera et al. (2021). Journal of Animal Science. 99:skab040

32

SEGES INSTITUTION

### Feeding level

A higher feeding level before farrowing helps the sow



Source: Feyera et al. (2021). Journal of Animal Science. 99:skab040

34

SEGES INSTITUTION

### Feeding level

A higher feeding level and less protein gives less stillborn



- 2 herds
- 3 daily feedings (05:30/11:30/23:00)
- Only 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> parity sows included

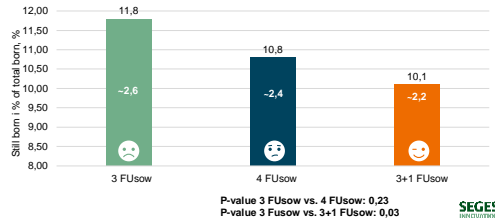
Illustration: Coloborus

36

SEGES INSTITUTION

**Feeding level**

A higher feeding level and less protein gives less stillborn



Reference: Heggstad et al. (2022) Medkeltika nr. 1259

37



39

**Take home messages**

**Feeding before farrowing**

- Try not to reduce feeding level before farrowing
  - 4,0 FUsow per day for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> parity sows supports the farrowing
- Dilution of the diet can further help the farrowings but takes time
- Start by "keep it simple"
- 3-4 daily feedings
  - Around the clock



SEGES  
INNOVATION

Photo: Rasmus Bendix, Bendix Production

38