

How to make survival rate better

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 Consultant Trine Friis Pedersen
 SEGES Danish Pig Research Centre



Svineafgiftsfonden




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- ### Agenda
- A sow fit for farrowing
 - Farrowing surveillance
 - Heat around farrowing
 - Ensure sufficient colostrum uptake

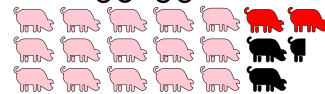


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A sow with 19.4 piglets



- 1.9 stillborn
- 1.0 crushed
- 0.8 starvation, weak, unthriving
- 0.3 blood poisoning
- 0.5 other



Brief no. 2014; Report no. 1703



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- ### A sow fit for farrowing
- 5-7 days before expected farrowing
 - 16-19 mm backfat
 - 3.4-4.1 FE/day
 - At least three meals a day (equally distributed around the clock)
 - 500-600 grams fibre/day


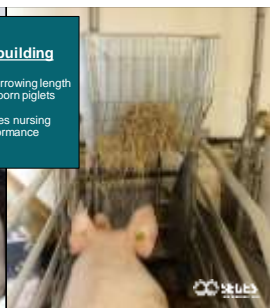

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Nest building

Reduces farrowing length and stillborn piglets

Improves nursing performance

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Good to know about the farrowing

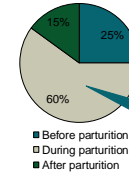


- The sow wants to farrow in peace
→ most sows start to farrow after working hours
- On avg. the farrowing takes 6 h (1.5 - 14.5 h)
- Risk of stillbirth increases with increasing farrowing duration
- Risk of stillbirth increases with increasing birth order
- For every parity, the number of stillborn increases by 1/2 piglet



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60% of stillborn piglets die in the process of farrowing



Great potential for increasing survival rates



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Organize farrowing surveillance and assistance

- When farrowing is in progress → Farrowing surveillance
- Put one person in charge
- Set an alarm for every 30 min
- Supervise all farrowing sows
- Count piglets and note the number
- No new piglets since last check = assistance
 - Piglet 1-3: 1 h between piglets
 - Piglet >3: 30 min between piglets



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Tools for managing farrowing surveillance



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Where to save time on farrowing surveillance

- When no or only a few sows are farrowing
- The first two hours after sows starts farrowing
- When only gilts are farrowing



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Extra benefits from surveillance

- Help piglets to the udder or into the heat/creep
- Help newborn piglets out of the amniotic sac
- Mark the first-born piglets
- Ready to be moved early

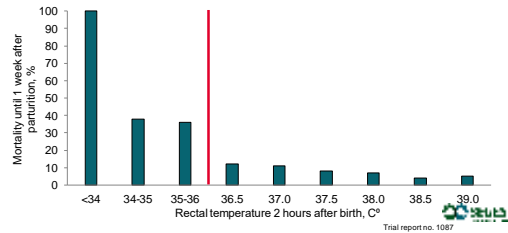


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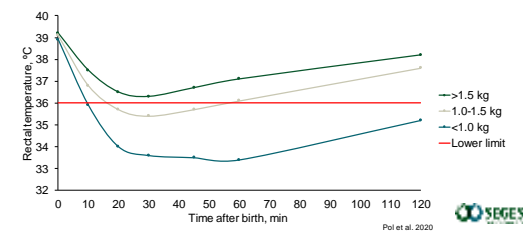
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A temperature above 36 °C increases the survival rates



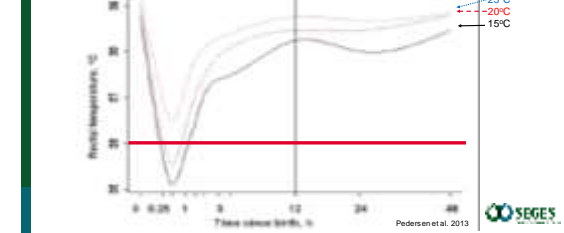
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Rectal temperature after birth at different birth weight

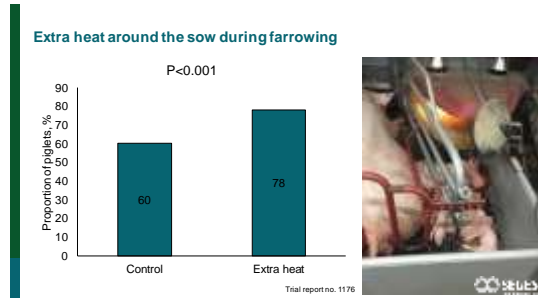


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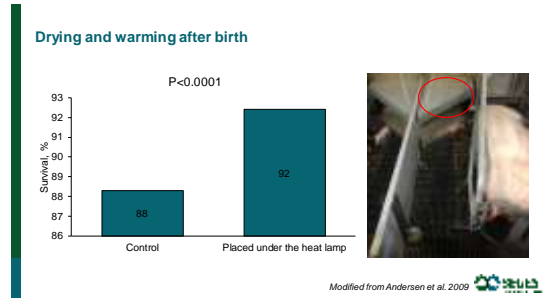
Piglet temperature after birth



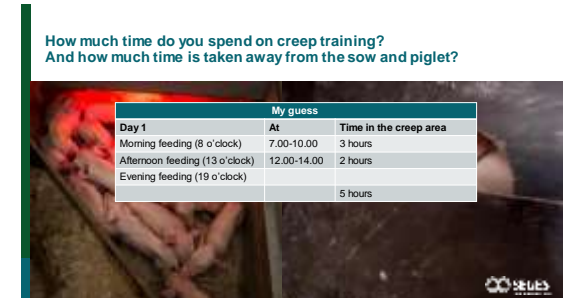
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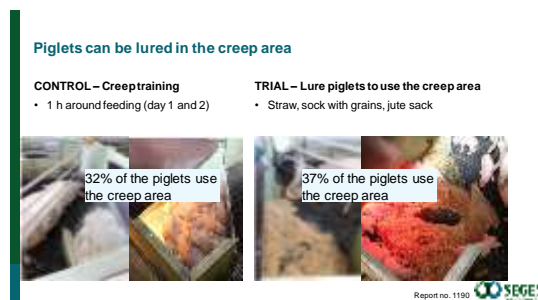
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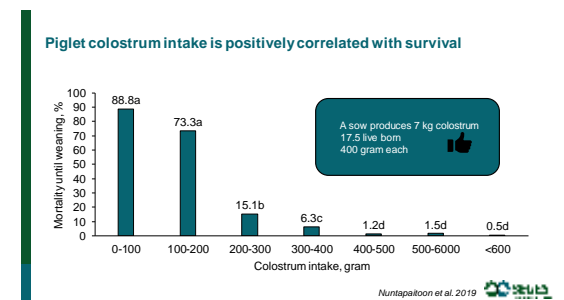
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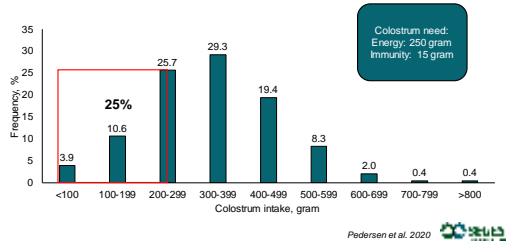


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Colostrum: A need for energy and a need for immunity



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Ensuring antibodies

- RISK FACTORS
 - Litter size
 - Birth weight
 - Birth interval
 - Birth order
- All sows have enough IgG
- Most piglets have ingested enough colostrum after 8 hours
- Colostrum from another sow is equally good
- After colostrum, sow milk is a good energy substitute



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How to secure colostrum for all piglets

- Help small and weak piglets to the udder
- Adjust litter size (continuously)
 - Mark first-born piglets
 - Move first-born large piglets
 - Move small piglets to a small nurse (with colostrum)
 - The remaining piglets stay with own mother
- Alternatively: Split suckling



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Energy supplements and glucose at litter equalization = no go

- No documented effect – Only negative
- Expensive
- Instead spend your time wisely



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Take home messages



- A sow fit for fight
- Farrowing surveillance
- Heat around parturition
- Colostrum



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Time for questions



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