

# NAWAC Pig Subcommittee Meeting

Wednesday 16 December 2020

0900 – 1715

<b>Date:</b>	Wednesday 16 December 2020
<b>Time:</b>	9:00am – 5:15pm
<b>Location</b>	Wellington

## Attendees:

<b>Members:</b>	NAWAC Subcommittee Members (Chair included)	
<b>Attendees:</b>	MPI Representatives	
<b>Invited Speakers:</b>	<b>Time</b>	
	<b>09:05 – 09:45</b>	University of Pennsylvania Representative (Via Internet)
	<b>10:00 – 13:30</b>	NZ Pork Representatives
	<b>14:15 – 15:00</b>	SPCA Representative (Via Internet)
	<b>16:00 – 16:30</b>	NZVA Representative (Via Internet)

## Agenda:

Wednesday 16 December				
	Topic	Lead	Time	Room
1.	Karakia/Opening	Chair	09:00	1TT 1.06
2.	Invited speaker: Professor of swine production medicine, Penn Vet – applying new technologies in pig farming	UPENN	09:05	1TT 1.06
3.	Discussion: International context & future speakers	Chair	09:45	1TT 1.06
4.	Invited speakers: Nature and practicalities of indoor pig breeding	NZ Pork	10:00	1TT 1.06
	<b>Morning Tea</b>		10:45	1TT 1.06
	<i>Agenda item 4 continued</i>	Chair	11:00	1TT 1.06
	<b>Lunch</b>		12:45	1TT 1.06

5.	Discussion: Nature and practicalities of indoor pig breeding	Chair	13:30	1TT 1.06
6.	Invited speaker: SPCA perspective on farrowing crates and mating stalls	SPCA	14:15	CFB 13.03
7.	Invited speaker: Understanding attitudes and barriers to the provision of nesting material for farrowing sows in New Zealand	Invited Speaker	15:00	CFB 1.03
8.	Discussion: Minimum standard 10 (h) and the behavioural needs of sows	Chair	15:45	CFB 1.03
9.	Invited Speaker: NZVA views on farrowing crates and mating stalls	NZVA	16:00	CFB 1.03
10.	Review of actions arising	Chair	16:50	CFB 1.03
	<b>Closing</b>		1700	CFB 1.03

### Meeting Summary

- The NAWAC Pig Subcommittee's second meeting was held on 16 December 2020 in Wellington. The primary aim of the meeting was to investigate and discuss the topic of pig farrowing crates and mating stalls, to assist NAWAC to develop evidence-based animal welfare advice.
- The subcommittee invited a range of local and global experts to provide evidence, practical knowledge, and views on the use of pig farrowing crates and mating stalls, so as to inform and challenge subcommittee thinking.
- University of Pennsylvania representative spoke of the research in new pig farming technology, alternatives to farrowing crates, and the challenges and advantages of the current and alternative systems was spoken about. Educational and training programmes when introducing any new systems was advocated for – ensuring staff are comfortable working with the new system will succeed.
- New Zealand Pork, industry experts spoke of the animal welfare benefits and practicality of farrowing crates – greater health and safety for the staff, improved hygiene for all parties, and higher piglet survival rates. They raised issues about conflicting minimum standards and the need to use overseas genetics.
- NZVA representative urged the subcommittee to be forward thinking as they develop new standards, and also suggested that the industry will require government support to transition from farrowing crates, such as availability of low/no interest loans, or other economic support.
- An invited speaker presented a summary of her recent postgraduate study of farmer attitudes providing sows with manipulable material which concluded that the current minimum standard is ineffective.
- SPCA's position was stated by the representative, assuming that as against the use of farrowing crates and/or mating stalls due to impacts on both physical and behavioural needs of both sow and litter. They recommended that the industry should seek government support during transition.
- There was general consensus that piglet mortality rates decrease with the use of farrowing crates at farrowing, and within 48 hours of farrowing.
- There was general consensus that sow nesting behaviour is inhibited during the lead up to farrowing when crated.

- Genetic selection and the welfare impact of large litter sizes was discussed by most speakers.
- The subcommittee agree that the ability to display normal patterns of nesting behaviour makes an important contribution to the sow's welfare.
- The subcommittee noted the need for educational/training programmes during the transition period to the potential of new systems is maximised.