

Genetic Advances for Breeding Sows - Denmark

Tuesday 19 January 2021

2000 – 2110

Date:	Tuesday 19 January 2021
Time:	08:00pm – 09:10pm
Location	Teams Meeting

Members:	NAWAC Subcommittee (Chair Included)
Attendees:	MPI Representatives
Invited Speakers:	SEGES Pig Research Centre Representatives SRUC Representative

Meeting Summary:

On January 19 the NAWAC Subcommittee, MPI representatives, SEGES representatives, and a SRUC representative met. Throughout the meeting, the latest in breeding sow genetics was discussed, alongside studies involving farrowing pens. The following key points were noted:

- Genetic companies are currently selecting for traits to fit current legal systems, as well being based on the economic market conditions.
- Survivability of piglets at five days is used as a surrogate trait for mothering ability, alongside fitness.
- Selection to increase litter size will reach an optimal point, where no further economic advantages are seen with greater litter sizes.
- To breed for sows and select traits that are better suited to a loose farrowing system is difficult. The challenge lies here in the nucleus breeding herds are all in crated systems. To see the success of the specific traits, you would need to observe them in a loose system.
- Different genetics should be used in different systems to maximise their potential. It will always be difficult to obtain the top 10% results outdoors with an indoor bred animal. As an outdoor bred animal will be problematic in an indoor loose housing system.
- Danish trials show that temporary crating is very beneficial for piglet survival for all herds. Sows should be crated the day before farrowing, and for up to four days after. Provide straw from a rack.
- The creep area was placed alongside the aisle, so staff had predictable and easy access to the piglets.
- On farm, to maximise the potential of the SWAP type systems, the sow will be allowed more space as soon as duly possible – generally around the 48-72 hour mark. A minimum total spatial footprint for the SWAP pens is 2.0 x 3m² – depending on litter size.

Relative Study

- https://ivh.ku.dk/research-files/awd-dokumenter/Janni_Hales_Pedersen_B5_PhD_thesis_2015.pdf