

EURCAW Discussion

Tuesday 16 March

1900 – 2038

Date:	Tuesday 16 March 2021
Time:	7:00pm – 8:38pm
Location:	Teams Meeting
Attendees	
Subcommittee members:	NAWAC Pig Subcommittee (Chair Included)
MPI Secretariat:	MPI Representatives
Invited Guests:	EURCAW-Pigs/ Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut/BMEL/Germany Representatives

Meeting Summary:

On Tuesday 16 March the NAWAC Pig Subcommittee met with a range of representatives from the European Union. The guests included people representing Friedrich-Loeffler-Institut (which is also part of EURCAW-Pigs), and the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agricultural (BMEL) - Animal Welfare Unit.

The EURCAW is the European Reference Centre for Animal Welfare that is based across Europe, and funded by the commission. The EURCAW-Pigs was the first European Union Reference Centre for Animal Welfare. Supporting the enforcement of pig welfare legislation is one of the Commission's priorities. [EURCAW-Pigs](#) provides scientific and technical knowledge to Competent Authorities of EU member states, to animal welfare policy workers, and to their support bodies (e.g. science, training and communication). Although the target audience of EURCAW is inspectors and policy workers, the webpage and contact centre is available as a resource publicly, and can be easily accessed by farmers.

[Dossier's](#) on the website provide the best overview of topics that have been reviewed by the EURCAW. The information is easy to access so inspectors are aware of welfare indicators to be aware of during farm inspections.

Tail biting is a complex issue and can be eliminated through small changes over a period of time. Initially starting with a small group of pigs, increasing tail length, working up from there, and addressing problem areas as they arise. Provision of manipulable material is one of the factors that can reduce tail biting instances, however there are many others alongside this.

Based on the literature, organic material which the pigs can perform rooting type behaviours in and destroy, is the preferred manipulable material option. Straw, straw pellets combined with corn and/or aromas to create appeal – also allows for the material to be frequently changed for continued enrichment.

In Germany there are several networks in which key stakeholders and farmers use to communicate with one another, discuss lessons learnt, and farm visits (albeit virtual).

The current welfare problems occurring in Germany currently are

- Sows in crates
 - o Restricted movement
 - o Barren Environment
 - o Prolonged lying duration on hard floors
 - o Limited mother-piglet interaction
- Tail Docking
- Piglet Castration
- Lesions
- Stereotypies in barren environments (particularly sham chewing)
- Water provisions – flow rate, water provision is often not matching required flow rate for specific body sizes of pigs - especially nipple drinker flow rates in rearing piglets and growing-finishing pigs