

Extra light gave 2,3 extra pigs

Thursday, December 10, 2015 11:45

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One crew increased the number of born pigs from 15,7 to 18. The only thing changed, was adding extra light in the gestations grate, explains veterinarian.

“Data from one of our crews suggest that more lux with the sows in the gestation grate, could have a beneficial influence on the number of born pigs.”

Explains veterinarian Lise-Lotte Pedersen, Porcus (Danish Vet Company), in a meeting, which the veterinarian group had recently, in the focus group “Fokus35”.

In the crew mentioned before, the number of born piglets was increased from 15,7 to 18, after extra light was mounted above the sow’s heads in the mating section.



Veterinarian Lise-Lotte Pedersen measured the number of lux in plenty gestation stables before and after adding extra light above the head of the sows. Typically, the brightness was 400 lux – as shown on the picture – when the extra light was added.



In a crew in the gestation stable, the number of totals born piglets is increased from 15,7 to 18.

Gradually increase

She explained, that in March this year they measured the brightness in the height of the sow’s heads, to be 50 lux, which is way under the recommendation of 200 lux. In April extra light was added right above the sow’s heads in the mating section, and then it was measured to 400 lux. In the farrowing stable, the lux was always around 25-60 lux.

Afterwards in the crew, it was registered that in June-August this year a total of 16,6 born piglets and it was increased in August-October to 18,0 born piglets. In October alone, it was registered a total of 18,2 born piglets.

- This is a big crew of 1.400 sows, where everything is under control and where the farrowing percentage is stable in the range 90-93.

Since nothing else was changed in this period, it shows that

adding extra light has an essential influence on the numbers of fetuses says Lise-Lotte Pedersen.

Link?

At Porcus (Danish Vet Company) the veterinarians think the results is very exciting, so they want to investigate the whole concept even more. They checked the lighting in mating houses in 33 crews, who participates in “Focus35”, and then added the total numbers of lux in a graph along with the number of the total born pigs.

Lise-Lotte does acknowledge, that these dots, as you see on the picture on the next page, looks a lot like nothing, which does not really give an indication of whether there is a link between them or not.

However, it is only raw numbers which is added to this graph. The numbers from the mentioned crew, who added the extra light, is so strong that I think that we will investigate this whole concept even more.

No one under 17 pigs

As for now I think we will split the data in two groups, shorter and longer lactation time, as we know that the lactation time is essential for the number of fetuses, she explains.

Although the veterinarian adds, that it is thought-provoking that no crew in the graph with high lux, is low on the number of born pigs.

None of the crews with high lux is below 17 born pigs, notes Lise-Lotte Pedersen.

