

It all about excluding errors and omissions

- We have a big knowledge, and we know what it necessary, so it is all about excluding that we did something wrong, says pig producer Henrik Basso Sørensen.

By Anne Wolfenberg



When Michael and Henrik Sørensen took over the property, a cafeteria system was replaced with feeding on the floor. The animals get fed with barley in their feed in the gestation stable, to obtain a good satiety feeling. Apparently, it works fine, because the small sows can eat along side with the bigger sows. There is two-week teams per path, no matter the sows. size and it is not necessary to take many sows out of the loose housing, says Henrik Basso Sørensen.

Henrik Basso Sørensen, Tylstrup near Brønderslev, has a basic principle about >excluding things<, as he phrases it.

- When we mate, we e.g. set the clock and stimulates one minute after we know the sow stands. – We do know how to things. So, when we for example want the farrowing percentage to be higher, then we make sure that the mating process is done correctly, so we at least know that this process is done correctly.

Read the paper

Likewise, it is common knowledge, that the sows need tons of light, especially in the mating period.

Henrik Basso Sørensen refers to a good old advice, which says that it should be possible to read the paper in the mating section. – A good old advice,

which must ensure that in the mating section is the recommended 100 lux. – Sure, you can read a paper in the mating section, however - is this still possible when you stand in the same height as the sows' heads? – I don't think so, says the pig producer.

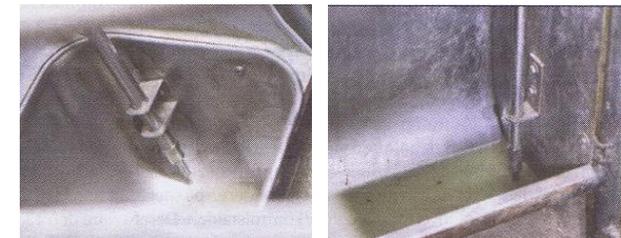
Maybe you do have enough light in your stable, however the inventory does take up a lot of the light and this means that the sows don't get the light that they need. – This is why we chose to add extra light above the sows' head, he explains.

With help from a timer the LED light is turned on from 6:00 in the morning to 22:00 in the evening. The remaining light in the stable is only turned on, when there are staff/employees in the stable, and this is roughly one and a half hour per day.

Water Valves

In the farrowing stable, the challenge is to keep all the new born pigs alive. Right now, the mortality is higher than wanted and expected, and therefore we are working to exclude errors and omissions.

The Water valves is important for all animals, and especially for a lactating sow. Therefore, it wasn't satisfying when Henrik Basso, found out that the water valves weren't placed at the right place in one of the old farrowing stables.



In the crib to the left the water valve is placed to deeply and to close to the edge of the crib, which means that the sow has a hard time to use it, while it is placed correctly in the picture to the right.

Life giving water

Look, it is too far down...



... in the crib and too close to the edge. Everyone can see that the sow has trouble getting water through this, he says.

Because of this he started adding five liters of water in the crib for every sow in the old farrowing stable three times a day. – Just think about, - a lactating sow needs between 25-35 liters of water daily. It is not that weird that the crib is totally empty by the end of the day, and we definitely see a positive effect from it, the pig producer notes.

However, when the stable is empty again he decided to disassemble the tubes which goes to the crib and make them shorter, before he assembles them again.

Free of dirt

In some of the farrowing pens Henrik Basso is experiencing issues with bad hygiene along the sides.

- When we first took over the farm in 2013, there was six old pens in some of the farrowing stables, which we tore down and rebuild to five wider pens instead. – Although this extra space means that the sows are leaving their manure along the sides. Therefore, we are now trying to set up a grate, Henrik Basso shows by pointing at the grate. – Which is developed and sold by Rune Nielsen, RN Solutions near Støvring.

