

## Training guide EURCAW-Pigs: suggestions for national training in EU Member States

EURCAW-Pigs provides a training course example as a sort of standard for each of the eight welfare focus topics in our Work Programme 2021-2022. The diversity of the different EU Member states (MS) on how training is organized in general has to be taken into account: Hence, 'standards' for training will not fit all national needs, but need to be adjusted to the different contexts in the MS.

### Subject: Farrowing housing and management (including free farrowing systems)

#### Learning goals:

After the course, the participants will have gained:

- Knowledge about the intention of the EU-legislation (Farrowing management and housing including various type of pens for loose housed sows).
- Updated knowledge about the biology and behavioral needs of sows and piglets in relation to farrowing management and housing and how this related to the animal welfare.
- Knowledge about at least five main risk areas for poor welfare for sows and piglets.
- Knowledge about indicators suggested by EURCAW Pigs to check compliance within the five risk areas and the strength/weaknesses of these.
- Tools for calibration and practical training in calibration using the EURCAW Pigs indicators.
- Knowledge on measures to improve welfare within the five risk areas.
- Knowledge about challenges in relation to communication with farmers during inspection.

**Programme and suggested training material for a training course**

Program	Link to knowledge, ideas for materials you can use in the course
<p><b>9:00-9:30 Welcome</b></p> <p>Welcome, participants present themselves. Presentation of learning goals by course leader.</p> <p><b>9:30- 11:00 Two presentations by expert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sows behaviour during nest building, farrowing and lactation – what do we know?</li> </ul> <p><i>Plenum Discussion/Questions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The five main risk areas for poor animal welfare during farrowing and lactation period based on scientific knowledge on pigs’ physiological and behavioural needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Insufficient space and lack of freedom to move.</li> <li>Inadequate thermal environment/climate.</li> <li>Lack of possibilities to build a nest and no access to a nest.</li> <li>Piglet mortality, large litters, and high levels of competition within a litter.</li> <li>Mutilations (tooth, tails and testicles).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Plenum Discussion/Questions</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-pigs website</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs “Review on Farrowing housing and management”</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs “Review on alternatives to farrowing crates” <i>Forthcoming</i></p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs Indicator factsheets on farrowing housing and management</p>
<p><b>11:00-11:15 Coffee break</b></p>	
<p><b>11:15-11:30 Presentation by expert</b></p> <p>EU legislation related to the first three main risk factors in the farrowing and lactation period just mentioned and suggested indicators to measure compliance.</p> <p><b>11:30-12.30 Group discussion</b></p> <p>Calibration exercises related to selected risk factors and inspection of the relevant EU legislation (also including national legislation if meaningful):</p>	<p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs dossier on the legislation and indicators for poor welfare in the farrowing and lactation period</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs Indicator factsheets on farrowing housing and management</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Photos shown of nest material among sows – different amounts found during inspection. Discussion among participants – which level suggests compliance with legislation and in relation to meeting behavioural needs of the sow?</li> <li>• Photos shown of piglets and sow in relation to lactation. How do you measure if sow and piglets have enough space? When is it necessary to measure? Which measures suggest compliance?</li> <li>• Photos shown of different pen types including both pens for loose and crated sows. Evaluate the different pen types in terms of possibility for providing nest materials, space for sow and piglets, safeguard the life of piglets?</li> </ul> <p><i>Plenum 12:30-13:00</i></p> <p>Groups report back in plenum on dilemmas in their discussion.</p>	
<p><b>13:00- 13:30 Lunch</b></p>	
<p><b>13:30-14:30 Presentation by expert</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Piglet mortality. Which are the main risk factors and how can risk factors be mitigated.</li> <li>• Large litter size. Why and how does it challenge welfare of sow and piglets?</li> <li>• Pain, short term and long-term consequences for pigs. How do they respond to pain?</li> <li>• Mutilation:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Tail docking</li> <li>○ Reduction of corner teeth</li> <li>○ Castration</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Different practices – examples are given. What does the EU directive say? National legislation?</p> <p><i>Discussion/questions on large litter size and pain.</i></p>	
<p><b>14:30-15:30 Presentation by expert</b></p> <p>Using indicators. How do you measure welfare in relation to legislation?</p> <p>Presenting the EURCAW-Pigs’ suggestions for <b>relevant indicators</b>. How can indicators suggested by EURCAW</p>	<p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs Indicator factsheets on farrowing housing and management</p>

<p>be included during inspection – and/ or in communication with the farmer?</p> <p><i>Discussion and questions.</i></p>	
<p><b>15:30-15.45 Coffee break</b></p>	
<p><b>15:45-17:00 Possible subjects to choose between</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measures to <b>improve practice</b>: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Example of different types of free farrowing systems. Discussion about which welfare problems are improved. Which problems may arise? How to weight the dilemmas?</li> <li>○ Examples of management measure to handle large litter size. What is seen during inspections? What are the pros and cons of these measures?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>National legislation</b> on farrowing management and housing – a sum up of any national legislation that goes further than EU (examples from Sweden, Austria, Germany, Switzerland and Norway).</li> </ul> <p><i>Specific introduction to paper-work.</i></p>	
<p><b>17:00-19:00 Break and evening meal</b></p>	
<p><b>19:00-21:00 Evening session</b></p> <p><b>Communication</b> – what are the challenges for inspectors to communicate with for instance farmers/farm workers? Experiences from inspectors on how good or bad communication has affected the inspections. Is change a possibility during inspection?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction of the topic</li> <li>• Group work</li> <li>• Discussion</li> </ul> <p><b>Course wrap up and evaluation</b></p>	<p>Possible readings:</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-Pigs document “Farmers, inspectors and animal welfare: possibilities for change : A Review”</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to paper on communication between inspectors and farmers: To inspect, to motivate — or to do both? A dilemma for on-farm inspection of animal welfare</p> <p><a href="#">Link</a> to EURCAW-pigs document on relevant tools and resources for better communication training</p>