

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 2019-2020. The diversity of the different 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 EU member states (MS).

Subject: Group-housing and mixing of sows

Learning goals:

After the course, the participants will have gained:

- A brief history of legislation on sow group-housing and mixing including but not limited to stall dimensions, group house period, enrichment, group space allowance.
- Knowledge about the intention of the EU legislation (e.g. Why should sows be kept in groups?)
- Knowledge about the reproductive cycle of the sow and updated knowledge on behavioural and physiological needs of sows during oestrus and gestation.
- Updated knowledge about the social structure and social behaviour of pigs as well as the biological background (will include for example: The difference between rank order fighting and competition for access to resources; How to prevent damaging behaviour like vulva biting).
- Knowledge about indicators suggested by EURCAW to use to check compliance within the main risk areas and the strength/weaknesses of these. Tools for calibration and practical training in calibration using the EURCAW indicators.
- Knowledge about initiatives to end stall housing completely (i.e. 'End the cage age'), risk of stress during early pregnancy including remedial actions drawing on examples from Sweden and the UK.
- Knowledge about challenges in relation to communication with farmers during inspection.

Suggested programme and suggested training material for training course Group-housing and mixing of sows

Suggested programme	Suggested course materials
<p>9:00-9:30 Welcome</p> <p>Participants present themselves. Presentation of learning goals by course leader.</p> <p>9:30- 11:00 Presentations and discussions on key topics</p> <p><u>Presentation A:</u> Behavioural and physiological needs of the sow during oestrus and gestation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated knowledge based on latest research and presented by an expert. • Knowledge about sows’ reproductive cycles and oestrus behaviour. <p><i>Questions and Discussion</i></p> <p><u>Presentation B:</u> A brief history of legislation on group housing and mixing as well as updated knowledge on the current legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The biological basis for current legislation. • EU and national legislation. • Aspects of legislation such as: stall dimensions, group house period, enrichment, group space allowance. <p><i>Questions and Discussion</i></p>	<p>EURCAW-pigs website https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs.htm</p> <p>Review on group-housing and mixing of sows, EURCAW-Pigs scientific output, 2020 https://edepot.wur.nl/537021</p> <p>The social behaviour of pigs, Gonyou, 2001 https://edepot.wur.nl/537703</p> <p>Sexual behaviour in female pigs. Review. Pedersen, 2007 https://edepot.wur.nl/537758</p> <p>Effects of group housing on sow welfare: a review, Verdon et al., 2015 https://edepot.wur.nl/531626</p> <p>Group housing of sows in early pregnancy: A review of success and risk factors, Spoolder et al., 2009 https://edepot.wur.nl/10512</p>
<p>11:00-11:15 Coffee break</p>	
<p>11:15-12:15 Presentation and small group activity</p> <p><u>Presentation C:</u> Indicators and how to use them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information about resource and animal based indicators. • Why animal-based indicators? Usefulness of indicators in assessment. 	<p>Welfare indicators, EURCAW dossier on group-housing and mixing of sows</p> <p>Indicator factsheets, EURCAW-Pigs https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs/output/indicator-factsheets.htm</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to EURCAW indicators for group housing and mixing. <p><i>Questions and Discussion</i></p> <p><i>Small group activity: In small groups discuss how you have used indicators previously in your work as inspectors:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did indicators help with discussion with farmers? • Do you find them useful for assessment? When and when not? • How clear are the indicators that you have used before? 	
<p>12:15-13:15 Lunch</p>	
<p>13:15- 15:15 Indicator presentations and calibration exercises</p> <p><u>Short presentation D</u>: Skin Lesions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Includes information and photos on different kinds of skin lesions relevant to inspection. <p><i>After each short presentation: Split into small groups. Each group is given photos to discuss and assess with a goal of coming to an agreement in each group (calibration)</i></p> <p><u>Short presentation E</u>: Lameness.</p> <p><u>Short presentation F</u>: Body condition.</p> <p><u>Short presentation G</u>: Skin lesions.</p>	<p>Welfare indicators, EURCAW dossier on group-housing and mixing of sows</p> <p>Indicator factsheets, EURCAW-Pigs https://www.eurcaw.eu/en/eurcaw-pigs/output/indicator-factsheets.htm</p>
<p>15:15-15:30 Coffee break</p>	
<p>15:30-17:00 Indicator presentations and calibration exercises - continued from before the coffee break</p> <p><u>Short presentation H</u>: Manure on the body.</p> <p><u>Short presentation I</u>: Stereotypies.</p> <p><u>Short Presentation J</u>: Panting.</p>	
<p>19:00-21:00 Evening session on communication</p>	

<p><i>Small group discussions: Discuss in small groups on communication challenges and successes that you have encountered in your work:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do you think contributed to the miscommunication? What worked in this or other situations? What did not work? How could it have gone better? • When does communication work best with different parties (farmers/drivers/ slaughterhouse workers/colleagues/ officials)? • Have you encountered situations that were violent or hostile? How did you deal with it? • Are there tools that you feel would better equip you for conflict resolution in your work? <p><u>Presentation K:</u> (Ideally from an occupational psychologist or other expert in communication) Practical tools for better communication and conflict resolution:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Asking open-ended questions. • Empathetic listening. • Creating space for dialogue. • Conflict resolution. • How better communication can facilitate inspection-driven animal welfare improvement. <p><i>Group discussion</i></p> <p>Course wrap up and evaluation</p>	<p>Suggested readings on communication and tools for developing a communication component for the course:</p> <p>Farmers, inspectors and animal welfare: possibilities for change: A Review, EURCAW-Pigs https://edepot.wur.nl/514920</p> <p>Improving communication – relevant tools and resources, EURCAW-Pigs, 2020 https://edepot.wur.nl/531172</p>
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