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Rearing Pigs with intact tails
Assessing and addressing risks

Dr. Jens van Bebber
Hof Bodenkamp, Germany
Change of housing system

Status before reconstruction

• slatted floor, forced ventilation, 0.75 m²/pig
Guideline for planning a new stable

- genetically determined needs
- innate behaviours
  - open stable
  - structured pens
Main characteristics of the open stable

• natural ventilation / outside climate / no separated inside and outside compartments

• structured pens with different areas for sleeping, eating, defecating

• straw litter in the sleeping area

• floor feeding
Structured pens: **sleeping / resting**

- lowerable lid without a front curtain
  - microclimate area
  - thermal comfort
  - no draught
  - good air quality
- wood sides and wood cover
  - no humidity
- straw bedding
  - enrichment material
  - insulation when needed
Structured pens: *defecating*

- open side of the pen
- well defined
  - light
  - air movement
  - contact to neighbour pen
  - drinkers
    - other areas stay clean and dry!!
- easy to clean
- limited wetted floor
  - low NH3 emission
Structured pens: eating

- floor feeding
- meets innate behaviour
  - foraging and eating simultaneously
- takes time
  - pigs are kept busy with natural activity
- avoids boredom and frustration
- „artificial“ distraction hardly needed
- low competition level
General aspects

• open sides
  – environmental influences
    sun, rain, day, night, people, tractors, etc.
• easy supply of extra food
  – hay, silage, beans, etc.
    extra enrichment material
    chewing, foraging
• good overview / control
• calm and non aggressive breed (Berkshire-cross)
**Conclusion**

• concept of the new stable enables the animals to do what they are genetically determined to do (innate behaviour)

• result: relaxed („happy“) pigs
  - low stress level
  - almost no tail-biting or other abnormal behaviour
  - good general fitness

• happy pigs, happy people