

R&D Snapshot

Mixing Sows – How to Maximise Welfare Manual

Investigators: Dr Ray King, Pork CRC

Purpose:

- To identify the major factors of sow group housing impacting sow welfare and establish guidelines for weaning into groups to optimise sow welfare
- To summarise the outcomes from the recent APL/Pork CRC Successful Group Housing Systems Workshops and assist producers in the shift to group housing with the voluntary phase out of gestations stalls for sows by 2017.

Take home messages:

- Implementing group housing for sows is challenging as adequate nutrition, optimum welfare, minimal stress and aggression between sows and maintenance of productivity must be ensured
- Space allowance and the quality of this space has a much greater impact on sow welfare and reproductive performance compared to the number of sows in a group
- Widely available feed and barriers for sows to hide within larger groups are techniques used to reduce aggression and optimise welfare
- Higher levels of stockpeople skills, experience and knowledge are required when managing sows in groups.

Additional information:

- [Click here to view the Manual](#)
- For a hard copy or further information contact Imogene Gardiner on 02 6270 8823 or imogene.gardiner@australianpork.com.au.

