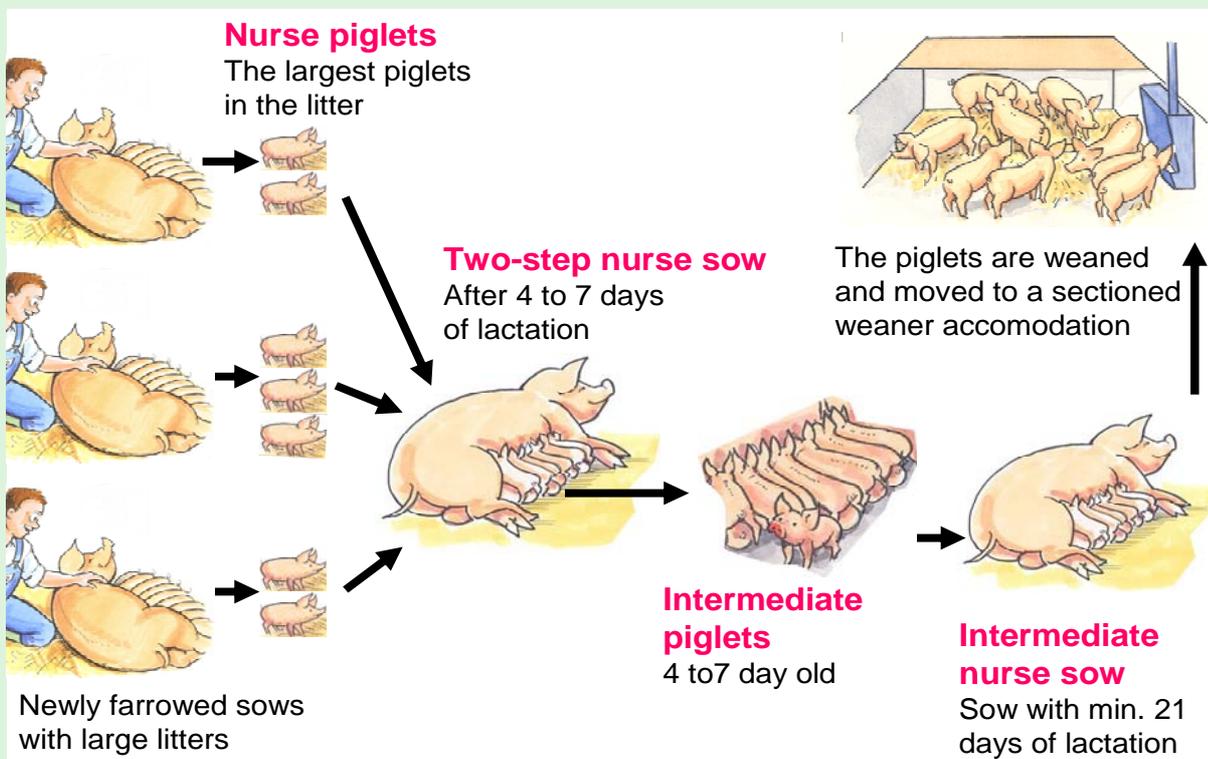


# Two-step nurse sow

If you have too many piglets left after cross fostering, you need to make a nurse sow. The nurse sow ensures all surplus piglets a chance to survive and grow. The piglets need colostrum intake before they are moved to the nurse sow. Therefore they need to be at least 6 hours at their own mother. Trials have demonstrated that the use of two-step nurse sows will result in the highest survival rates and weaning weights for the nursing piglets.

## Two-step nurse sow

The method involves two sows. Find a sow that is ready to wean her piglets. This sow is then given 4 to 7-day-old piglets. The sow whose 4 to 7-day-old piglets are moved is then given one day old piglets that need a nurse sow.



## First make an intermediate nurse sow

Pick a sow with piglets that are min. 28 days old and wean her piglets. You can also pick a sow with min. 21-day-old piglets if you move the piglets to a sectioned and cleaned facility.

## Then make a two-step nurse sow

Pick a first or second parity sow that has tended well to her piglets for 4-7 days. All the piglets from the two-step nurse sow are moved to the intermediate nurse sow. Do not move more piglets to the intermediate sow than she has weaned. Then place the large newly born piglets with the two-step nurse sow. Do not move more piglets to the two-step nurse sow than have been moved to the intermediate nurse sow.

