

# Strategy for transfer of sows to ESF systems

When feeding sows via Electronic Sow Feeding (**ESF**), it is important that the sows are transferred leniently to the group/pen and that the sows are set up correctly in the computer – you should therefore follow the below 11 points.

## Before transfer

1. Assess the animals. Animals with abnormal gait, shoulder ulcers or other sufferings must be transferred to a hospital pen or be culled.
2. Check ear tags with the ear tag reader to ensure that the tags are active.
3. Check that the transponder number corresponds to the sow number.
4. Compare days of cycle in the feed computer with the list of services.
5. Assess the condition of the sows and adjust the feed curve to their condition. It is recommended to use min. 3 feed curves for the sows and 1 for the gilts.
6. Activate the sows in the management programme.
7. The night before transfer, shut off feed supply in the service/control facility to the sows that are to be transferred to a group the following day.

## Upon transfer (on the day)

8. Transfer new animals to the batch as rarely as possible. The more calm the sows in the group are, the more stable is the eating order and the less fighting will arise in the pen.
9. Transfer pigs in quiet periods – typically after lunch when most sows have eaten (it is recommended to start the feed day at 22-02 o'clock).
10. If possible, lead the sows into the pen through the feed station and give them half a feed ration.

## Healthy animals from a hospital pen

11. Aim at transferring new pigs to pens with at least ten other animals.



Sows in well-bedded large nesting boxes



Sows lying on slatted floor

