10-point plan for efficient sorting of pigs for slaughter

Deductions for overweight and underweight at delivery of finishers for slaughter are expensive. It is therefore worth implementing efficient routines for labelling and sorting of the pigs. The points listed below constitute good practice for efficient sorting of pigs.

1. In as far as possible, weighing out pigs for slaughter should take place at the same time of the day and be done by the same persons every time.

2. Do not weigh pigs fed restrictively until 2-3 hours after feeding.

3. The weight should be placed close to floor level and allow operating of both gates from one end.

4. An easy way to weigh the pigs is by letting out the pigs from one pen and gather them at the end of the inspection alley – from here, the pigs are led onto the weight, weighed, and if necessary marked with colour spray, and let out in the opposite end towards the open pen. You can also weigh the pigs in the pen – this task normally takes two people.

5. Use a guiding table showing the relationship between live weight, slaughtered weight and days until delivery for slaughter.

6. Pay attention to current weight limits.

7. Test-weigh "fast-growing" pigs approx. 7-8 weeks after transfer to the finisher facility at 30-32 kg. Write the result on the pig's back and use these pigs as indicators of when you can start delivering pigs from this batch for slaughter..

8. **Weighing for slaughter in the coming week:** weigh 2-3 pigs in each pen and write the result on the back of each pig. Use these pigs as "benchmark pigs" and count the other pigs ready for slaughter in the pens or weigh all pigs in the pens in question.

9. **Weighing for two weeks of delivery for slaughter:** weigh all pigs in the pens in question. Mark the pigs with different colours – that way it is easier to identify the pigs ready for delivery each week.

10. Respiratory protection is recommended.

The pigs are led individually onto the weight

You can see videos showing examples of easy ways to weigh out pigs for slaughter at www.vsp.lf.dk

This fact Sheet is also available in Danish and Russian at www.vsp.lf.dk