

10-point plan for handling of shoulder ulcers

Prevention

1. Assessment of the body condition through the entire cycle is crucial.
2. Individual feeding of sows - also in the gestation facility.
3. Provide risk sows with a mat and check daily for shoulder ulcers on both sides, i.e.:
 - Sows with poor body condition score (conditions 1 and 2)
 - Sows that have previously suffered from shoulder ulcers
 - Sows that have difficulty moving or sick sows
 - Old sows
4. Solid, non-skid flooring beneath the sows in the farrowing pen.
5. Adjust the farrowing stall - use the extreme position at transfer and again 1-2 days after farrowing.

Treatment

6. Provide relief with a mat already when reddening of the shoulder region is observed.
 - Use antibiotic spray in case of an ulcer
 - If the ulcer worsens to degree 3, wean the sow and place her in a hospital pen with a thick bed of straw

Other measures

7. Make a note on the sow table when and on which side the sow suffers from shoulder ulcers.
8. Sows with degree 4 must be destroyed. Degree 4 is considered neglect.

Delivery to slaughterhouse

9. Inspect sows with scars on their shoulders or sows that you believe have previously suffered from shoulder ulcers. These sows must be inspected carefully before delivery to the slaughterhouse.
10. A producer delivering a sow with a degree 4 shoulder ulcer will be reported to the police. If you see and feel the points below on a sow before delivery, there is a high risk that the sow has suffered from degrees 3 or 4:
 - A large firm swelling (more than 5 cm in diameter)
 - Immovable skin on the shoulder region



Degree 1:

Upon reddening of the skin, the sow must be given soft bedding. Feel how the "ulcer" develops - talk to your vet about how to do this. If large firm immovable swellings or skin occur, it is probably a high-degree ulcer. Such animals must be destroyed. Photo: Danish Pig Production.