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

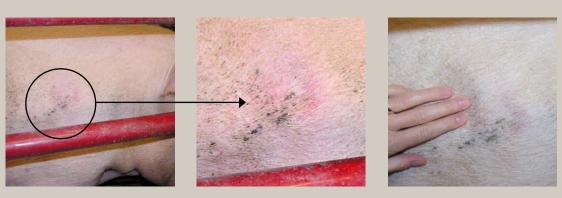
- 6. Provide relief with a mat already when reddening of the shoulder region is observed.
 - Use antibiotic spray in case of an ulcer
 - If the ulcer worsens to degree 3, wean the sow and place her in a hospital pen with a thick bed of straw

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.

