

## H24 - Lying behaviour



Sound lying behaviour in a pen with partially solid floor - sternal

### Temperature

1. Look at how the pigs lie (huddled together, scattered, lying sternal/laterally).
2. Check stocking density.
3. Is there an even stocking density in the section?
4. Check temperatures.
5. Check for solar radiation from windows?
6. Check ventilation capacity.
7. Are the dimensions of the ventilation system correct? Have your advisor help you check this.
8. Intake of cold air / draught in the pens, slurry ventilation?
9. Closed / partially open pen sides?
10. Check compensation for outdoor temperature.



Temperature is too low / draught - lateral position

### Become familiar with the pigs' signals

- If it is too cold or there is a draught, the pigs will huddle together and lie sternal.
- If it is too warm, the pigs often lie scattered and in lateral position.
- If it is too warm, the pigs will lie where it is coldest - on the slats or in places with a high air speed, for instance by pen partitions.
- If it is too warm, the pigs often "turn the pen around" and start defecating in the lying area.



Mess on the solid floor

### **Additional comments - Check pigs' lying behaviour**

- 4.** Check the temperature:
- What is the desired temperature (see controller)
  - Record the temperature by the sensor
  - Record the temperature in representative pens (e.g. 4 pens). Use an infra-red thermometer to record the temperature by the pen partition approx. 50 cm above the floor and approx. 30 cm from the back wall
  - Check the inlet temperature of the floor heat
- Examples of temperature strategies are shown in H21.
- 5.** The temperature in the pens increases significantly under the impact of solar radiation from windows facing south-west. Cover these windows in flanging or use lime coating.
- In facilities with diffuse ventilation, the roof surface must not have skylights.
- 8.** Intake of cold air / draught in the pens and slurry ventilation can be determined by using smoke or an anemometer and recording the ammonia level. Draught is defined as air speeds above 0.2 m/s if the difference between the temperature of the inlet air and the temperature of the facility is higher than 4° C.
- 9.** The pens should have partially open pen partitions. Completely closed pen partitions will reduce the ventilation in the animals' activity zone.
- 10.** If wall inlets are used for ventilation, the outdoor temperature compensation must be active to close the damper when outdoor temperatures drop and to avoid draught in the pigs' activity zone.
- Example of settings: set point 18° C, band width 4° C and reduction 70 per cent. In most controls, this example means that when outdoor temperatures drop below 22 (18+4)° C, air intake will be reduced and full reduction (70 per cent) will be active at 18° C. Note that in most controllers, a 100 per cent reduction equals no reduction (check manual).