

H24 - Weaning



Piglets ready for weaning

Successful weaning requires thorough preparation.

1. Start preparing the day before weaning.
2. Decide on the number of farrowing pens needed for the next batch.
3. Identify the litters / sows to be weaned, count them and note this information on the management list.
4. Mark the sows selected for weaning so that they are easy to find.
5. Mark the sows to be culled after weaning with an S / SL for slaughter.
6. Mark nurse sows with an A so that they can be observed thoroughly in the service facility.
7. If required prepare foster sows for the piglets not ready for weaning.
8. Prepare inspection alleys, driving boards, etc.
9. Each staff member must be fully aware of his/her tasks in connection with weaning.

Weaning:

10. Move the sows to the service facility.
11. Drive the piglets out of the pen.
12. Do not stress the pigs - use a driving board.
13. If necessary, move a few sows.
14. Do not cool the piglets during transport.



Weaning was not prepared and the piglets are too non-uniform

Insufficient preparation for weaning may result in

- Failure to identify sows that need to be weaned before time.
- Non-uniform piglets at weaning.
- Too little time to select the right sows and piglets

Additional comments - Weaning	
1.	Weaning becomes a lot less stressful for pigs as well as humans if the procedure is thoroughly prepared. There is plenty to do as it is on the day of weaning.
2.	Print the most recent management list to form a general idea of the number of farrowing pens needed for the next farrowing batch.
3.	Even though the piglets may have reached weaning age, each piglet must be individually assessed to determine if they are big enough for weaning. Also examine the well-being of the sow as it may be necessary to wean the sow due to problems.
4.	It will be easier to find the sows to be weaned the next morning if you remove the sow card, reverse it in the plastic folder or mark the sow with a spray.
5.	Group the sows to be culled.
6.	Pay special attention to nurse sows in the service facility as there is a risk of them coming on heat together with the rest of the batch.
7.	Move piglets that are too small, sick or weak to be weaned to a foster sow and wean them with the next batch. See H12 - Foster sow for piglets with reduced growth.
8.	Make sure doors and gates are open / closed as required, the alleys are not slippery and that there is no feed on the floor.
9.	To have the best possible flow during weaning, it is essential that all staff members are aware of their role so that they know exactly what to do.
Weaning	
10.	No further comments.
11.	Drive the piglets in inspection alleys or move them in carts.
12.	No further comments.
13.	In farrowing facilities with continuous operation, it will often be necessary to move a few sows around to make the batches match. This should not be necessary in sectioned operation.
14.	If the weaned piglets are transported outdoor, it is important to use well-bedded, warm trucks (preferably heated).