

Split nursing

**A management routine to ensure
colostrum to newborn piglets**

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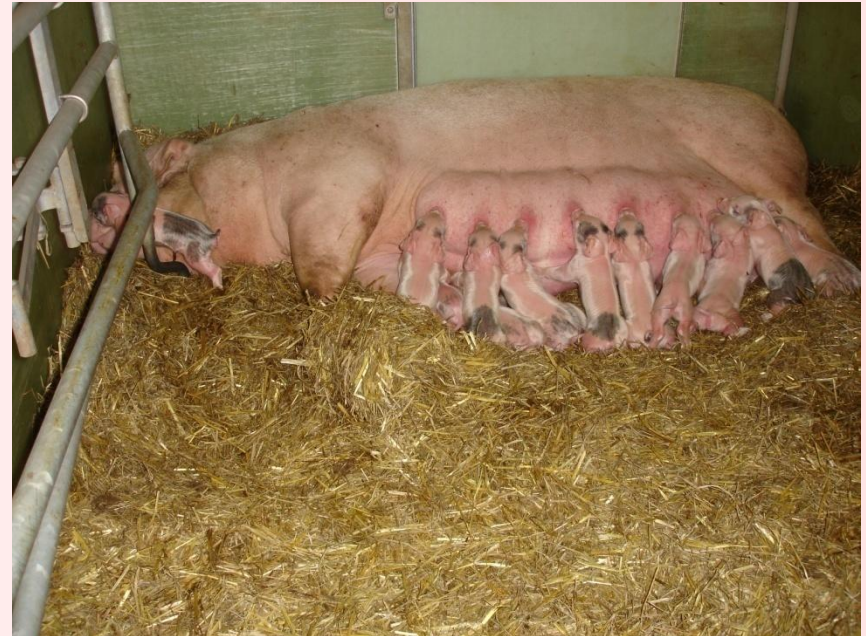
Svenska Pig, Sweden

www.svenskapiig.se



Swedish piglet production

- Loose housed farrowing
- Batchwise production
- Swedish legislation at least 28 days at weaning
- Mean lactation length: 34 days
- Weaning weight: ~ 10 kg



Aim to increase piglet survival

- Management routine to ensure piglets colostrum intake in loose house systems
- Study effects on
 - Piglet survival
 - Large litters of piglets of equal size at weaning



Data

- On farm test
- January – October 2011
- 5 herds
- 10 farrowing batches

Table 1. Herd data from control- and test group.

	Control group	Test group
Number of litters	205	131
Number of piglets	2214	1467
NBA/litter	13,6	13,6

Method

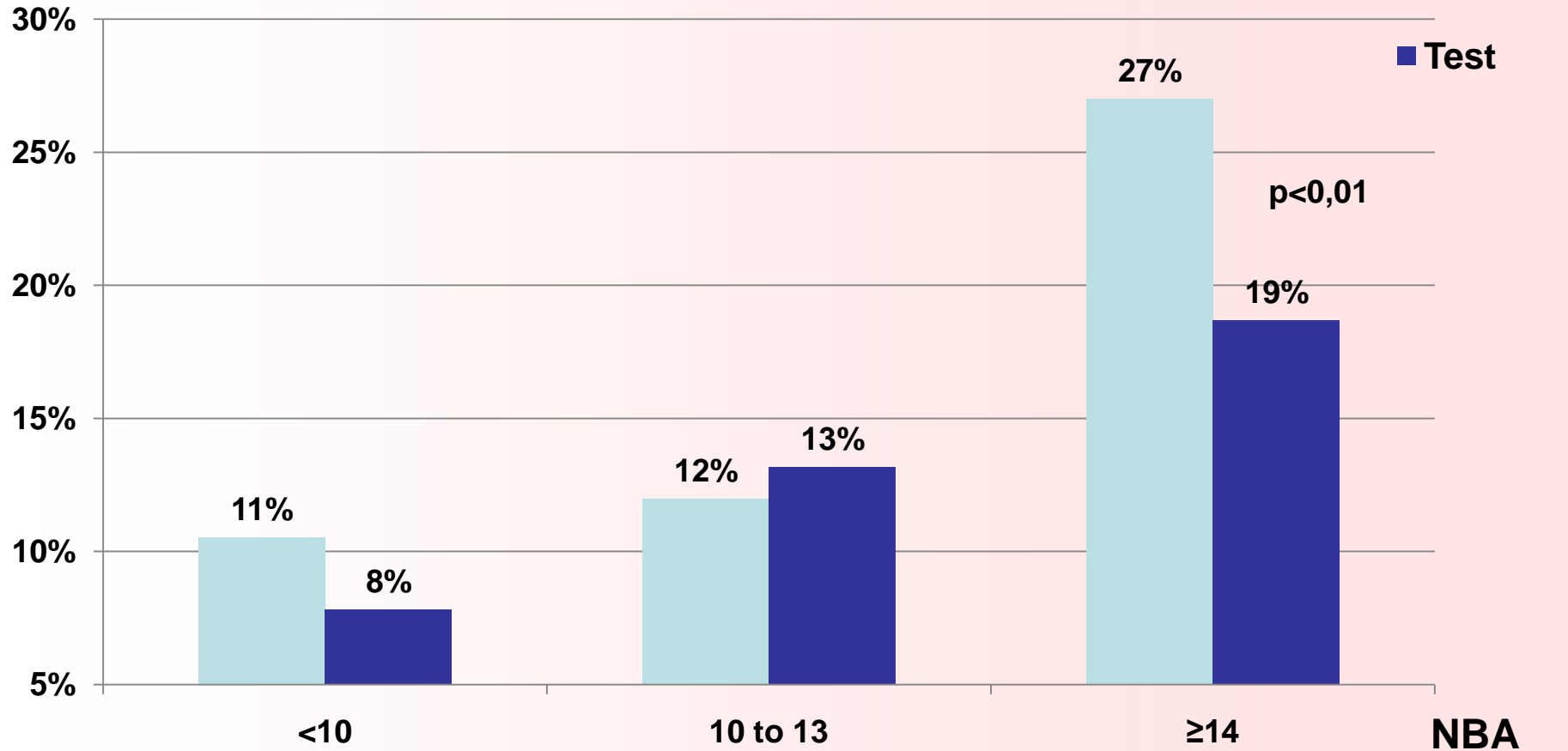
- In test group litters piglets were divided in two groups
- Altered at the udder ~ 1 hour
- All piglets at the udder ~ 1 hour
- Cross fostering within groups after 5 hours



Results

Piglet survival

Mortality



Results

Piglet survival

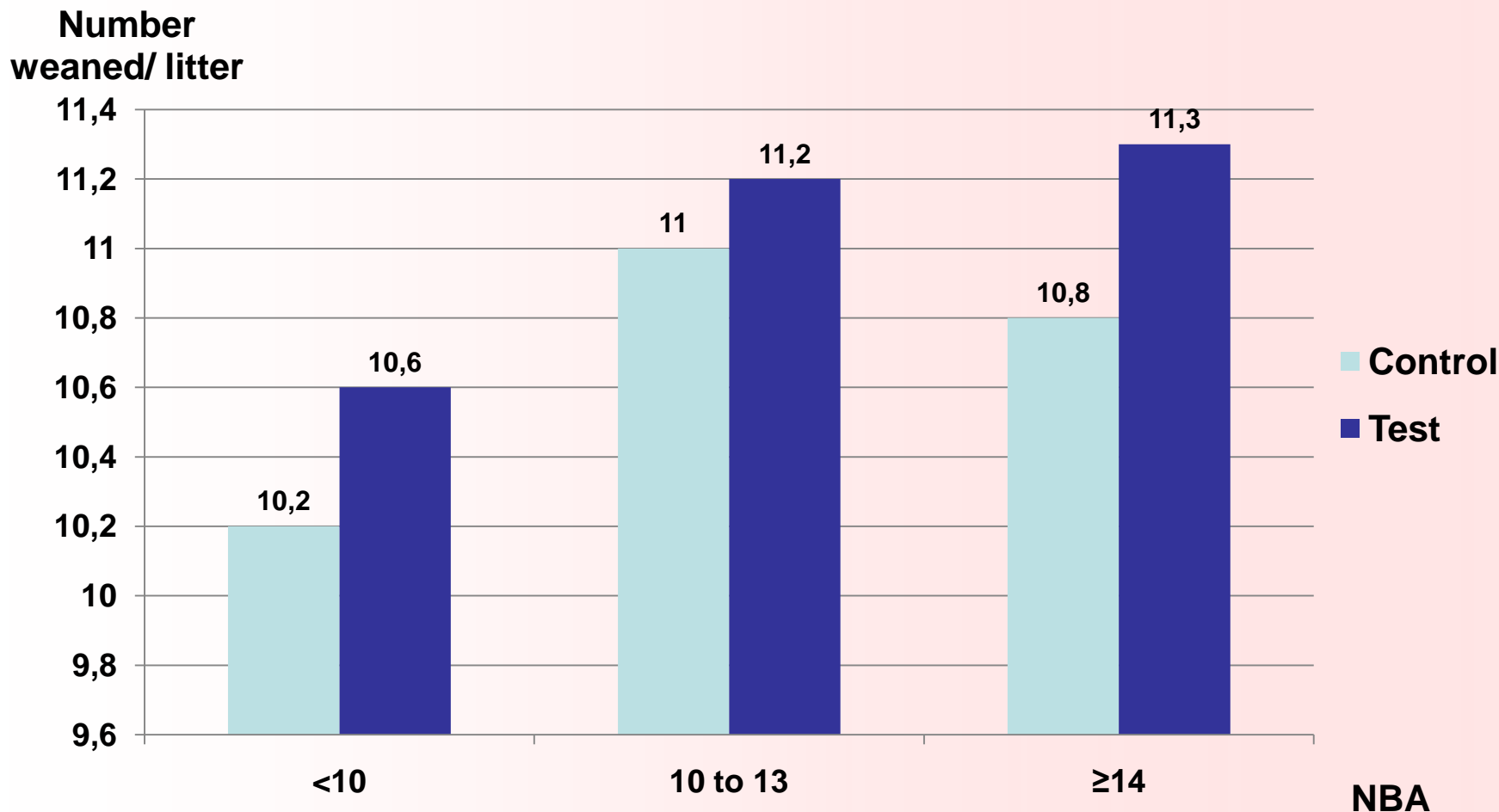
Table 1. Number of dead pigs in control and test group

<u>NBA</u>	<u>Control</u>	<u>Test</u>
<10	1,2	0,9
10-13	1,7	1,5
≥14	4	2,6

p<0,01

Results

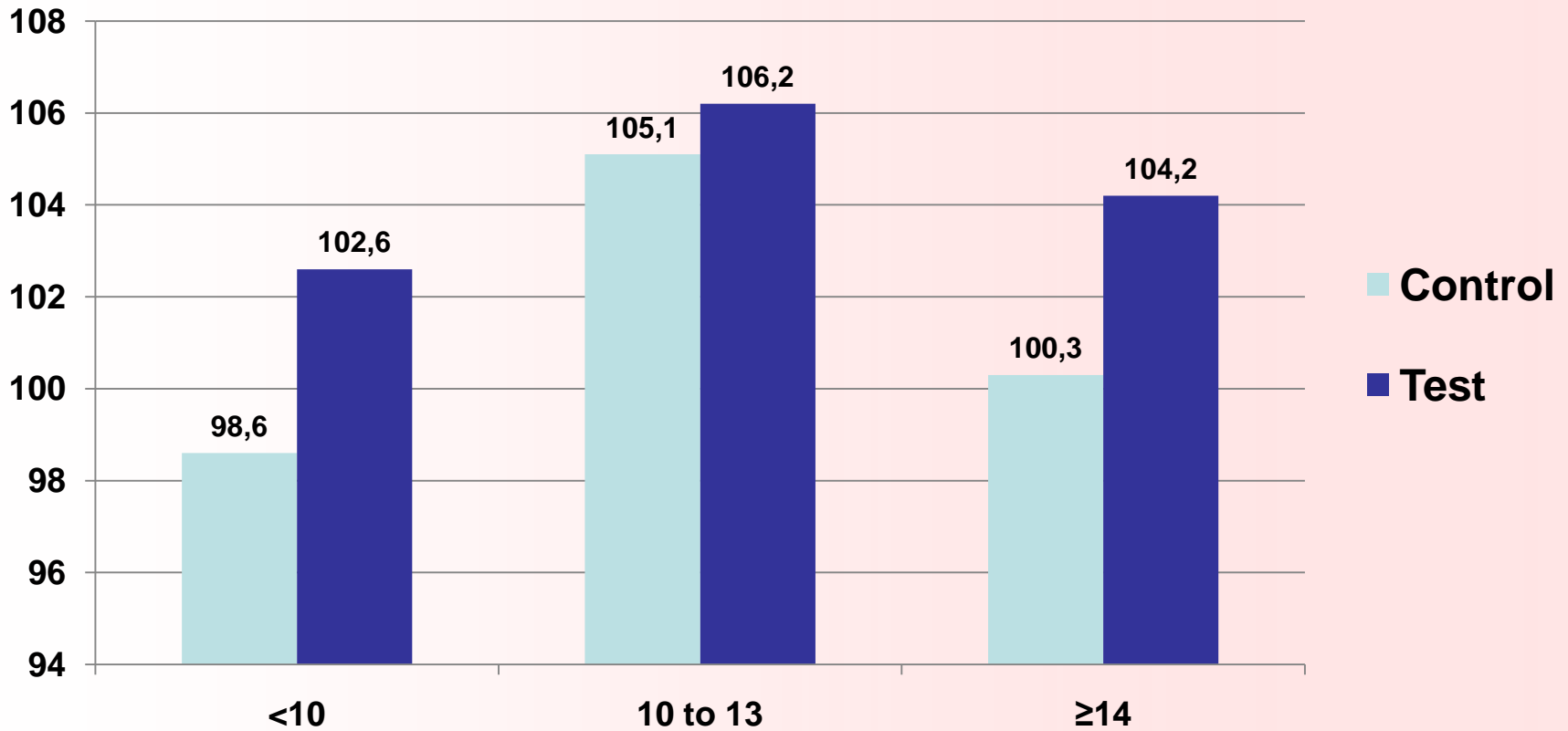
Number of weaned pigs



Results

Weaning weights

Litter Weaning Weight (kg)

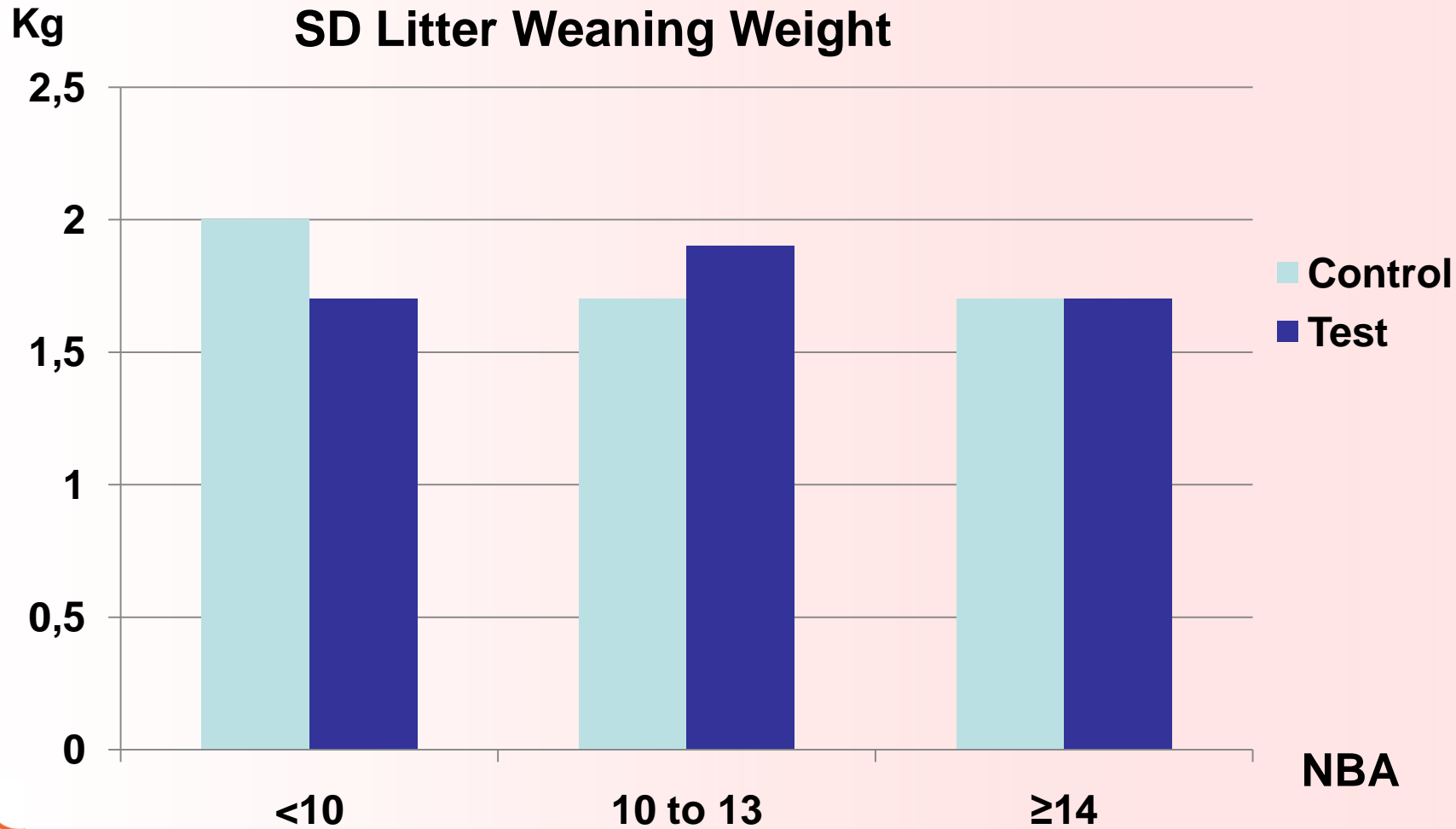


NBA



Results

Weaning Weights



Conclusion

- Piglet survival in large litters can be increased in loose housed systems with split nursing as a management routine.
- With a larger number of weaned piglets, the litter weaning weight was not affected.

Questions?

