Preweaning piglet mortality in SWAP farrowing pens

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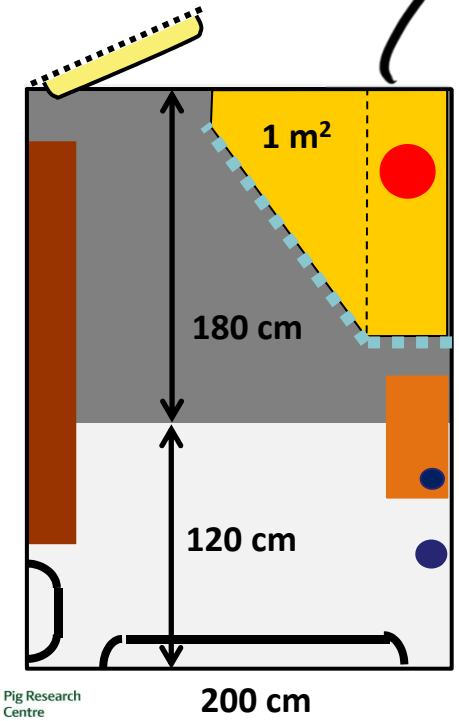
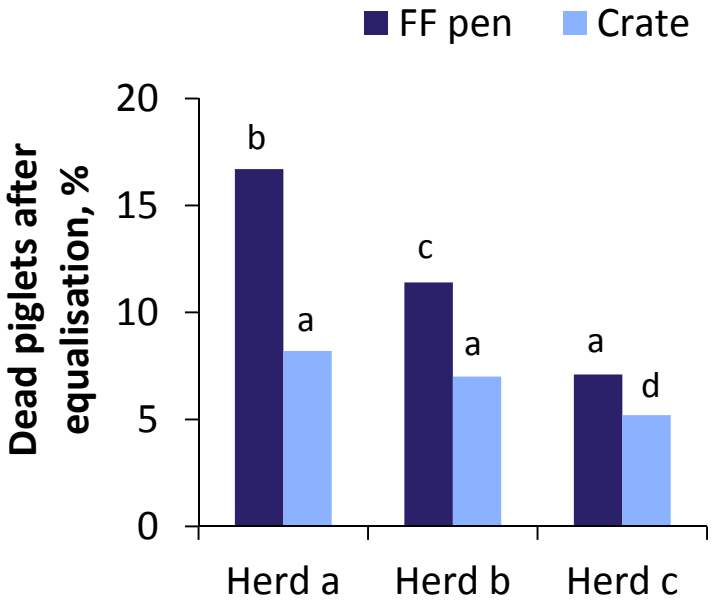
FF pen

FF = Free Farrowing





(Hales et al. 2014)

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Background

Loose housed sows is a challenge

- Temporary crating for 4 days can reduce mortality *(Moustsen et al. 2013)*

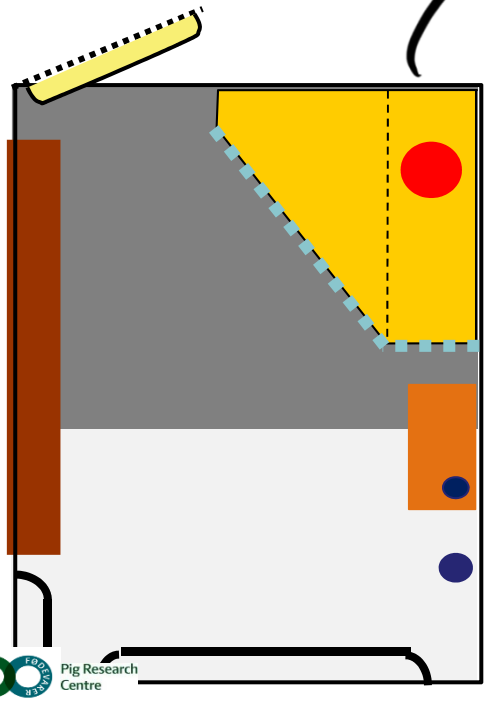
New approach

- Think from loose to crate
- Only crating when needed
- SWAP farrowing pen

  (**S**ow **W**elfare **A**nd **P**iglet protection/**S**tart **W**ith **A** **P**en)

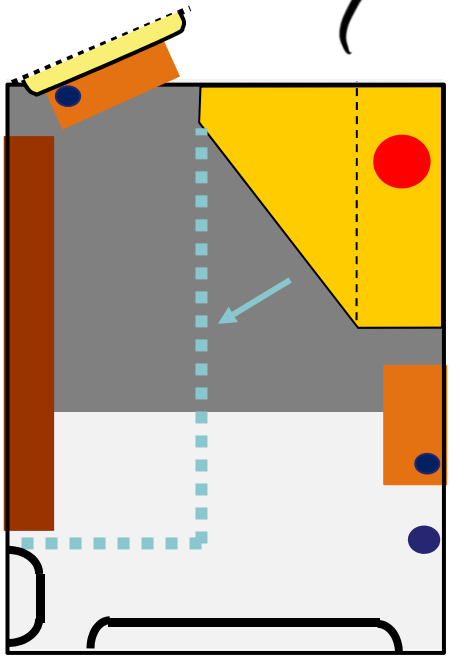
FF pen

FF = Free Farrowing



SWAP pen

SWAP = Sow Welfare And Piglet protection



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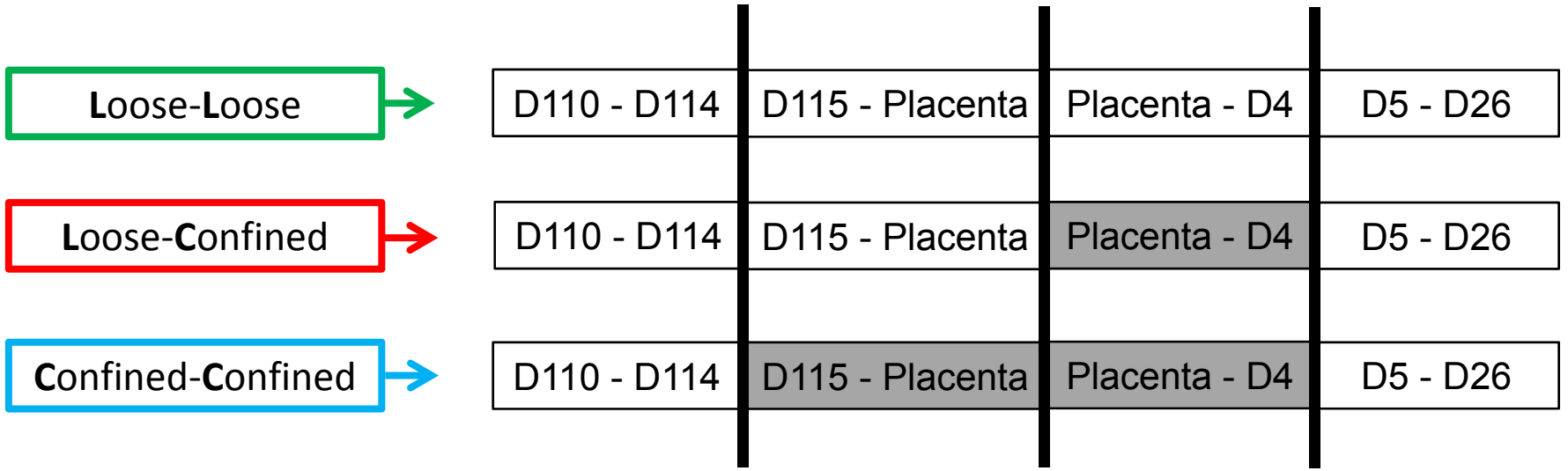
Three treatments



White = sow is **loose**

Grey = sow is **confined**

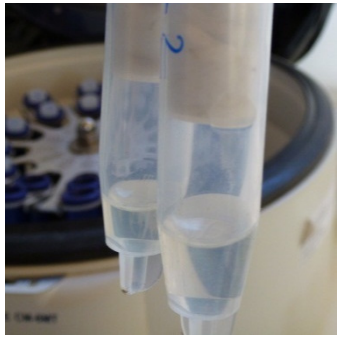
Experiment

1,200 sow production herd

Danish Landrace x Yorkshire sows

App. 650 sows/group

2^{nd} and 3^{rd} parity sows returned to same system



Piglet registrations

- Liveborn and stillborn
- Equalised litter size
- Dead piglets
- (Post mortem examinations)

Results - HERD records

PRELIMINARY

	LL	LC	CC	P-value
Sows, no.	675	665	641	
Total born, no.	17.7 ± 0.12	18.0 ± 0.12	17.9 ± 0.13	0.121
Liveborn, no.	16.2 ± 0.12[a]	16.7 ± 0.12[b]	16.7 ± 0.12[b]	0.007
Stillborn, pct. of total born	8.0[a] (7.3-8.8)	7.4[a,b] (6.7-8.2)	6.7[b] (6.1-7.4)	0.015

Means ± se
Mean (95 % CI)

Results – herd records

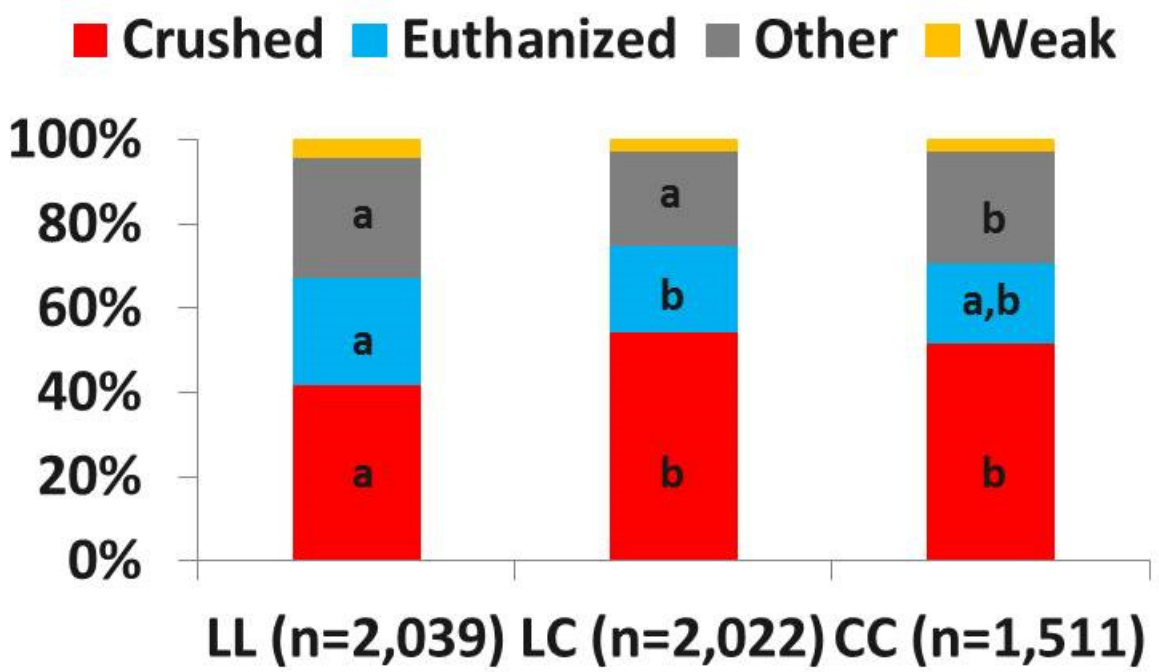
PRELIMINARY

	LL	LC	CC	P-value
Dead before litter equalisation, pct. of total born	13.0[a] (12.1-14.1)	12.3[a] (11.3-13.4)	8.9[b] (8.2-9.7)	0.0001
Dead litter equalisation-day 4, pct. of equalised littersize	7.8[a] (7.1-8.6)	7.0[b] (6.3-7.0)	5.8[c] (5.1-6.4)	0.002
Dead after day 4, pct. of equalised littersize	4.7 (4.2-5.2)	5.2 (4.5-5.9)	5.0 (4.4-5.6)	0.498

Mean (95 % CI)

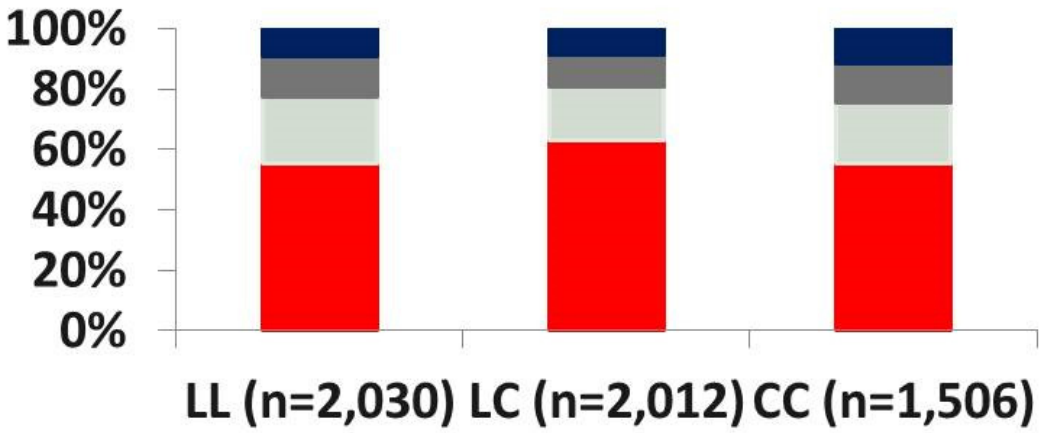
Mortality - cause

PRELIMINARY



Mortality – stomach content

PRELIMINARY



Conclusion

Confinement in SWAP before farrowing:

- reduced piglet mortality before equalisation
- reduced piglet mortality from equalisation to day 4

Thank you for your attention!!!