



## Kansainvälisesti kilpailukykyinen sianlihantuotantoketju -hanke



### H8A – Transfer the gilts and sows to gestation

The gilts and sows should transfer either immediately after insemination or after 4 weeks pregnancy to gestation. Every time when a group have made, they will make a new ranking order.

#### 1. In the stable group or dynamic group on the gestation time?

- Try to add in to group so rarely as possible (semi-stable) or keep groups hole gestation time stabile.
- It is recommended to use stabile groups and separate animals by age and condition on models where become competitions on feeding time.

#### 2. Before the animals transferring to gestation

- Spread enough straw etc. and check that every feeding stations, -valves, dry feeders will work.
- Watering the manure area, that the animals will use right place (and if you have: check the functioning of slat wetting system)

#### 3. Transferring the animals (on daytime)

- Fill up the pen at once (stabile -groups)
- Transfer should do on daytime, when it is a calm moment, usually after feeding time
- Give the extra feed dose immediately after the transfer

#### 4. Special attention to the gilts

- You could put the gilt with sows on the stabile groups.
- If the gilt will put together with sows, it is recommended to transfer gilts 2 – 3 days earlier before sows.
- It is recommended to keep the gilts on own stabile group.
- If you need to add gilts to already existed groups, add at least 10 gilts at a same time, then the group will become re-formed (dynamic group).



Spread straw etc. before animal transfer



Watering the manure area, before animal transfer, that the animals will use right place

Do not mix the animals on the fetal attachment time (5 – n. 25 days after insemination), because it will increase the risk of abortion!

Please note the valid legislation of the holding time on cage after insemination! Work within limits of the law, so that the transfer time is in the safest time as possible, so before or after fetal attachment time.

It is recommended to not transfer the animals at all on fetal attachment time on models where become competitions on feeding time.

Usually it is recommended to make own pen for sows what needs extra feeding (depending of model)



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1. On the dynamic or semi-dynamic models, should always add at least 10 animals at a time. Animals should be sorted by condition and age. On the shortening condition is more important than the age. The goal is to get group, what can feed on the same feeding curve.
2. Remarks on different gestation models
  - *Station feeder (ESF = electronic station feeder)*
    - Check the animals ear tag with the ear tag reader. If the mark does not work or it has dropped, it is possible that there are animals what doesn't get any feed ("ghost sow"). Different named of stations handle those sows different ways, find out from equipment supplier station's principle of working, it will reduce the risks.
    - Check that the transponder number will fits the sow number
    - Check that the feeding computer's feeding days will updated according to the insemination time
    - Check the animals body condition and select the feeding curve what corresponding of body condition.
    - Change the animal on active or on the monitoring system on the feeder.
    - It is important to check, that on the feeder have same number of animals what fits of numbers of added animals, otherwise some of animals may doesn't get any feed!
    - If the animals will move to gestation thought the feeding station, give only ½ of the food amount, that how the transfer doesn't take too long time. An alternative and recommended way is to transfer whole group straight to gestation. This doesn't usually cause any problems if all the animals have earlier used a "training station" or have been already on the station feeder gestation.
  - *Gestation with single feeding cages*
    - Feed the animals immediately after transfer
    - Fill the group's places at one time. Avoid adding the animals afterwards (if possible)
    - Change the feeder's number of animals to fit actual number of animals, and close extra cages.
  - *Gestation pen with long trough*
    - Sort the animals by body condition. On the sorting, the condition is more important than the age. The goal is to get group, what can feed on the same feeding curve. So, it means, that big gilts could add together with sows, if necessary.
    - Give the extra feed dose immediately after the transfer
  - *Gestation pen with floor feeding*
    - Shorting as same way like with long trough pen
    - Give the feed on floor already before animal transferring, that how them get extra feeding time. Give also extra straw etc.
3. On the stable group it is recommended that a group / pen will fill at once, and do not fill anymore new animals later. The animals what haven't enough space on group, should transfer to buffer pens.
4. It is important that the gilts will train safely to be on gestation, so they will not be hurt or stressed. The gilts and once farrowed sows have usually too high part of culled sows. Reason is often fighting at first days after transferring to gestation, from these become bone defects.  
If on the gestation model should transfer the gilts with sows, gilts should put on the pens where is enough space to escape. The gilts are at the lowest level of ranking order because their live weight is lowest. This means, that during the gestation time they had to life under older sow's rules, on space and eating. If the gilts are planned to transfer into group with sows, it is good to them if you move them before sows. In that situation gilts do not fighting so much, because they need to do ranking order only by unknown animals. If the total number of gilts is low, you could reduce transferring times to gestation, by keeping part of the gilts on the pen until you have enough gilts. However, it is recommended to mix gilts to group so rarely as possibly.