



# Kansainvälisesti kilpailukykyinen sianlihantuotantoketju -hanke



## H8C – Daily supervision and handling of abnormal animals

Daily supervision of pregnant gilts and sows reduces the number of killed animals and increases farrowing percent. Working on right time, will also reduce wasted days.

### 1. Focus on daily supervision:

- Heats (returners)
- Limping / injuries
- Condition
- Mobility
- In the first days after transfer to the section, should to do extra supervision

### 2. Heat check

- Start heat check 18 days after insemination
- The animals what running / are unrestricted, are probably coming heat
- The animals what are on heat (returner), transfer to insemination room, near the gilts
- The sow what return more than once, should remove
- The sow what have farrow more than 5 times and return, should remove

### 3. Limping

- Estimate the sows limping situation, and do treatment according of that:
  1. Slightly lame = supports but not hole weight
  2. Average lame = Lightly supports
  3. Serious lame = does not support at all
- The slightly lame animals can often treat into own pen.
- The average and serious lame animals should move to sig pen for treatment and pain relief.
- The animals with bone fracture, paralysis or unable to stand up, must kill immediately.
- The animals with claw faults, should transfer to sig pen, and treat with antibiotics and give pain relief. If necessary, cut the claw also.

### 4. Condition

- Check the sows condition on insemination time and do adjustment on feed amount according of that.
- On 4 weeks pregnancy test and 60 – 65 days after insemination (9 weeks) check animals condition regularly again. Fix feed curve if needed.

One percent less death sows will increase about 6,5 – 7 € Profit marking / sow / year. (calculated in Denmark)



Giving straw etc. help checking of the animals

If the wasted days will reduce 6 – 7 days / litter, the year results will increase one piglet / year.



You should check animals legs and claw faults when they are mowing.

Claw faults could also check when the sow is lying.



The treatment of bone and claw faults should agree with the veterinarian.



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1. All the animals should check daily.

You should do extra supervision to the gilts, young sows and last transferred group to gestation.

You should have enough time and experiences to do supervision well. There should be some normal routines around supervision, to get that done systematically every time.

You could use different way to do supervision, depending of feeding type. If all the animals feed on same time, part of supervision will do on feeding time (check which animals eat / not come eat). If you have ESF, print check list and check list's animals daily.

You should do supervision also on the animals resting time (on day time), that you will find the returners. The returners are usually longer active than normal sows.

For all the above reasons, you should see all the animals on move, to find bone / leg problem sows. If you see the sows only stand on feeding time, it is extremely difficult to see the limping sows and try to find them enough early!

Straw etc. giving will helps a lot to do checking, because the animals will stand up.

2. **Heat checking:** If the insemination does not get sow pregnant, sow will come heat again 18 – 24 days after first insemination. If heat checking is effective, you will catch the returner sow on first heat round. If the sow is on model where they are immediately free after insemination, the returning sow will jump on other sows and cause unrest on group.

**Placement of returners:** By collecting the empty sows near of gilts, you could ensure, that heat will check twice / day. For that reason, it is more likely, that you could re-inseminate the sow, because returner sows have usually shorter standing heat.

**Removing the returners:** Experience have shown, that if the sow will return repeatedly, probability to get pregnant get much worse, if the number of returning increases. The older sows have less litter losses, than younger sows.

3. Many faults will need treatments, before can wait recovery. It is important, that same person, who start medical treatment, will check at least first days of recovery, because, 2 – 3 days after first treatment should begin to see some recovery. If you can't see any recovery, you should change treatment or consider to kill animal.  
That you able to follow the animal recovery, you must to mark up every treatment / single animal.