2 Swine industry



Journal of Livestock Production
Volume, 12 Issue 4, Spring 2011

Effective Use of Space in Swine Farming

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Many swine farms do not provide optimal space arrangements (Turner 2009). We studied twenty **sow farms** to learn about the best space arrangements in use today. Below are the findings from our research.

The space requirements are different depending on the type of farm. Nevertheless, it appears important to provide more than the minimally required **static space**. Otherwise, **hogs** tend to be sicker and less productive. In **farrow-to-finish farms**, providing **social space** is advisable. When **sows** have adequate social space they produce healthier **litters**. In the case of **farrow-to-nursery farms**, providing social space does not add additional value. Therefore, we found that it is sufficient to provide adequate **dynamic space**.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 Is the swine industry large in your country?

2 What are the challenges of swine farming?

Reading

2 Read the page from an agricultural industry journal. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

1 __ Providing minimal static space leads to healthier hogs.

2 __ Social space is recommended in farrow-to-finish farms.

3 __ Farrow-to-nursery farms only need dynamic space.

Vocabulary

3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

1 __ hog
2 __ sow farm
3 __ litter
4 __ dynamic space
5 __ farrow-to-finish farm
6 __ farrow-to-nursery farm

A a group of baby pigs
B a farm that raises female pigs
C enough space for an animal to move
D a farm that raises pigs to market weight
E a pig that has achieved market weight
F a farm that raises pigs until they are weaned

4 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

1 The female pig just had another litter. ___

2 Larger pens provide space that allows animals to interact with one another. _ o c ___ s __ c _

3 The amount of space required to contain an animal's body is not enough; the pig needs room to move.
s t ____ _p __ e

4 Raising pigs and related animals is difficult. _ w ___

LIVEWORKSHEETS

5 🎧 **Listen and read the page from an agricultural industry journal again. Why is it better to provide more space for hogs?**

Listening

6 🎧 **Listen to a conversation between two swine farmers. Choose the correct answers.**

1 What is the farmers' problem?

A There is not enough storage space.
B The sow pens have no static space.
C The sows have decreased productivity.
D The old barn is not big enough for the sows.

2 What will the farmers likely do next?

A increase feed rations
B build additional pens
C rearrange the sow pens
D move animals into the old barn

7 🎧 **Listen again and complete the conversation.**

Farmer 1: I'm worried. Our sows aren't as productive as they used to be.
Farmer 2: It started when we changed those pens to storage space.
Farmer 1: Yeah. The sows seem restless with less room to move around.
Farmer 2: You might be on to something. What if we increase their social space?
Farmer 1: I don't know. We don't have much room 1 _____ _____ _____.
Farmer 2: Well, I read an interesting article about this problem. It said social space makes a big difference in 2 _____ - _____ - _____ farms like ours.
Farmer 1: I guess we overlooked that when we used those pens for storage.
Farmer 2: Well, we can fix it. Let's get all the storage out of those pens. We can 3 _____ a few other pens so the sows can interact.
Farmer 1: That's not a bad idea.
Farmer 2: But what can we 4 _____ _____ storage?
Farmer 1: I think we can 5 _____ _____ _____ in the old barn.
Farmer 2: 6 _____ _____.

Speaking

8 **With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.**

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

Our sows aren't as productive as ...
What if we increase their social space?
Well, we can fix it.

Student A: You are a swine farmer. Talk to Student B about:

- sow productivity
- social space
- changing pens

Student B: You are a swine farmer. Discuss your sows with Student A.

Writing

9 **Use the conversation from Task 8 to describe the changes to the swine farm. Include what changes will be made and why?**

Proposed Changes: _____

_____

_____

Cause: _____

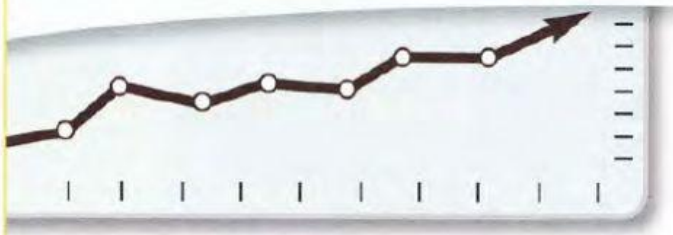
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Effects: _____

_____

_____



LIVEWORKSHEETS