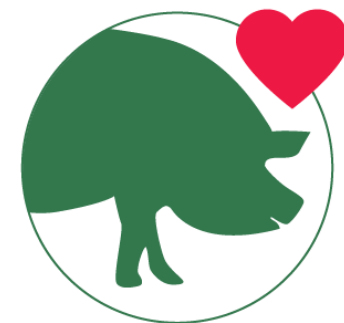


Conscious use of sick pens is the road to quick recovery

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Grisekongres 2022



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SEGES
INNOVATION



Sow survival and sick pens

Agenda

- Value of sow survival
- Analysis of herd problems
- Prevention
- Sick pens & daily supervision
- Collaboration between employees
- Quality of sows at insemination and at farrowing





High sow survival rates is a gold mine!

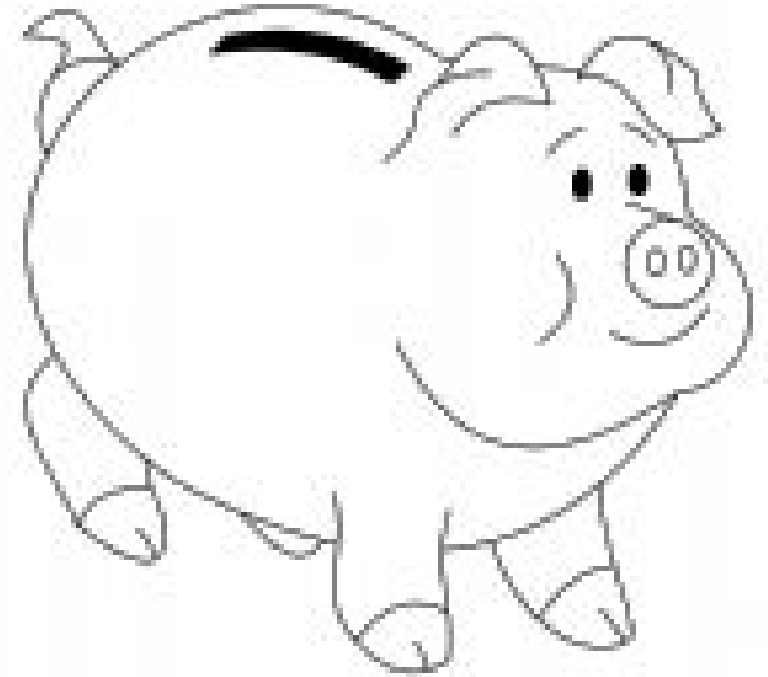
- 1,000 sows/year
- Value of 4% drop in mortality
- DKK 200,000 kr. a year

= DKK 2 million investment
depreciated over 15 years with 4%

- Establish more sick pens
- Hire more staff...

AND:

- Welfare
- Job satisfaction
- Better and cheaper management of production





Analysis of the problem

1. How old are the sows that die?
2. When do they die? During gestation, farrowing or in lactation?
3. Variation between seasons
4. How do sows manage when they leave the sick pen?
 - **evaluate prevention, supervision and use of sick pens**





Minimum registration of dead sows

- Slaughtered



- Natural death



- Destroyed





Culling codes according to age

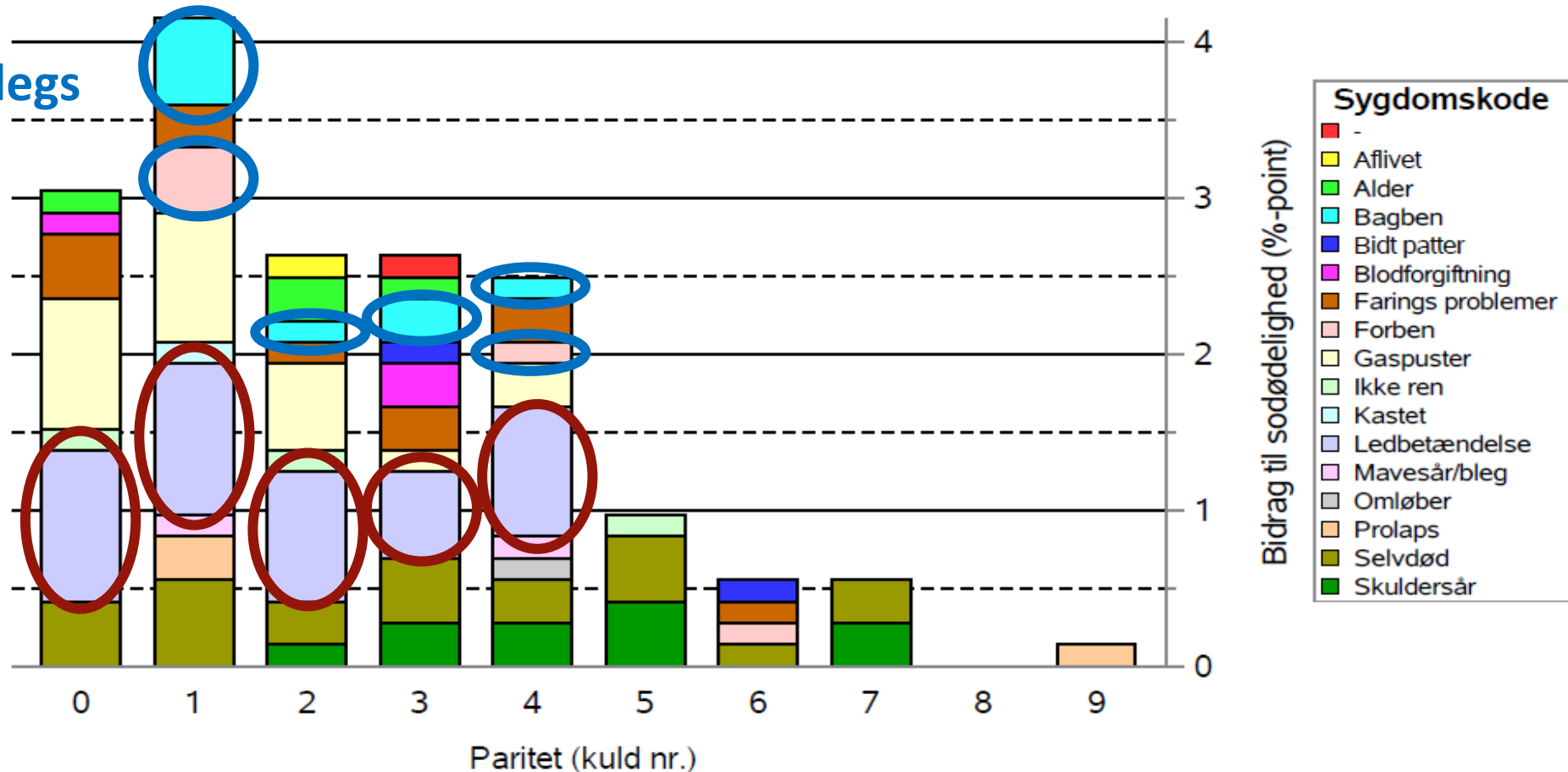
Sygdomskoder - Selvdøde og aflivede

Bidrag til sodødelighed fordelt på sygdomskode vs. alder

farm_name=

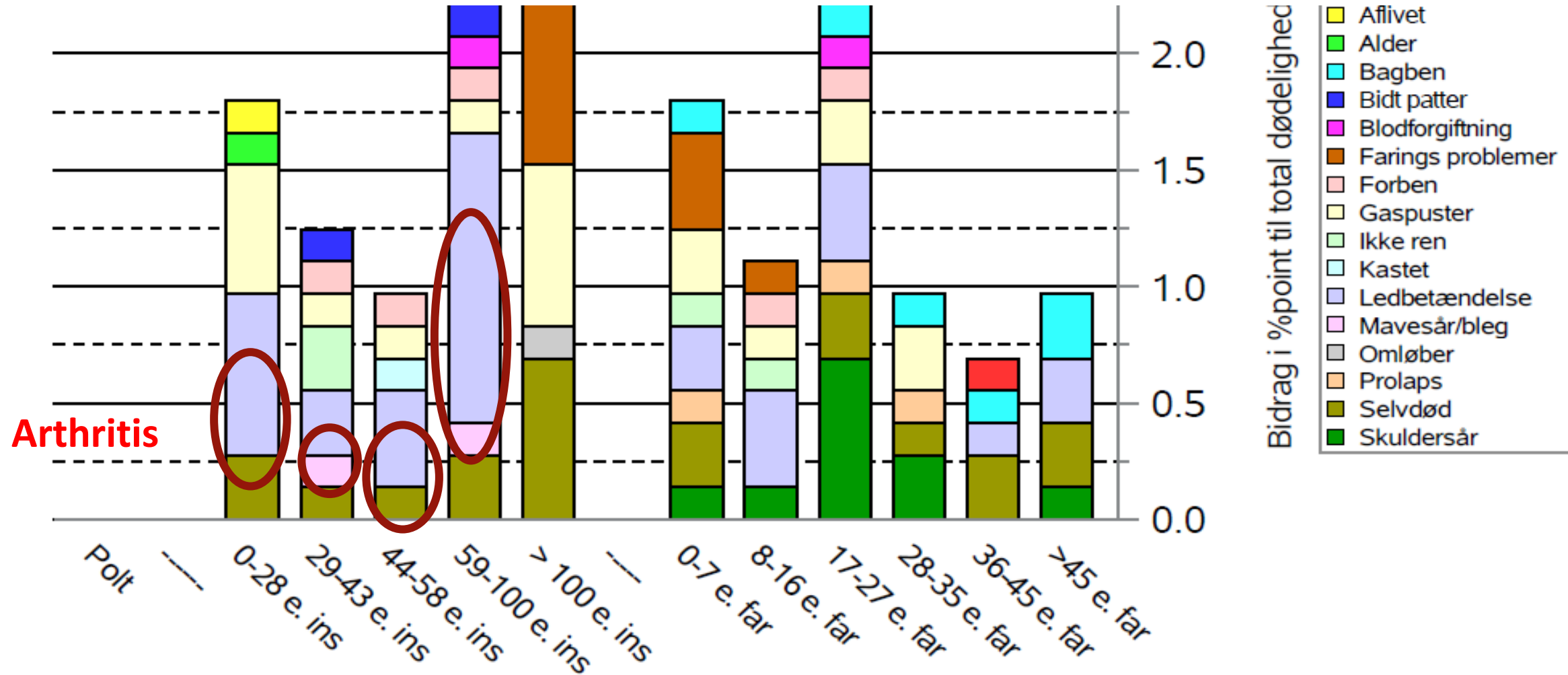
Front or hind legs

Arthritis





Culling codes according to cycle



Sick pens play an important part

- 15-20% of all sows receive treatment during gestation
- 90% of all treatments are related to legs/claws
- 8-10% are moved to sick pen
- 80% were able to return to production

Report no. 0803

- Legal requirement: 2.5% sick place units
- Recommendation:
 - Feeding stalls and ESF 3-5% sick place units
 - Competitive feeding approx. 10% sick place units



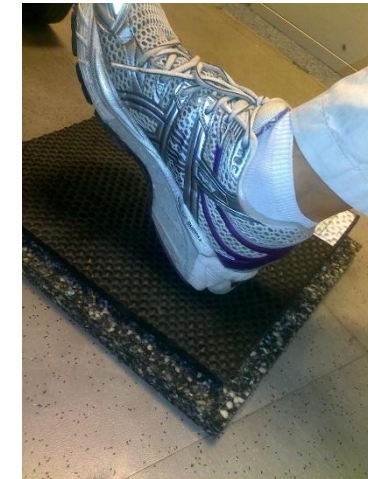
Sick pens with drained, straw mat are recommended



- Soft rubber mat
- Sloping floor
- Fasten the mat



- Soft, drained area
- Not necessary to remove straw mat
- Wire-type cleaning under the entire pen



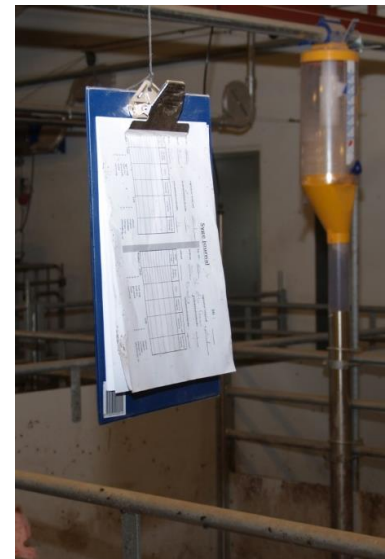
Easy access to sick pens



- Short distance from gestation pen to sick pen
- Sick pen may be part of gestation pen area



- Sows are recovered – then what?
- Back to "own pen" or collection pen
 - 1-2% place units

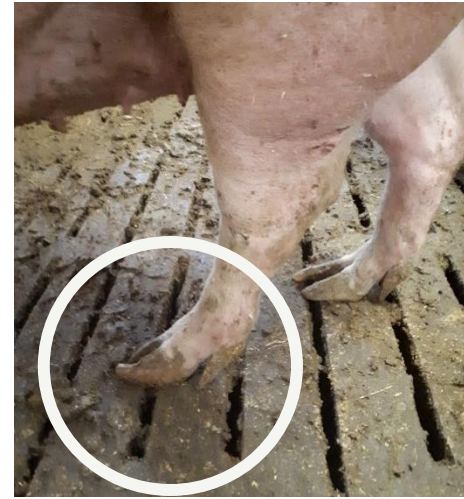


Identify sows in need of a sick pen

- Daily supervision – is daily!
 - Focus on the most important tasks
 - Have enough resources
- Experienced staff trains new colleagues
- Two persons for supervision
- Clear agreements
 - Staff are included
 - Herd vet advises on treatment strategy
- Assess if leg/claw problems can be prevented
- Learn to identify and assess sows with challenges



Prevention by culling gilts/sows with leg/claw problems



Select gilts with correct leg position and healthy, uniform claws

Assess leg position every time you move gilts/sows



Cull gilts and sows with :

- Forelegs: buck-kneed or "turned outwards"
- Hind legs under position
- Upright forelegs/hind legs
- Non-uniform/long claws



Prevention of leg and claw injuries during hierarchy fights



Access to feed and good lying areas
Increased tendency to slip and damage to claws

Stable groups
Non-skid bedding
Escape options (area, distance)
Extra feed in the first couple of days
Early intervention
Identify and know signals

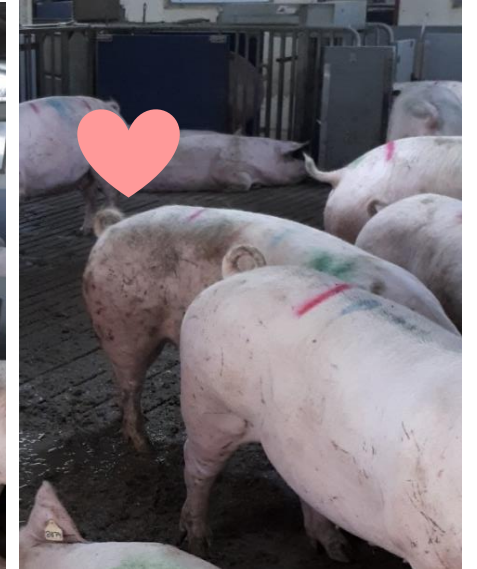
Sow in
sick pen

OBS
sows

Find and assess sows with scratches

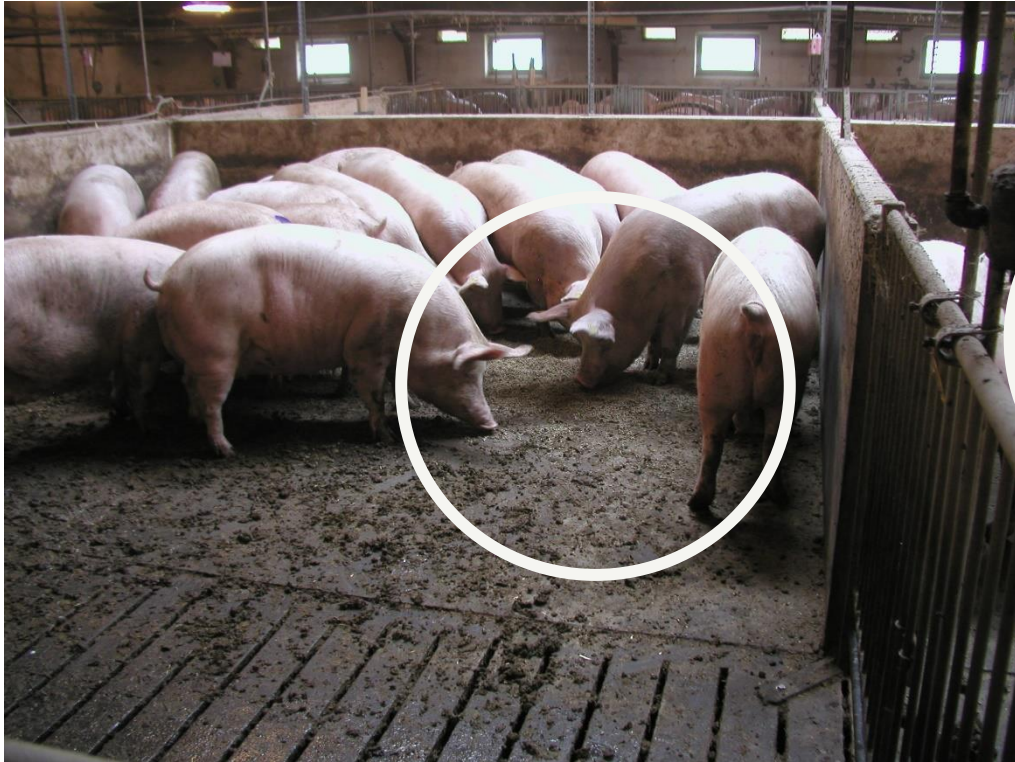


Fresh scratches on sows' shoulders are "normal" the first days in a new group... BUT must stop after 4-6 days



Scratches on sows' hind part may be caused by competition for access to feed

Find and assess sows low in the hierarchy



Strong sows keep other sows away from the feed



Sort according to age and condition (4 groups)

Scatter feed over a large area (1.3 m²/sow)

Approx. 10% sick pens (thin sows)

Provide extra care to gilts/young sows



Stable groups

Transfer gilts 1-3 days before sows

Good lying areas for all gilts/sows in the pen (low lying walls)



Find and assess sows with leg problems



Sows unwilling to get up or with stepping gait must be examined

Even minor injuries may be severe and difficult to recover from



Maintain a flow in the sick pens

Prevention and early intervention



Sick pens and collection pens



Transfer to the farrowing pen



Sick pen journal

- When was the sow transferred?
- Which treatments have been carried out?

General overview for all staff members

The journal follows the "patient"

So nr.:		
Indsat i sygesti nr.:		
Dato:		
Årsag (diagnose):		
Behandling: (Dato, initialer, medikament, sårsalve, klovpleje)	Dag 1	
	Dag 2	
	Dag 3	
	Dag 4	
	Dag 5	
	Dag 6	
	Dag 7	
	Dag 8	
	Dag 9	
	Dag 10	
Vurdering: Der vurderes løbende på om soen er i bedring. Der skal laves en bemærkning herom dag 3 og dag 7. Dette er for at tage stilling til om soen kommer sig, eller skal aflives. Ved afgang fra sygesti skal der laves en vurdering omkring slagtetidspunkt. Journalerne fra sygestierne indsamles og diskuteres ved besætningsbesøg. Informationerne kan evt. noteres på so-tavlen/i AgroSoft	Vurdering: 	
	Dag 3:	
	Dag 7:	
	Slagtning:	
	Ved afgang fra sygesti	
	Efter næste faringsrunde	
	Vurderes at kunne fortsætte i besætningen	
	Aflivet, dato:	



Quality of pigs in the herd

Who decides if a sow is replaced?

- Sows (they die)
- Staff in farrowing unit
- Staff in insemination unit
- Herd manager
- Or??? – **no plan?**





Is the sow ready for a new litter?

Include the below factors in your assessment

Previous diseases

Appropriate body condition

No leg or claw problems

No chronic mastitis (often not detected until later)

No shoulder wound

Poor milker (weans too few pigs)

Minus nervous, aggressive and old sows

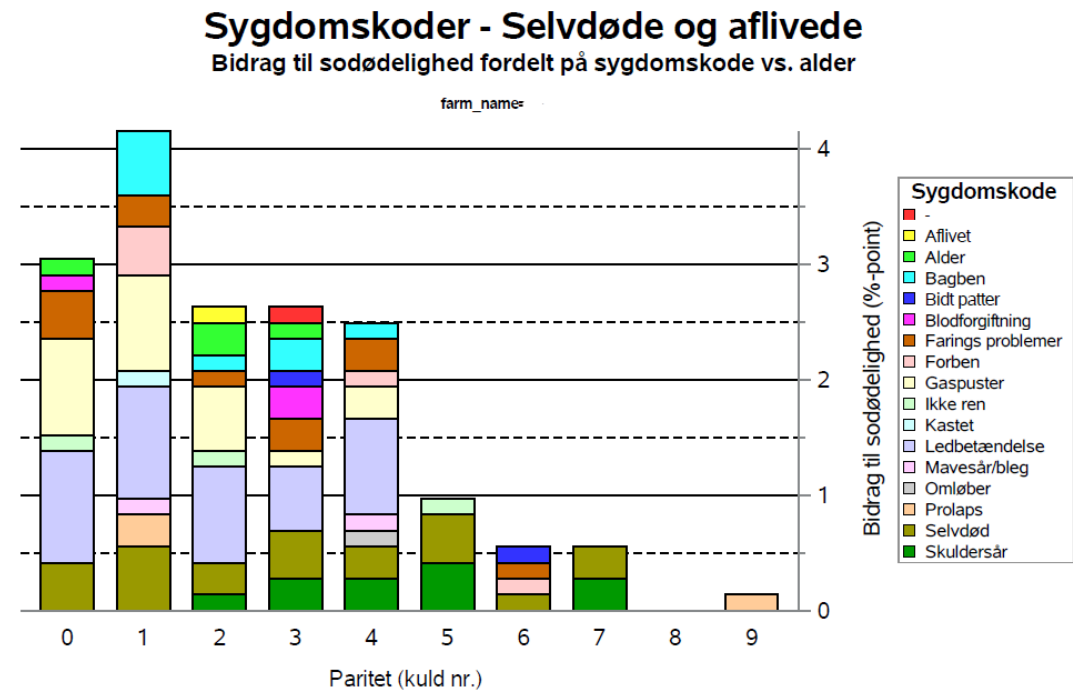
Overall production results





Culling criteria must be individually adapted on your farm

- Main challenges on your farm?
 - Legs
 - Claws
 - Total-born
 - Body condition/shoulder ulcers
 - Chronic mastitis
 - Age distribution





Communication and joint responsibility

- All sections are responsible for improving sow health
- How do we use sick pens? Transfer to/from?
- Criteria for culling a sow from farrowing pen, insemination pen, gestation pen....
- Make a priority of inspection in gestation unit
- The earlier you observe and respond to problems, the better





Nominate a "quality manager" on your farm

- Coordination between sections
- Maintaining flow in hospital pens
- Identify slaughter sows
- Use of culling codes

Good production results require healthy
SOWS





Conclusion

You make the most money on hospital pens when they are not being used!!!

- Look into your herd data to identify where your challenges lie
- Prevention is easier than cure
- Design good sick pens and move the sows (in as well as out) in due time
- Make a priority of inspection in the gestation unit
- Remember: It is a joint task
- The profit lies in preventing and reducing sow mortality