

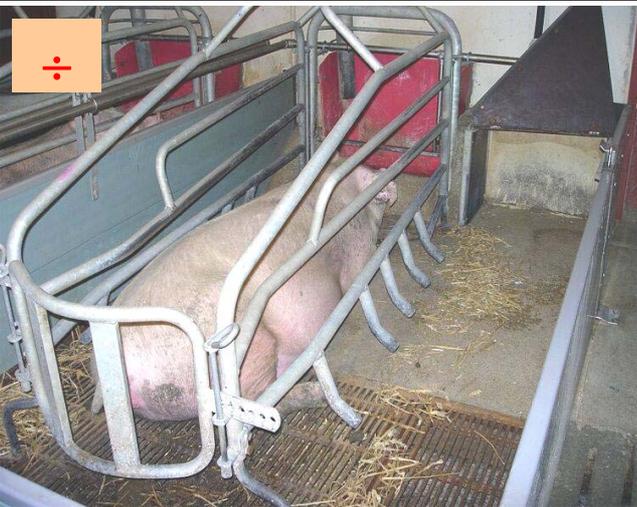
## H4 - Preparation for farrowing



A farrowing pen, ready for farrowing to take place

### A good farrowing process requires thorough preparation:

1. Transfer the sow to the farrowing pen min. 1 week before farrowing.
2. Supply 2.8-3.0 FU<sub>sow</sub>/day the day before expected farrowing.
3. Remove all dirt behind the sow the last 2 days before expected farrowing until farrowing is complete.
4. Flush the piglets' water supply before farrowing starts. For instance, put a clothes-peg on the drinker for a few minutes.
5. Supply extra water to the sow if required.
6. Litter the creep area before farrowing.
7. Adjust the farrowing crate inwards.
8. Supply nesting material once a day a week before farrowing.
9. Install a heat lamp and turn it on the day before farrowing.
10. Prepare boards for the creep areas, equipment for obstetric aid and medication.
11. Act calmly around sows about to farrow.



The heat lamp is missing and the board in front of the creep area is up

### Inadequate preparation may result in:

#### Incorrect feeding

- Restless and stressed sows, and prolonged farrowings.

#### Poor environment for the piglets

- Cold/supercool piglets are weakened and have high mortality rates

#### Poor hygiene

- Increased risk of the piglets becoming sick.
- Weak piglets.

#### Insufficient time for obstetric aid

- More stillborn piglets
- Weakened sows
- Piglets born weak.