

Farrowing surveillance and less still born piglets

Faringsovervågning og færre dødfødte

Virtual meeting in "PattegriseLiv" June 9.th.

Flemming Thorup, DVM, SEGES Pig Production

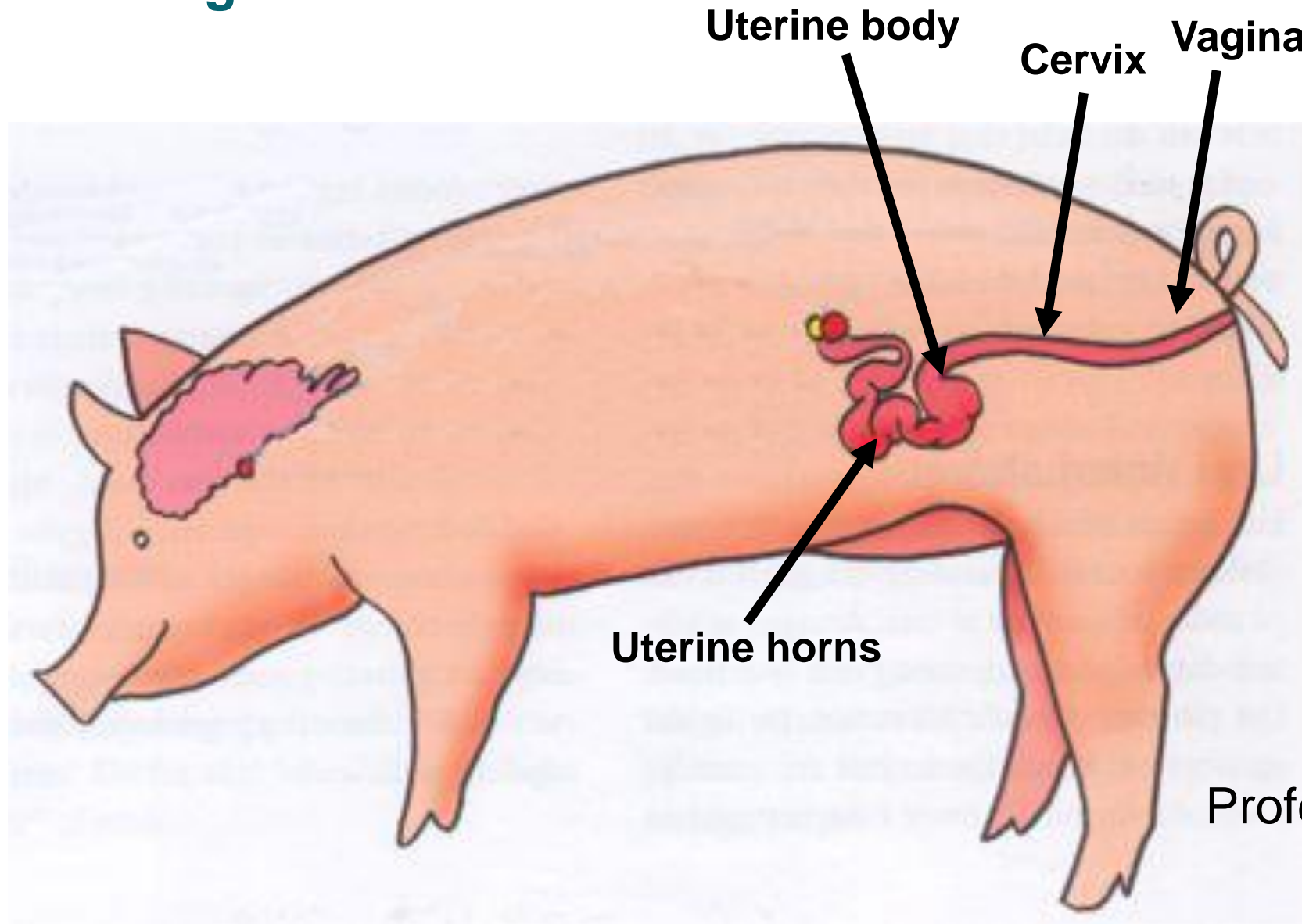


This presentation

- The uterus of the sow
- What happens before and during farrowing?
- When to assist?
- How to do assistance right?
- Which sows to assist?
- How to arrange efficient surveillance?
- What will the future bring us?



Reproductive organs of the sow



Professor Poul Hyttel

The pregnant uterus

- The sow will farrow between 15 and 30 piglets
- The piglets are placed in two uterine horns
- Each piglet lies in a sack, called placenta
- The placenta transfer oxygen from the sow to the naval cord of the piglet.
- At birth, one piglet leave the placenta, to be transported backwards through the uterine horn, through the uterine body to the cervix.
- This is done by controlled contractions of the uterine horn.
- One piglet at a time is born, while the rest of the piglets remain in their placentas, to receive oxygen.



Student lying beneath one uterine horn.
The sow was just one month pregnant.
She was 1.60 m.
The uterine horn was 2.30 m.

Piglet born within the placenta.



The normal birth of a piglet

- Half of the piglets are born nose first. The rest are born with the hind legs first. Both ways are normal.
- A piglet can be found with the belly or the back first. Try to turn the piglet around to pull it out.
- The sow will expel piglets from both uterine horns alternately. A few sows will empty one uterine horn before the other.

Signs of farrowing

- DanBred sows are pregnant in 115-120 days
 - Some textbooks say 114 days = 3 months, 3 weeks and 3 days.
- 1-2 days before farrowing the sow becomes more active
 - The sow want to isolate and build a nest.
- In some herds the sows farrow evenly day and night
- In some herds the sows mostly farrow at night



Farrowing

- Clear milk in the udder indicates farrowing within 1-2 days
- White milk indicates farrowing within 12 hours.
- The first piglets can be born with one hour interval
- From piglet no. 5, piglets will in average be born with 10 minutes interval
- When the sow is pushing a piglet from the uterus to the cervix, there are no outside signs.
 - You may see her lift a leg, indicating contractions of the uterus
- When the piglet passes the cervix, you can see the sow is having contractions.
 - Normally a piglet is born after 1-4 contractions.
 - 1-4 piglets can be born in the same contraction

It is difficult to know, if the sow has finished farrowing

- It is when the sow stop farrowing more piglets
 - Or the sow need assistance
- When you assist the sow, and do not feel any piglets
 - A good sign. But you may still see piglets being born later.
- When the placentas are expelled
 - Often placentas are expelled one hour or more after birth of the last piglet. The sow will be assisted after 30 minutes, to retrieve missing piglets.



Assistance, purpose

- Remove a piglet, that is not being born
- Save this piglet
- Save the rest of the piglets, being held back by the removed piglet
- Ease the sow

Risks when assisting

- Infection of the uterus
 - Work hygienic, to avoid transfer of bacteria to the uterus
- Stress to the sow
 - Work patiently
 - Leave the sow lying on the side when assisting
- Damage to the uterus
 - Be patient when you assist the sow
 - Is your hand too big to assist a young sow?
- Damage to the piglet
- Be patient when you pull a leg



Student lying beneath one uterine horn. The sow was one month pregnant. She was 1.60. The uterine horn was 2.30

Hygienic assistance

- [Handske-hygiejne – YouTube](#)
- Store gloves hygienically
- Remove feces behind the sow before you put on the glove
- Do not touch the outside of the glove near the fingers
- Do not touch anything with the outside of the glove
- Put gel on the top of your hand, not into you palm



Which sows to assist

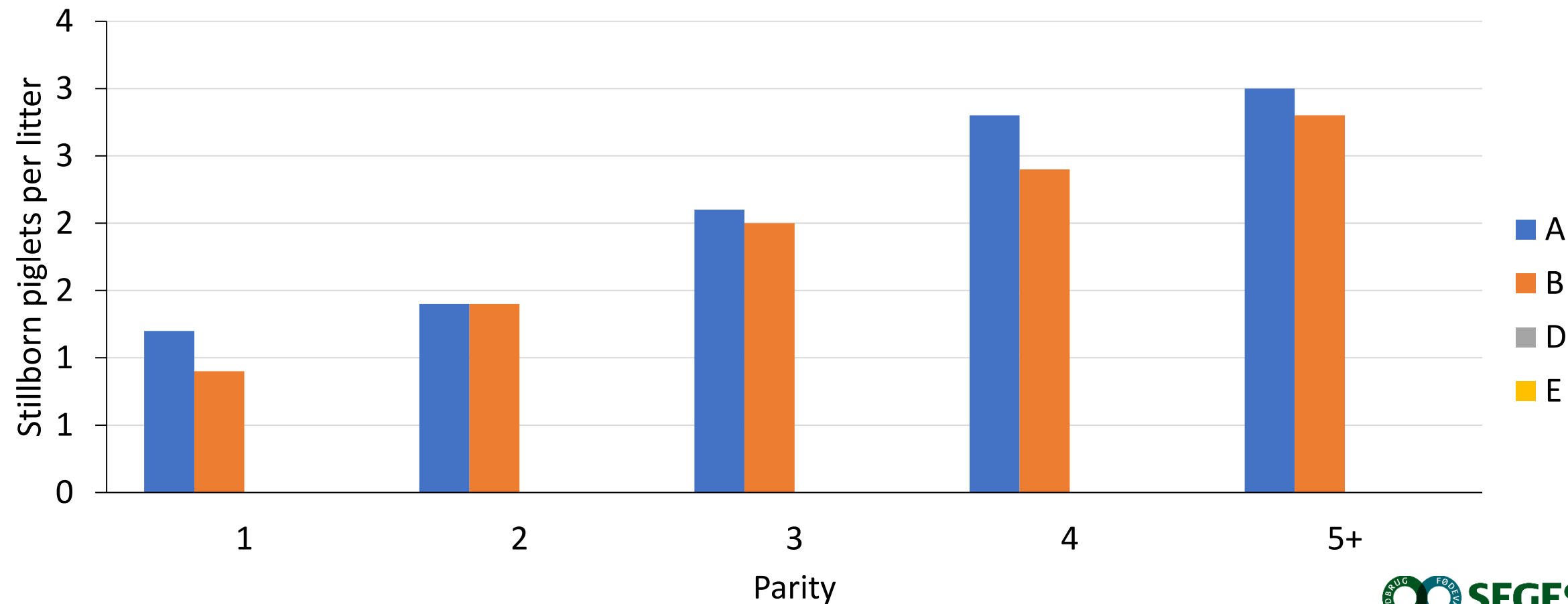
- Farrowing surveillance is most relevant when:
- Many sows farrow
 - If only one sow is farrowing today, you may just save one piglet in 6 hours
- At the end of farrowing.
 - Extend your focus after piglet no. 15
- When old sows farrow
 - Gilts average farrow 1 still born piglet
 - For every litter the risk increases with 0.5 still born piglet

When to assist a farrowing sow

- Piglet no. 1-4
 - Assist if no piglet has been born the last hour
- Piglet no. 5 -...
 - Assist, if no piglet has been born within 30 minutes
- If you have no idea of the birth of the last piglet:
 - Assist, if the sow has no wet piglets in the litter
 - And no or just a few placentas has been expelled



Gilts has in average 1 stillborn piglet per litter
For every extra litter, the sow has 0.5 still born piglet more



How to pull out a piglet

- Piglets born head first
 - Grab with index and long finger around the head
 - Or grab with thumb and index finger around the head
 - If you can not get a hold around the head, lift the head by pulling the under jaw behind the teeth



Grapping the underjaw behind the teeth's, to lift up the head



How to pull out a piglet

- Piglets born tail first
 - Grab both hind legs. One hind leg between index finger and long finger, one hind leg between long finger and ring finger.
- Piglets born belly or back first
 - Turn the piglet to get hold of the head



Systematic farrowing surveillance

- One person is responsible
 - This person has a clock (then you know, that you are responsible)
 - The clock gives an alarm with 30 minutes interval
- When the alarm sounds
 - The responsible person check all farrowing sows
- At every check
 - Register all born piglets
 - If no piglets were born since last check, then assist the sow
 - If the sow is finished, then handle the finished litter

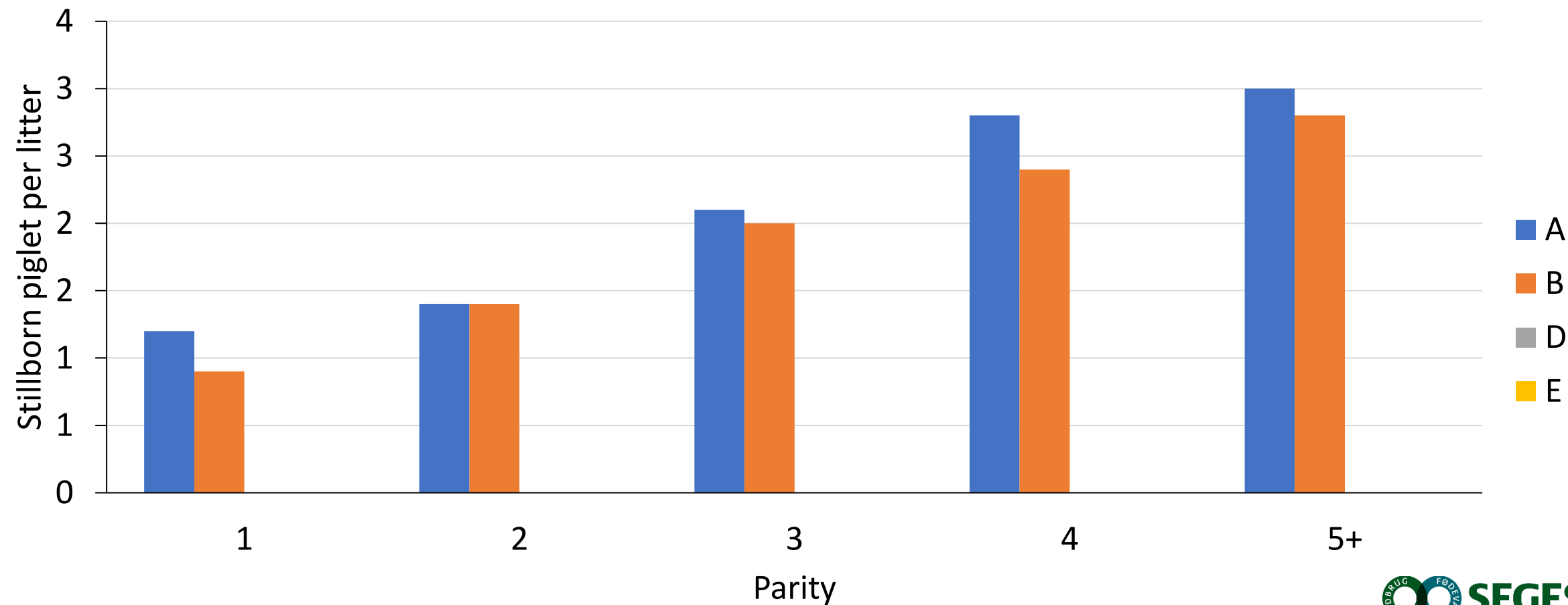
Extended working hours

- Working late/starting early
 - This will extend the time, where you can save piglets
- Evening check
 - Often many sows start farrowing just after working hours
 - They will be in the end of farrowing at 22.00-23.00 and may need assistance
 - Do not expect this to give a high reduction in stillborn piglets, but you may save some cold piglets
 - You help the sow to a better start of lactation, when the sow haven't had a long exhausting farrowing

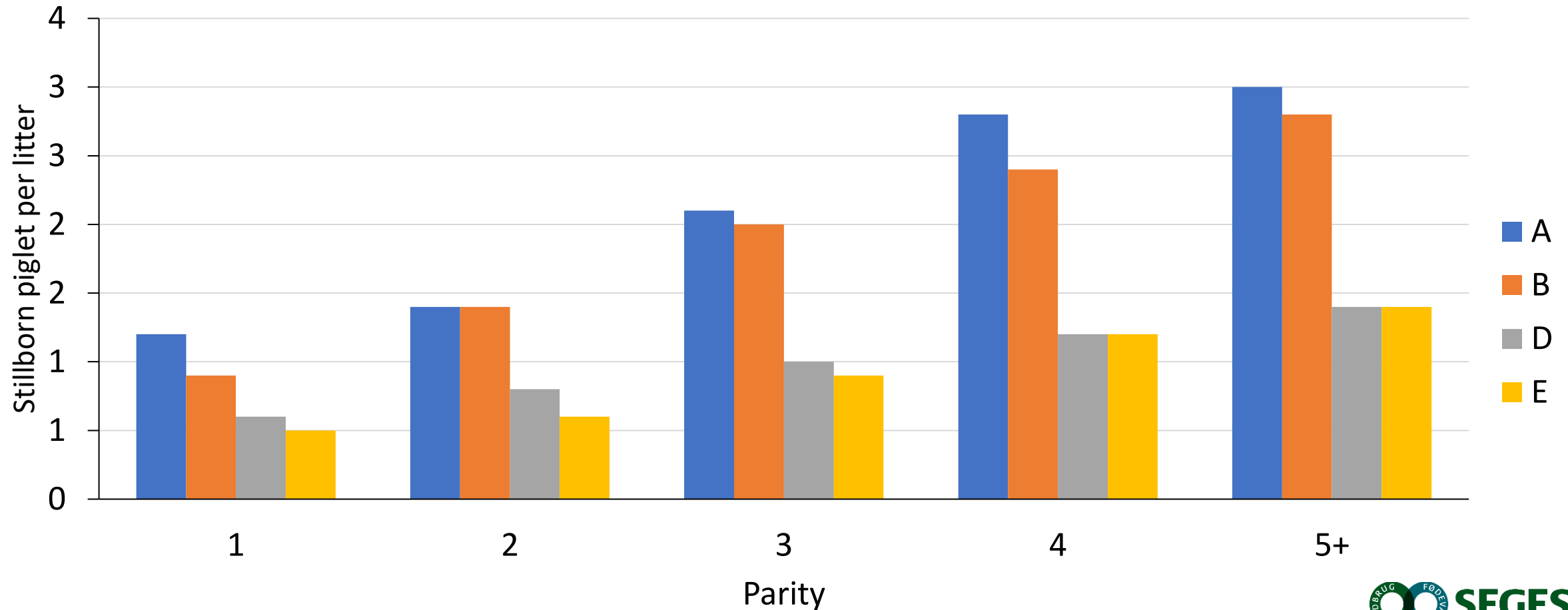
Effect of surveillance

- The average is 2 stillborn piglets per farrowing
- With systematic surveillance in the working hours, you will see 30 % of the births
 - This may reduce stillbirth rate with 0.3 stillborn piglet per litter
- With extended hours, you may see 50 % of all births
 - This may reduce stillbirth rate with 0.5 still born piglet per litter
- With a night guard you can save 1 piglet per litter
- Most of the piglets you save will survive until weaning

Gilts has 1 stillborn piglet per litter
For every extra litter, the sow has 0.5 stillborn piglet more



Herd A and B has two stillborn piglets per litter
Herd D and E has an efficient night guard. This reduce stillborn piglets in all litters with 50 %
Herd D and E has just one stillborn piglet per litter



Ongoing trial no 1717

Tools for managing farrowing surveillance

Registrering af faringshjælp

Sonr. 6494

Dato 12/6

Stald

initial	Tidspunkt	F.hjælp	Lev.f	Dødf.	Færdig
	0420	5/0	6		
	0520	4/0	10		
	0615	1/0	12		
	1200	1/0	18		
	1700	0/0	18		



Download the F-skive as an app on your phone



FarrowTech



Conclusion: Keep the piglets alive

- One person is responsible
- Follow the progress of farrowing in all sows
- Be systematic
- Have a system to register the number of born piglets
- Piglet 1 - 4: Accept 1 hour between piglets
- Piglet 5 -: Accept 30 minutes between piglets
- Remember good hygiene when assisting the sow



TAK og husk!

Vær altid opdateret på den seneste faglige viden

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