

Nurse sows

Sow identification

Zoom meeting for PorkColombia

Flemming Thorup, DVM

June 17th 2021

STØTTET AF

Svineafgiftsfonden





1/2/00 12:31





4 – 5 weeks in
farrowing unit



1-5-week service period

5–10-week gestation period

Group-housed throughout the service and gestation period



? (DK)



2015 – 2035 (DK)



1999 (DK) – 2013 (EU)

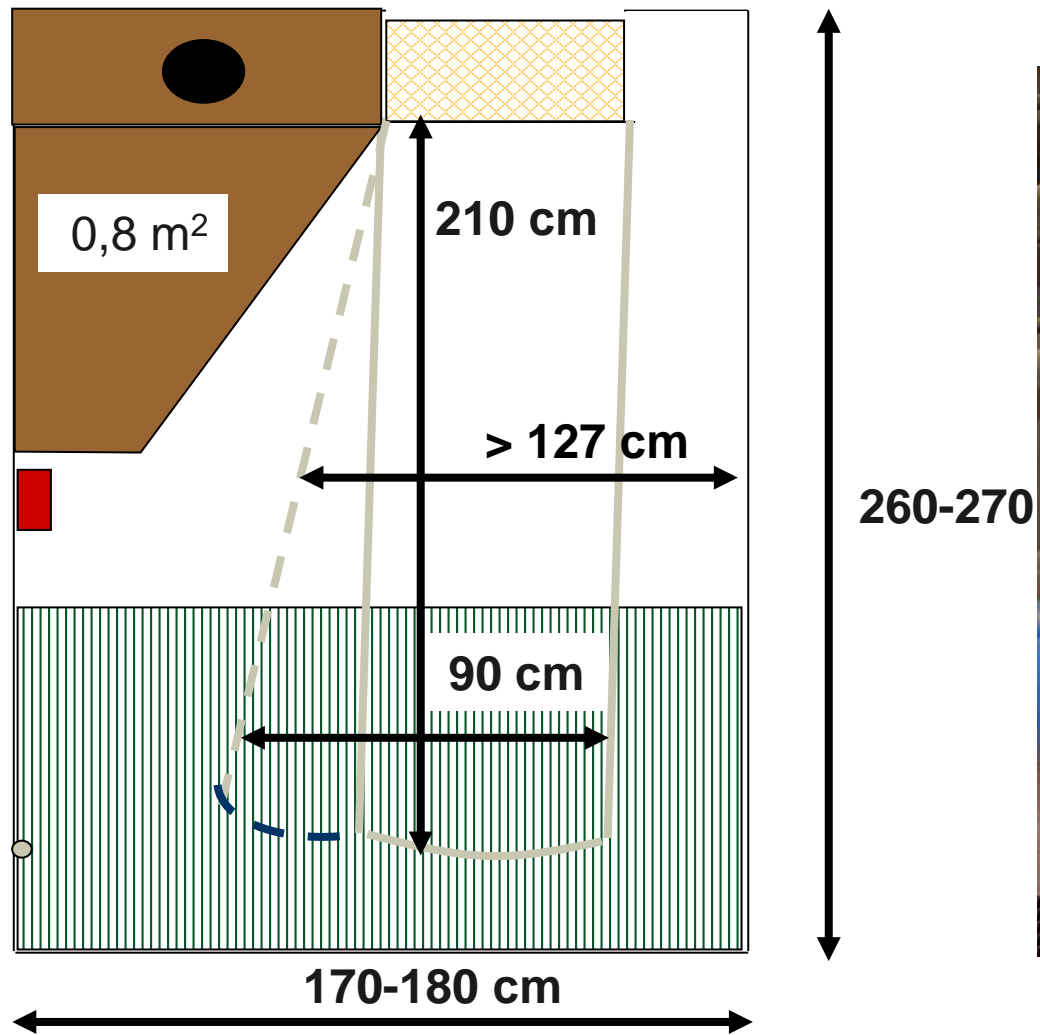


Farrowing pens

- Traditional farrowing pen, where the sow is in a crate
 - To save the piglets from crushing
- Loose housing
 - Better welfare for the sow
 - Better farrowing=less still born?
 - Better room for lactation
- Swap-pen (the sow farrow in a cage, but is loose during lactation)
 - The best from traditional pen and loose housing
 - The piglets are protected the first days
- Outdoor farrowing
 - Cheap but work-intensive
- Farrowing and/or lactating in groups
 - Tried around 1990



Traditional farrowing pen



The farrowing pen for the crated sow



Lose housing in lactation



The swap pen. The good combination

- The sow is crated during farrowing
 - This protect the weak piglets
- After 3-5 days the crate is opened
 - Welfare for the sow
 - Room for the piglets

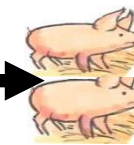
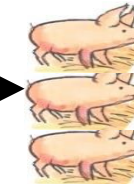


Purpose for nurse sows

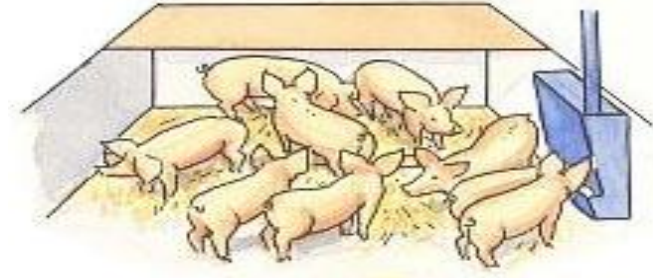
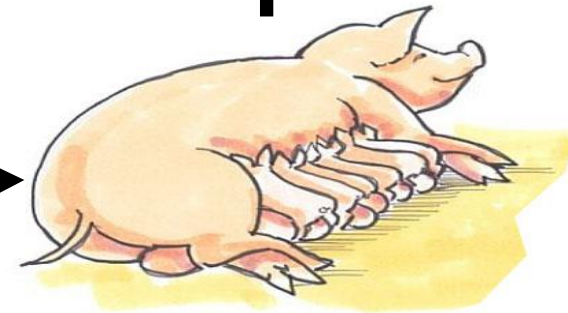
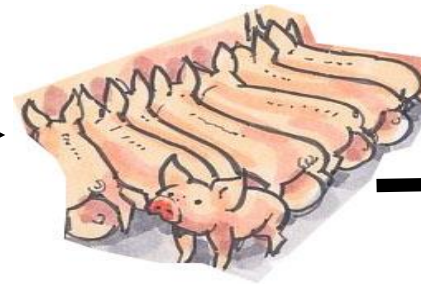
- Large litters
 - Small piglets at birth
 - Sows that does not produce milk due to disease
 - Single piglets that does not thrive
 - Small piglets at weaning
-
- The average litter size in Denmark is 17.8 liveborn piglets



The one step nurse sow



**Remember 8 hours
for colostrum intake**

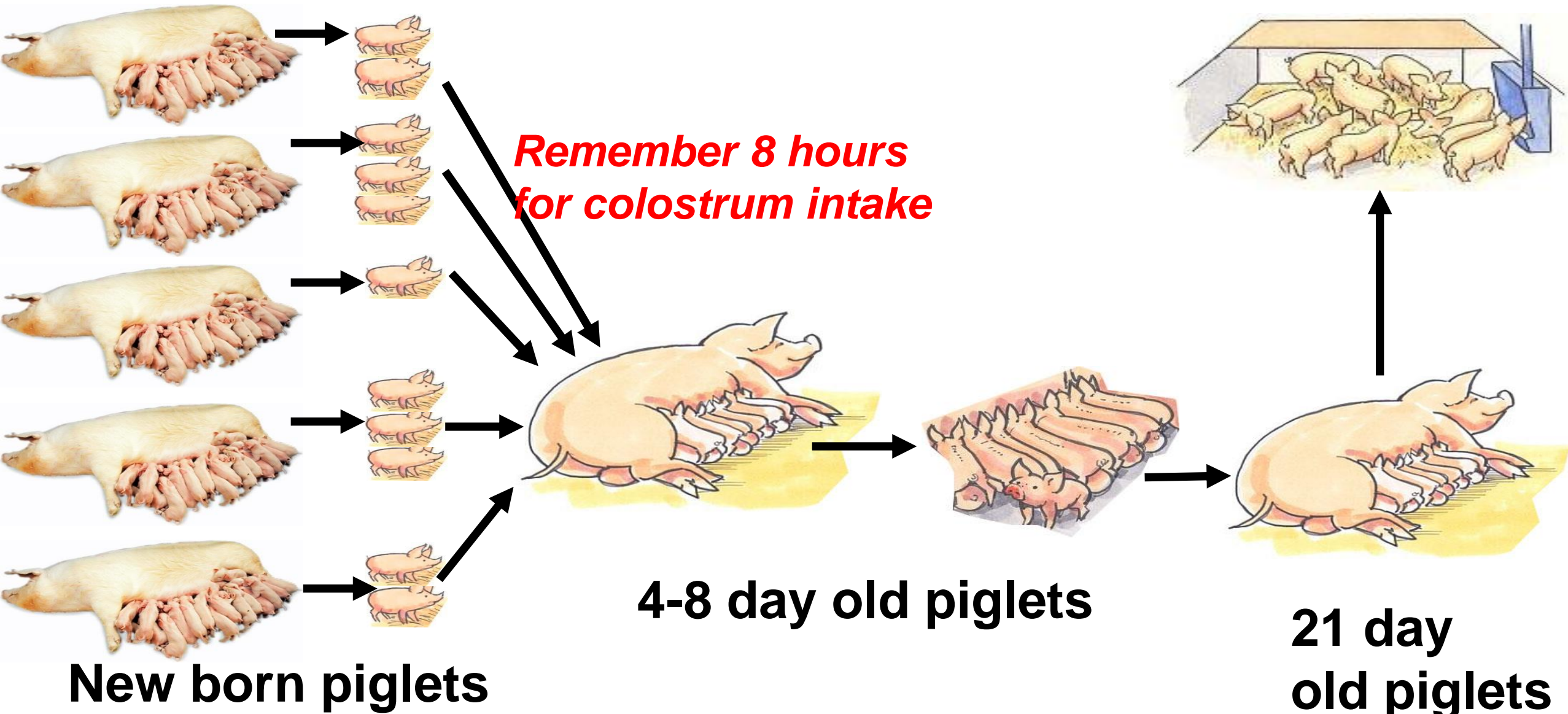


New born piglets

**21 day
old piglets**

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Two step fostering process



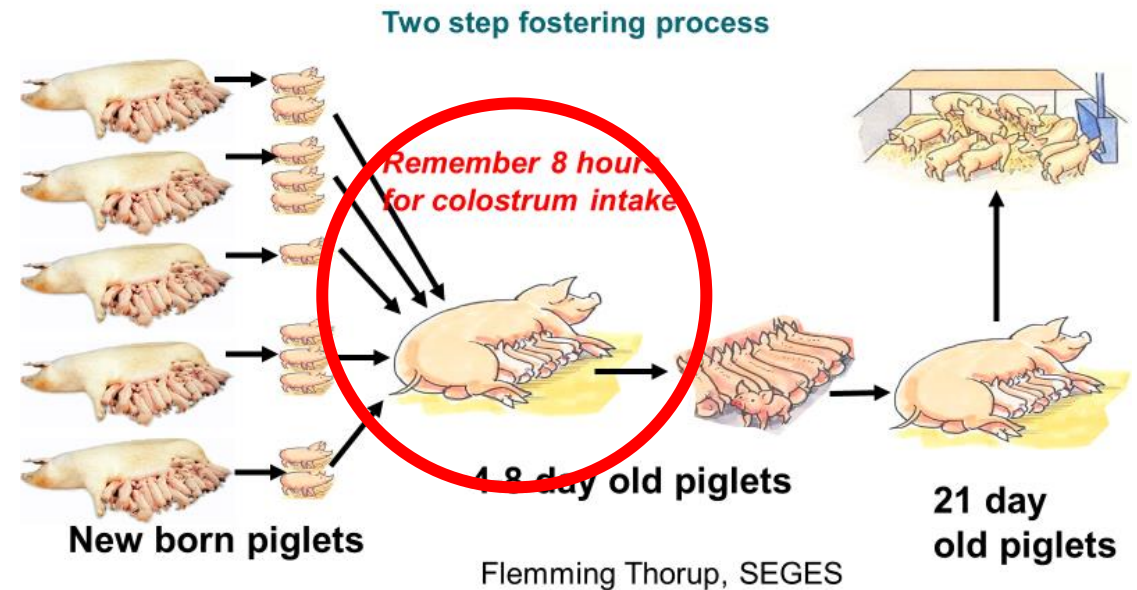
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Adjusting litter size

- **WHEN**
 - **When farrowing is over**
 - **When all piglets has had enough colostrum**
 - 8 hours after birth
 - **Before the piglets starve**
 - Before 24 hours after birth
 - **Before ranking is finished**
 - Before 48 hours after farrowing
 - **Before unused teats dry out**
 - Before 48 hours
- **HOW**
 - **Right number of piglets at the sow**
 - The number of functional glands
 - Maximum 14
 - **Right piglets at each sow**
 - Small piglets at young sows
 - Gilts give less milk
 - Large piglets at old sows

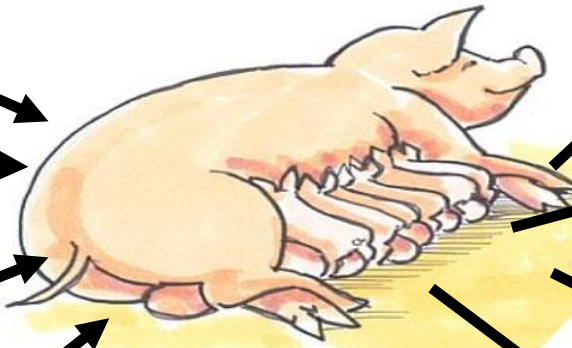
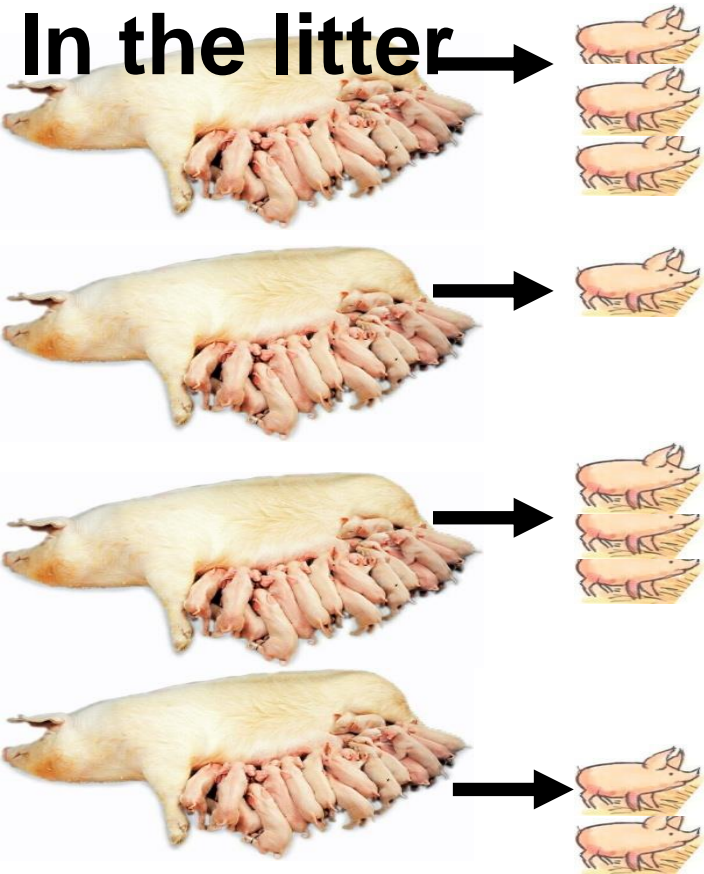
The optimal step 1 nurse sow

- Is 1st or 2nd parity
- Was lactating for 4-8 days
- Moved to the section of the piglets
- Is in good lactation
- Is relaxed
- No oxytocin



Nurse for small piglets

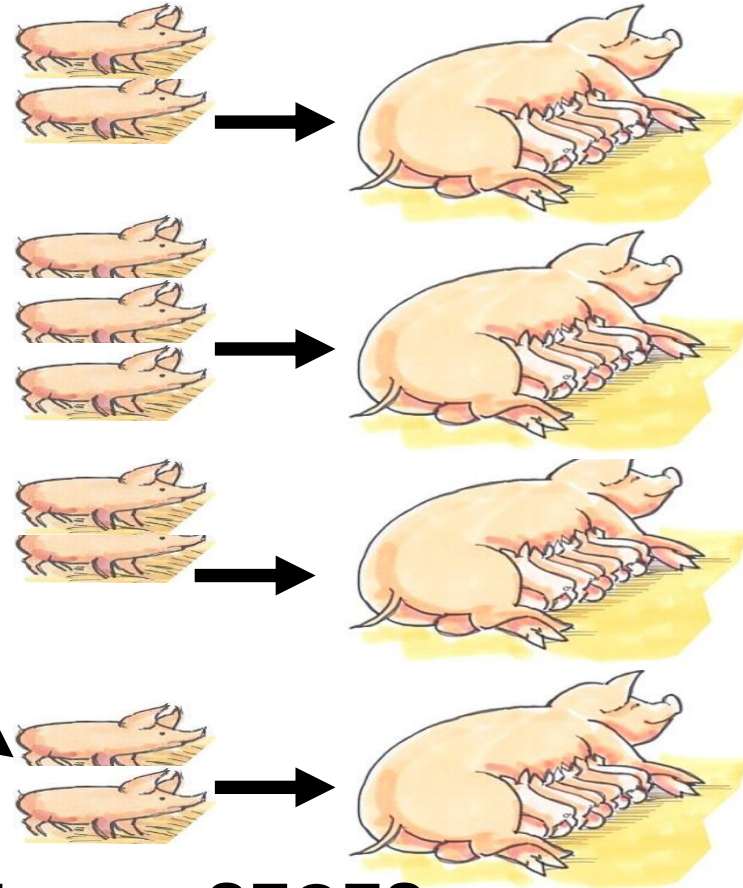
**Sows with some small newborn piglets
In the litter**



**Newly farrowed
sow with
accessible
nipples**

IGG

**8 hours after farrowing
The largest piglets
are taken to other sows**

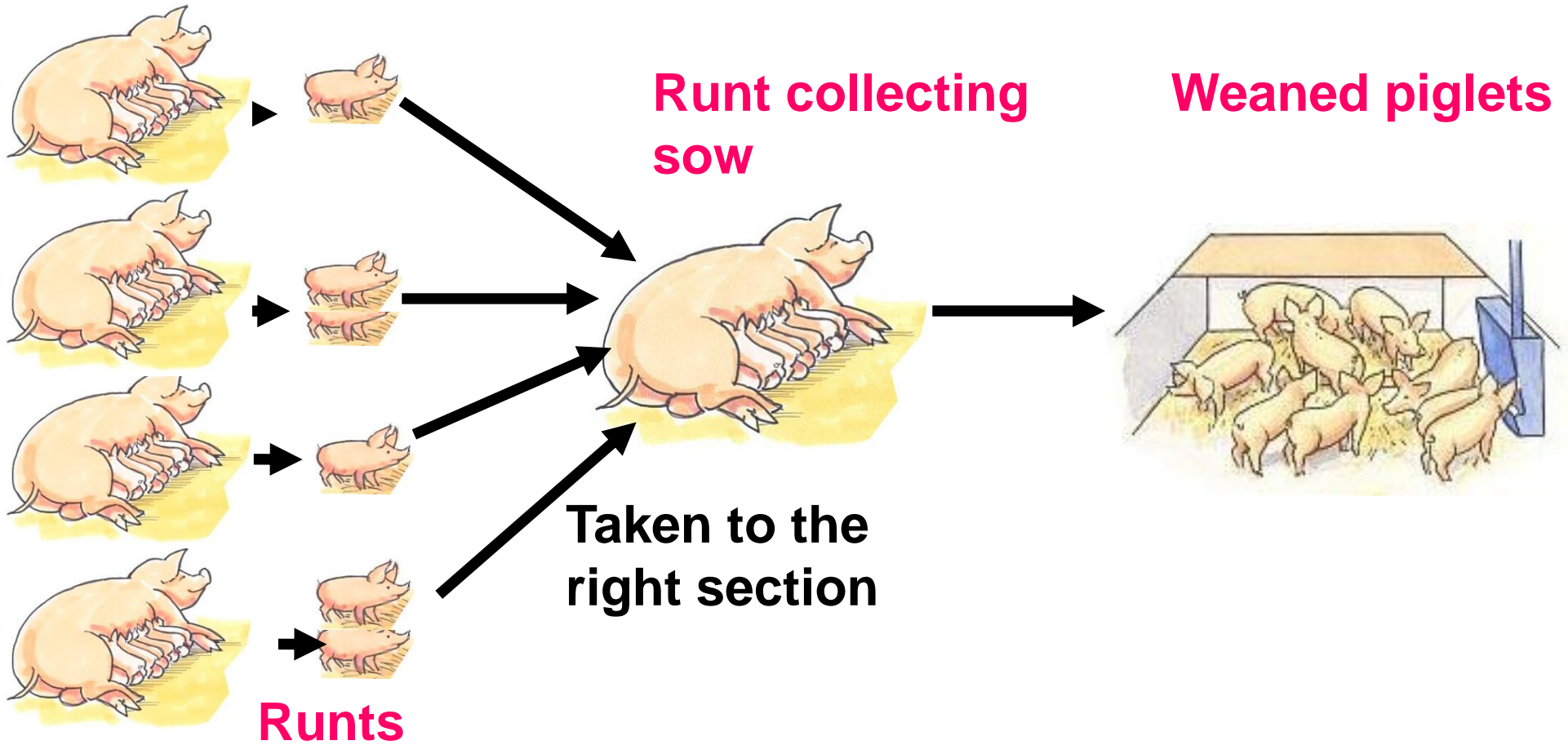


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Runt collecting sow

Expect 8 per cent runts

Most runts survive at the collecting sow



Sows with one or two runts

Alternative to nurse sows: Extra milk supply



Supplementary milk to piglets can improve litter size



14 to 20 piglets in the litter with continuous milkflow

Pedersen, 2017. Med. 1116

Litter size at day 1	14 piglets	16 piglets	18 piglets	20 piglets
No. piglets at the sow at 21 days	13.3	14.7	16.5	17.5
Weight per piglet at 21 days, kg	6,6	6,4	6,1	5,6
% piglets below 3.5 kg at 21 days	3	7	9	16

Breeding pig identification

- Breeding herd identification
- 9999
-
- Individual animal identification
- 9.999.999



- 10 mio. individual numbers/30 piglets per breeding sow and year
- = 396.000 breeding sow-years = 4,000 breeding sows in 100 years
- Central Herd ID is possible

Breeding pig identification



TAK og husk!

Vær altid opdateret på den seneste faglige viden

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