



Denmark's perspective on the state of enforcement of group housing of sows

Birte Broberg
Senior Veterinary Officer
Danish Veterinary and Food Administration



Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

Danish legislation on group housing of pregnant sows and gilts was adopted in 1998 and came into force 1 January 1999

This legislation was very similar to the EU-legislation on group housing of pregnant sows and gilts, which came into force 1 January 2003

We are now facing the end of the transition period by 1 January 2013





Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

The number of farms with sows and the approximate number of sows on the farms can be drawn from the Central Husbandry Register

In January 2012 these numbers were:

10 – 99 sows	100 – 249 sows	250 – 749 sows	≥ 750 sows
270 farms	420 farms	1296 farms	424 farms

There is no registration on the system used on farms for keeping pregnant sows and gilts

The Danish pig industry estimates that approx. 75 % of pregnant sows and gilts are now kept in group housing systems





Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

Elements, which will form a basis for the Danish action plan:

- Controls according to Directive 2008/120/EC to secure compliance with the legislation are carried out in 5 % of farms
- Danish legislation include an order from June 2010 on own check on animal welfare
 - With regard to pigs it is applicable to premises, which have ≥ 300 sows, gilts or boars, ≥ 3000 slaughter pigs, or ≥ 6000 weaner pigs
 - This legislation is combined with the legislation on health consultancy, and if a farmer with a smaller number of animals enter into a health consultancy contract, which most do, the provisions in the order on own check also apply





Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

Farmer's own check on animal welfare:

- ☞ The aim is to ensure that legislation on animal welfare is complied with
- ☞ The person responsible for the animals shall draw up an own check programme or use a code of good practice drawn up by a relevant organisation and approved by DVFA

The practicing veterinarian responsible for the health consultancy contract shall:

- Carry out an audit on the farmer's own check
- Give advise on animal welfare at each consultancy visit and draw up a visit report



Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

The Danish action plan to monitor the transition to group housing systems for pregnant sows and gilts include:

- ☞ A letter has been send to practicing veterinarians, who audit farmer's own control programme. The veterinarians are asked to secure that farmers, who have not yet implemented group housing systems, have focus on the provisions, on the deadline, and possible sanctions
- ☞ The inspectors, who carry out controls on animal welfare is instructed as above
- ☞ A continued dialogue with the pig industry in order to follow the situation





Implementation of group housing of pregnant sows and gilts

It is expected that pregnant sows and gilts in all farms are kept in group housing systems according to Directive 2008/120/EC by 1 January 2013

However, in case a non-compliance is identified after 1 January 2013 the farmer will as a general rule be reported to the police for further legal action





Thank you for your attention



Questions?