

Group housing of sows - the UK experience

**Stakeholders and Member States
meeting**

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National Pig Association**



national pig association



UK sow stall ban

- The UK converted to loose housing in 1999
- No stalls are allowed during gestation
- It was a sharp learning curve but it was possible
- Most farmers would never go back



Making the change

- Do it properly!
- Take note of space requirements
- The Directive will need to be properly enforced
- Retailers won't always pay!



Give support where it is needed



- Member states should support the majority of farmers who have invested
- An “out goers” scheme for the others
- Don’t encourage non-compliance
- Don’t financially disadvantage those that have converted

The EU will not be 100% compliant by 2013

- We need to accept this fact and be prepared
- Learn from the poultry industry
- Manage the market impact



Challenges as we see them

- Targeting the minority
- Traceability of pigs and product
- Managing market regulation
- Having the right resource



Protecting EU pig industry reputation

