

Improving udder quality traits in sows to aid survival, health and lifetime performance of piglets

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Udder conformation

- ✓ **Increase Litter size**
- ✓ **number of piglets equals or exceeds teat capacity**
- ✓ **Low colostrum intake**
- ✓ **Survival, health and lifetime performance**

Time taken to suckle is affected by:

- ✓ **the vigour of the piglets**
- ✓ **the behaviour of the sow**
- ✓ **udder conformation**



Aims

Develop methods to classify and improve udder traits in sows:

- ✓ conformation
- ✓ colostrum quality and ease extraction
- ✓ change of conformation cycle life.

Material and methods

Data collection:

- ✓ Udder, teats and colostrum traits.

Methods will be developed to determine:

- ✓ udder traits → piglet survival and lifetime performance.
- ✓ Udder traits changes over the reproductive cycle and lifetime.

Genetic studies:

- ✓ key udder traits heritability
- ✓ genetic correlations with maternal selection criteria.

Results



Acknowledgements

