



# Get gilts used to routine before serving

Before their first service, it is important that gilts are familiar with the routine of moving to the heat detection area and service pens where they should also be able to explore the area and meet the boars. This will reduce stress, keep gilts calmer and help ensure strong standing reflexes during insemination. BPEX Work Instructions 13 and 14 on humanising and handling gilts have more information.

Be aware that gilts are notorious for taking a long time to inseminate, which can be due to stress. A good gilt familiarisation routine will help to reduce this along with calm, patient staff in the service area.

Serving gilts in a small AI pen (typically 2m x 2m) with good boar contact will also increase the chances of a successful insemination. See *Action for Productivity factsheets 29, 30 and 31* for more information on AI.

Good gilt management is the starting point of a productive breeding herd and will help improve the number of pigs weaned per sow per year, the aim of BPEX's Breed+3 initiative.



For more information on Breed +3 and to download the publications mentioned here, go to: [www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/breeding](http://www.bpex.org.uk/2TS/breeding)

## New innovation event

A new BPEX Innovation Conference will take place at Stoneleigh Park on **18 June 2013**. This one-day event will showcase the latest innovation in pig building design and pig breeding as part of the Breed +3 initiative.

Full details will be announced soon but, in the meantime, please put the date in your diary.



Save the date

## People management pack

A new 'Pig Manager's Human Resources Pack' will be available from BPEX this month to help pig unit managers provide staff with more support and a structure for their development.

It includes an induction manual which can be tailored to each farm to help integrate new starters into the business. The manual contains templates for key contact details, farm procedures and outlines for specific activities, detailing which team

member is responsible and dates for completion, to help make sure all tasks are done. More informed and efficient staff are better able to help improve pig performance too.



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