

Development of an organic piglet production system where batch-wise breeding is made possible by exploring the natural physiology of the sow

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When planning the project we had three organic piglet producing farms in mind. One of them did not have time to participate in our project. The other two farms were interested in participating in the project. However, one of the farms did not have the possibility to perform sampling while the sows were held on pasture. Therefore we decided to increase the number of sows during the indoor season so the total number of animals included in this project would remain the same. This decision also postponed the start of the project until the autumn of 2014.

When the project was about to start one of the farms dropped out due to family reasons. We were, however, able to include a new organic piglet producing farm in the project although located further from Uppsala. This was the reason why the start of the sampling on this second farm was delayed

Boar contact trials, fecal sampling (for progesterone analyses) and registering of estrus detection, pregnancy results etc. started at the first farm week 44 and on the second farm week 50. Half of the samples have been collected at the first farm and the last group of sows included in the study at this farm will farrow around the 15th of February. The second farm has not reached halfway in their sample collection, due to the late start of the project. The sampling at the second farm will be finished later in the spring.

We have arranged an information meeting at SLU for the participating farms. At the meeting we informed about the project and also about current organic pig reproduction research.

We have visited the first farm five times. The first time to inform about the project,, discuss present routines, plan modifications of boar pens, deliver sampling bags and a freezer for sampling storage. During the following visits we have helped with sampling and brought samples to SLU.

The second farm has been visited two times. The first time to inform about the project, control how, discuss present routines, plan modifications of boar pens, deliver sampling bags and a freezer for sampling storage. At the second visit samples were brought to SLU.