

## Straw —&— Hygiene

Research has shown that pigs need about 500 grams of straw/pig/day to get full utlet for their investigative behaviour. In practice however, the pigs gets much less than that, although we know that more straw gives more opportunities to perform natural behaviour and reduces the risk of tail biting. The reason for the moderate straw rations are often that more straw would risk poor pig and pen hygiene as well as causing problems in the manure handling systems. Our studies show that this may not be the case.

## WHAT WE DID

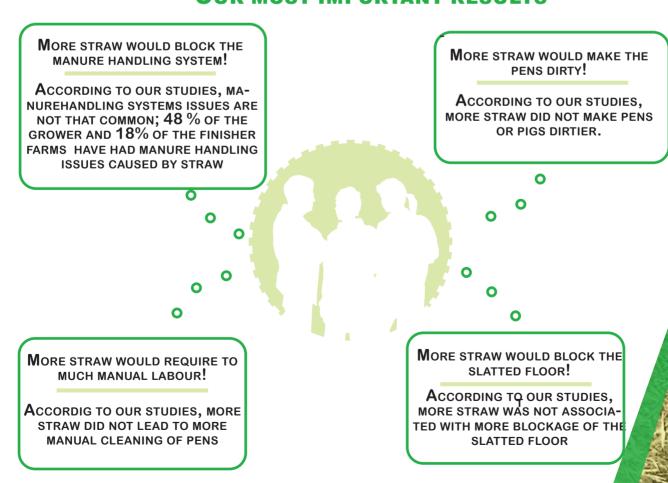
We asked 60 producers regarding their straw usage and occurence of tail biting on their farms. These results were complemented with practical experiments in three commercial grower and four commercial finishing pig farms. The aim was to study how producers use straw and how straw affects pig behaviour and the occurence of tail biting.

## How we did it

In the survey, we asked questions regarding for e.g. straw provision and problems in the manure handling system. In the practical experiments, one batch per farm was divided in to two equal parts; one control and one extra straw. The two parts were managed as usual with the difference that the control pens were suppliced the farm normal amount of straw and the extra straw pens with a doubled straw ration. A normal straw ration was around 15 liter straw/pen of 10 pigs. The farmers made daily recordings regarding cleaning och pens. Every other week we made recordings regarding pig and pen hygene.

24 % OF THE PRODUCERS CLAIMED THEY WOULD HAVE WANTED TO PROVIDE THE PIGS WITH MORE STRAW, IF IT WAS NOT ASSIOCIATED WITH CERTAIN ISSUES PROBLEMS

## **OUR MOST IMPORTANT RESULTS**



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