

High-pressure cooling in the pig house cools the pigs in the summer heat

High-pressure cooling benefits the pigs and creates a comfortable working environment in the house.

In the summer heat, a cloud of water vapour can have a very beneficial effect on the pigs' well-being. The water vapour can lower the house temperature by 5-6 °C.

Pigs are sensitive to high temperatures, and the warm periods can affect their well-being and productivity seriously. Therefore, SKOV A/S have developed a system for high-pressure cooling, which an increasing number of pig producers now install while renovating or building new houses.

- With high-pressure cooling, atomized water particles are sent out into the house. The water particles evaporate in the heated house air, which cools the air. In Denmark, high-pressure cooling can lower the temperature by 5-6 °C, depending on the real temperature outside the house and the relative humidity, says Michael Tækker, SKOV's trade manager of the pig sector.

High-pressure cooling is topical in warm periods, for even with a high air capacity in the house, practice shows that at outside temperatures above 30 °C, there will be considerably lower growth and an increased mortality of the pigs. Already at house temperatures of 24-26 °C, the pigs begin to change their dunging behaviour, i.e. they make themselves dirty on the solid floor. If the house temperature exceeds 25-27 °C, there is a tendency of smaller litters due to the semen quality of the boars deteriorating.

- High-pressure cooling is to be considered an extra possibility of lowering the temperature in the house, and besides, high-pressure cooling can be used independently of the used ventilation principle, says Michael Tækker.

The working environment in the house can also be improved by means of high-pressure cooling as the system control, which is controlled by SKOV, includes a working environment function. This function increases both ventilation and the activity of high-pressure cooling during the time when employees are in the house so that dust and gases in the house air are reduced while the temperature is lowered.

- High-pressure cooling can also be used for soaking and disinfection of the house. Finally the high-pressure system has the advantage that it replaces the compulsory spraying, says Michael Tækker.

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