

Press release

SKOV helps develop intelligent pens for sows with piglets

SKOV A/S now aim to help farmers improve the control of the climate in individual farrowing pens to ensure that more piglets survive the initial difficult time.

Quite a few piglets die during birth or immediately after, among other things because they are born weak and get too cold immediately after birth.

SKOV is now addressing this issue in collaboration with researchers from the Danish Faculty of Agricultural Sciences, the University of Aarhus and Danish Pig Production. Together, they will create the intelligent farrowing pen in a new research project.

– Today, the climate is controlled simultaneously in the entire house section. If we can find a method to control heat in individual farrowing pens, we will be able to create much better conditions for both sows and piglets. If the life of just one piglet of each litter can be saved, the financial gain will increase and so will the well-being of the pigs, says Jørgen Yde Jensen, CEO of SKOV.

The research project recently received a DKK 10 million grant from the Danish National Advanced Technology Foundation.

– We want to offer the farmer a tool that enables him to control the climate on the basis of the behaviour of the sow in the individual pen. This means that if a sow is about to farrow in a pen, heat will automatically increase in this specific pen only, says Jørgen Yde Jensen.

– The intelligent farrowing pen will also be a good management tool providing the farmer with intelligent information about the conditions at pen level. The farmer will get important information about the well-being of the pigs and an opportunity to nip small problems in the bud before they develop – to the benefit of productivity and the well-being of the pigs, continues Jørgen Yde Jensen.

He is pleased that his company, which is situated in Glyngøre, Salling, is taking part in this new research project.

– We have a history of targeted collaboration with national and international education centres, and this has made it possible for us to attract qualified employees and create a large development department that works on the development of tomorrow's solutions for agriculture, says Jørgen Yde Jensen.

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