

# Maternités collectives

## Une stratégie d'avenir pour les naisseurs-engraisseurs ?

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### **Sow farm collectives: an opportunity for farrow-to-finish producers?**

Sow farm collectives may be a future trend in pig farming. A survey was conducted in 2008-09 on 36 sow farm collectives in the western part of France. The aim of the study was to describe, for the first time, their production and management methods, and to determine the strengths and weaknesses of the sow farm collective model. Above all else, a sow farm collective relies on good relationships between members of the collective. However, and in spite of excellent technical results, the piglet transfer price is higher than that of conventional systems owing to a higher cost of production. Nevertheless, most breeders are satisfied with the model, citing two main advantages: reliable supply of weaned piglets (for entry into their feeder pig operations) and the opportunity to maintain and possibly grow their business but still comply with increasingly stricter environmental, welfare and regulatory constraints. For these reasons, there is a renewed interest in sow farm collectives, particularly from farrow-to-finish producers.