

Spécificités du salariat féminin en élevage porcin

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Characteristics of salaried women's work on pig farms

In the agricultural sector, like many others, women's work differs from men's work. Indeed, the different amounts of time devoted to family and the practice of relegating administrative and delicate tasks to women contributes to this difference. The first goal of this study was to determine if women working on pig farms and their employers believed gender impacted the work done on pig farms.

The second goal was to determine if these differences affected women's motivation and farmers' willingness to employ them. Fifteen (15) farms, employing one or more women, were selected. On each farm, one employer and all salaried women were interviewed individually. The women were asked about their career, the tasks they do and their past pregnancies. Talks with employers focused on working conditions, recruitment requirements and gender impact. A total of 19 women were interviewed. All possible work areas on farm were represented in the sample though most women worked in the farrowing rooms. On pig farms, salaried women did all of the tasks related to their section (station or department). However, they did not drive the tractor or do as many Do-It-Yourself (DIY) jobs as men. Pregnancies and family life did not impact their work. More DIY and courses in tractor driving could improve their autonomy but only if common perceptions about what genders can and cannot do disappear.