

Incidence des conditions d'élevage sur le comportement et le risque de blessures chez les porcs mâles entiers.

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Effect of farming conditions on behaviour and lesion risks in entire male production

Four batches of boars were used to investigate the effect of four bi-modal factors on behaviour and lesion score. Pigs were restrictively fed with dry pellets (Rsec) or with liquid feeding (Rsoupe), or fed ad libitum with dry pellets and slaughtered at a standard or heavy weight (119 vs 134 kg liveweight, Plourd); the boars of these three batches were obtained from crossbred Large White x Pietrain sires. The boars of the fourth batch were obtained either from Pietrain or crossbred Duroc x Pietrain sires (Gen). Neither feeding conditions nor slaughter weight influenced sexual behaviour, which remained at a low level (less than 2.5% of the active behaviour). A significant increase in the amount of negative social behaviour (aggression, biting, head knocking) was observed under restricted feed allowance, both in dry (Rsec) and liquid feeding systems (Rsoupe). Lesion score tended also to be higher in restricted Rsec males than in ad libitum ones ($P < 0.1$). Pietrain offspring presented a higher lesion score than Duroc x Pietrain ones. It is concluded that entire males should be fed ad libitum and attention should be paid to the sire in order to limit aggression and subsequent lesions.