

Welfare-friendly Technologies in Moderate-scale Pig Farms in China

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INTRODUCTION

Since 2015, International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW) and World Animal Protection had chosen influential pig farming companies to set up humane and sustainable agriculture pilots in China.

The project is aimed to develop and promote humane and sustainable alternative systems in intensive farms suitable for the Chinese circumstances, so as to improve the health, productivity and welfare level of sows and pigs.

CONCLUSIONS & IMPLICATIONS

Improving the welfare of sows helps improve the performance and health of sows and reduce the use of antibiotics. **At present, 4 of the pilot producers have made public commitments on high welfare farming.**

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METHODS & RESULTS

The project has established high-welfare farming pilots in cooperation with 7 Chinese pig producers, some of which are top producers in the world. Through standardizing the operating guidelines for animal welfare-friendly farming in the pilot, the project continuously helps companies **change from stall system to group housing system with enrichment materials**, so as to improve the comfort of pig houses, and improve the welfare and health of pigs.

Through comparing the production data of sows in the crate system and the group housing system of two pilots, Guangdong Dexing Food Co., Ltd. and Zhejiang Qinglian Food Co., Ltd. , it was found that many indicators had been distinctly improved.

indicators/averages	DEXING group housing	DEXING stalls only	QINGLIAN group housing	QINGLIAN stalls only
Farrowing rate (%)	91%	92%	93.25%	92.05%
Gestation (days)	116	115	114.98	114
Total live born (per litter)	11.0	10.7	12.61	12.33
Total litter weight (kg)	17.0	NM	16.28	14.2
Average piglet weight at birth (kg)	1.55	NM	1.29	1.15
Mummified (%)	0.1%	0.6%	0.58%	0.5%
Stillborn (%)	1.3%	3.3%	2.2%	3.4%
Heat repetition (%)	1.4%	2.1%	4.8%	5.3%
Live piglets born per sow per year	25.3	24.6	27.3	26.3
Sow culling rate (%)	35%	38-40%	NM	NM

