

MS DryCare – Determining the usage value at the Pig Farm Testing Zone

Determining the usage value provides insight into the function of the product based on experience. This is not comparative research.

MS DryCare is a product developed by MS Schippers

27 September 2016, Rosanne Vos



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Goal

- Determining the dryness of the piglet nest in birthing pens when spreading them with MS DryCare

Outline of the project

- The project is a part of the Pig Farm Testing Zone
- No statements are made regarding improved performance, only about the usage experience (non-comparative research)

The Sterksel Pig Innovation Centre (PIC) is a partner of the 'Pig Farm Testing Zone', an innovation project partly made possible by a contribution from the European Regional Development Fund within the context of OP South



Europese Unie

Europees Fonds voor Regionale Ontwikkeling

Provincie Noord-Brabant

OPZuid

Europees Innovatieprogramma Zuid-Nederland

Material – animals

- For testing, 12 sows were used for one phase in the birthing stable (four weeks)
- The sows were housed in conventional birthing pens
- The animals (sows and piglets) were fed and handled according to the operational standard at the Sterksel Pig Innovation Centre (PIC)

Material – spreading method


- Spreading of the product occurred based on 75 g/m² of solid flooring (that is 45 grams for a piglet nest of 0.6 m²)
- MS DryCare was spread daily in the piglet nests from 1 day before the birth to 3 days after the birth
- Before MS DryCare was spread in the piglet nest again, old remnants were first removed.

Material – scoring method

- Preceding each spreading of product, the piglet nest was scored daily.
- Score
 - 0 = completely dry piglet nest
 - 1 = < 50% of the piglet nest was wet
 - 2 = > 50% of the piglet nest was wet

Results - scoring list

Date	Score per pen number											^a = Note	
	1	3	5	7	9	11	12	10	8	6	4		2
14-8								0 ^a					Pen 10 had an earlier birthing due date
15-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	PIGLET 0	0	0	0	0	
16-8		PIGLET 0		PIGLET 0				0					
17-8	PIGLET 0	0		0		PIGLET 0	PIGLET 0	0		PIGLET 0			
18-8	0	0		0	PIGLET 0	0	0	0		0		PIGLET 0	
19-8	0	0	PIGLET 0	0	0	0	0	0	PIGLET 0	0		0	
20-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
21-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
22-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 ^a	0	After a customer visit, it was agreed to use 2 scoops instead of 3 in pen 4
23-8	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	a	0	a	Upon discussion with the client, it was decided to cease the spreading of product. The animal caretaker says this is not necessary.
24-8											PIGLET 0		
25-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	The nests are checked and scored on dryness
26-8											0		
27-8											0		
28-8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	The nests are checked and scored on dryness

 = spreading of DryCare
Piglet = birth

Results

- When using 75 g/m² of solid flooring, the piglet nests in all the birthing pens scored as dry



Result

- In one pen, a score of one was given the day after the birth* (see *photo on the right*)
- In this pen, 50 g/m² of solid flooring was used
- * due to delayed onset of birth in the sow and all the birthing pens scoring as dry, it was decided with the client to spread one pen with 50g/m² of solid flooring



Result

- On Monday (22-08) after the birthing week, it was decided, at the request of the animal caretaker and upon discussion with the client, to cease the spreading of product due to a continued score of 0.



Conclusion

- MS DryCare, when used at 75 g/m² of solid flooring, continually resulted in a dry piglet nest.

