

# Housing 2013 - Loose?

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With funds from  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and EU

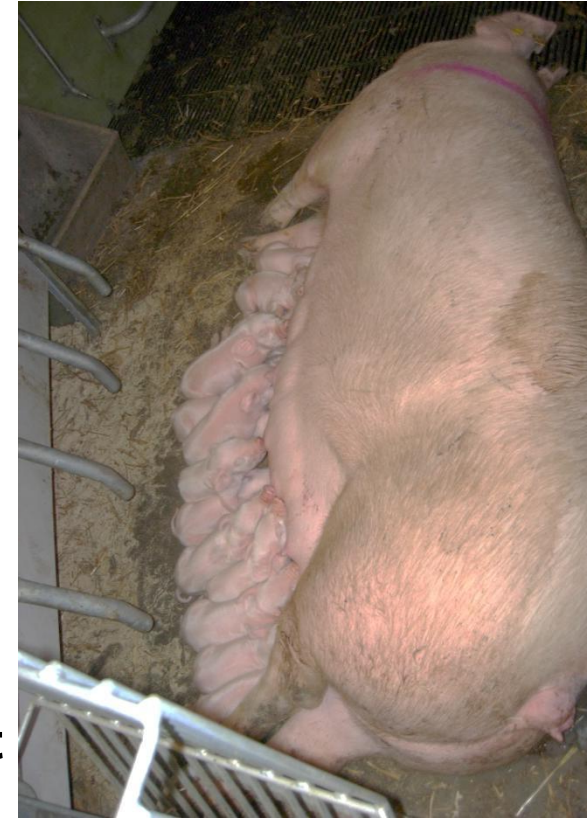


# Take home messages ☺

- **In the future – all Danish sows are loose housed - in all units**
- **2013 – All gestation units**
- **201x – All new mating units**
- **202y – All new farrowing units**

## **Successfull loose housing of lactating sows**

- **Periods – before/during/after farrowing**
- **Principles need to be fulfilled**
- **Work routines – every day or only once**
  
- **Management, feeding etc can be learned – but pens are ‘permanent’ – so do it right!**
  
- **FF and SWAP pens – developed according to**
  - Sow, piglets and staff
  - Periods, principles and work routines

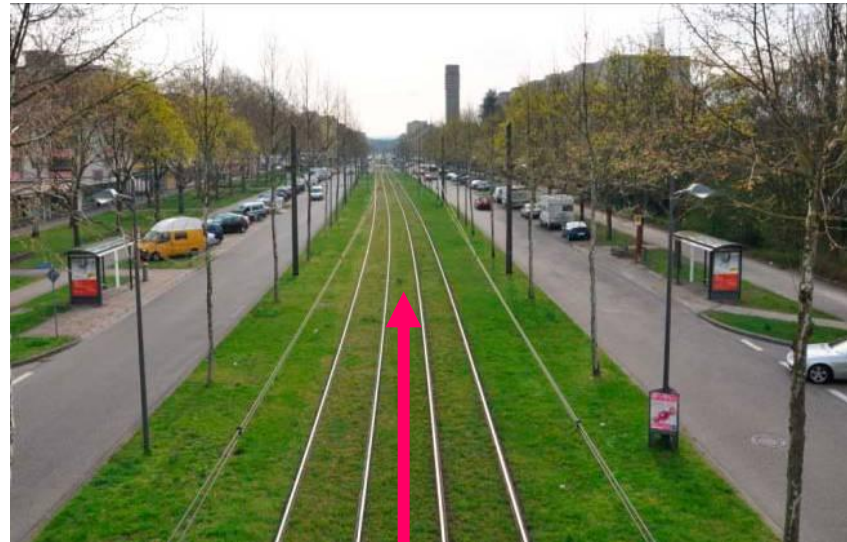




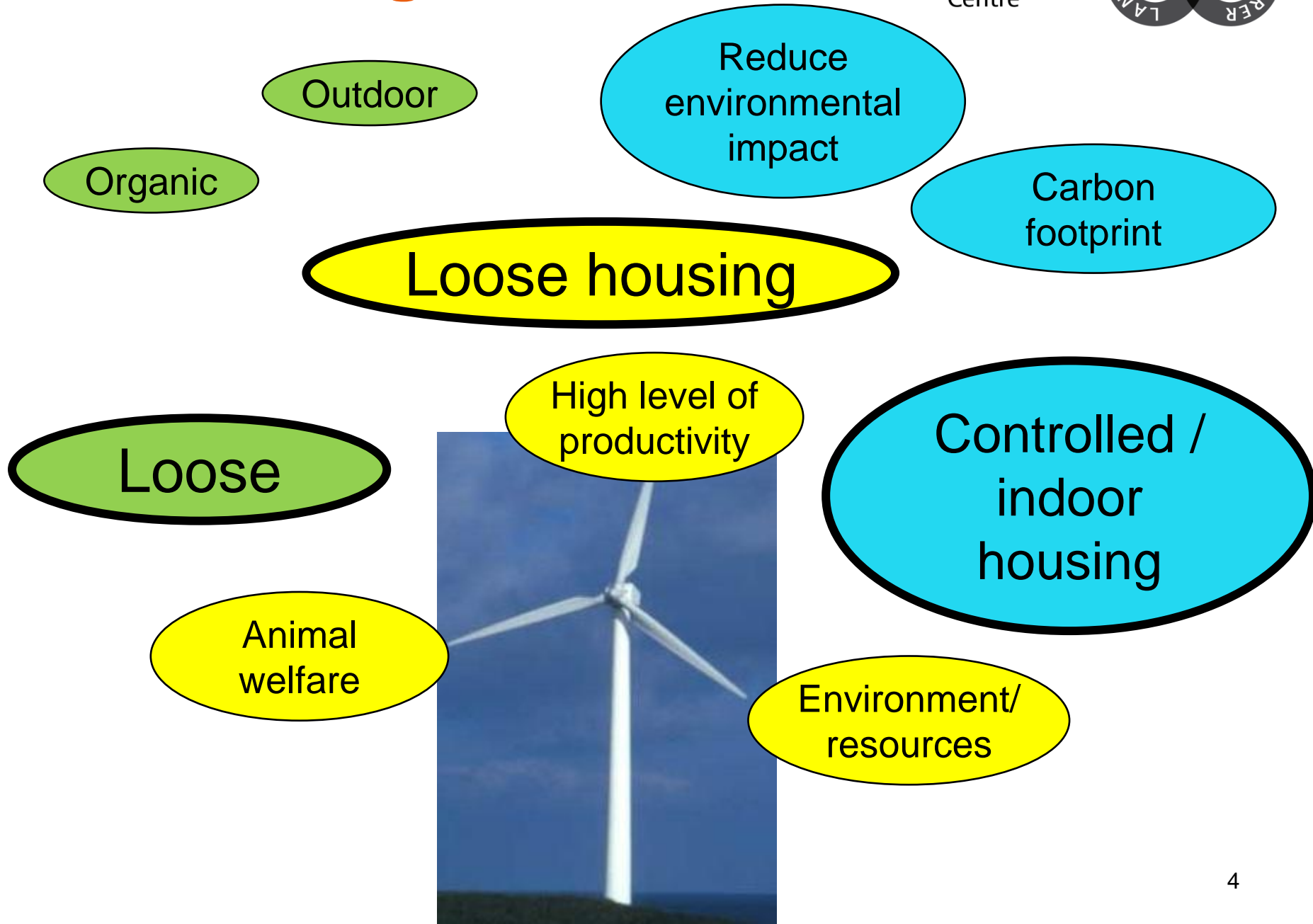
# Housing of lactating sows

- **Free farrowing**
  - Free farrowing – limited in most countries
  - And if legal requirement – production has decreased significantly
- **So**
  - We should learn from experiences across countries
    - Ask the most important questions
- **Housing of pigs**
  - Two tracks
    - Crates
    - Loose farrowing
    - - or in between

Temporary crating



# Increasing demand



# Housing - design

- **Think: Before – during - after**
- **Include important principles and details**
- **Think work routines**
- **Pens might differ -**
- **Housing of gestating sows**
  - Feeding stalls
  - ESF
  - Liquid feed/mash diet
  - Floor feeding
- **Service/mating unit**
  - Also different needs
    - Mixing/coming into oestrus/fetal implementation/...



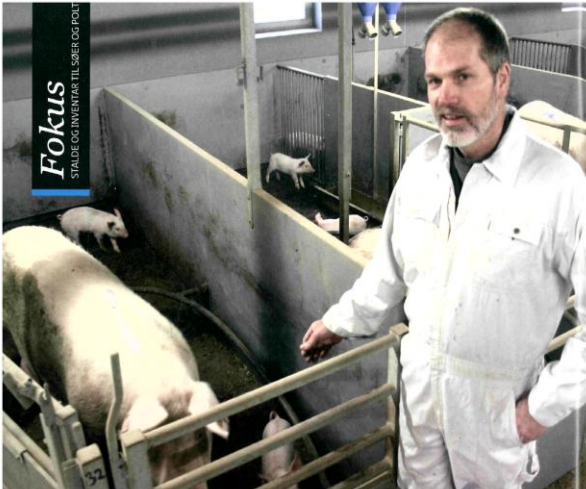
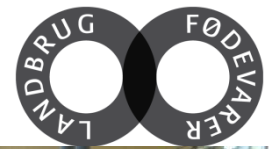
Do we have a perfect design for the loose lactating sow?





# Different Danish designs

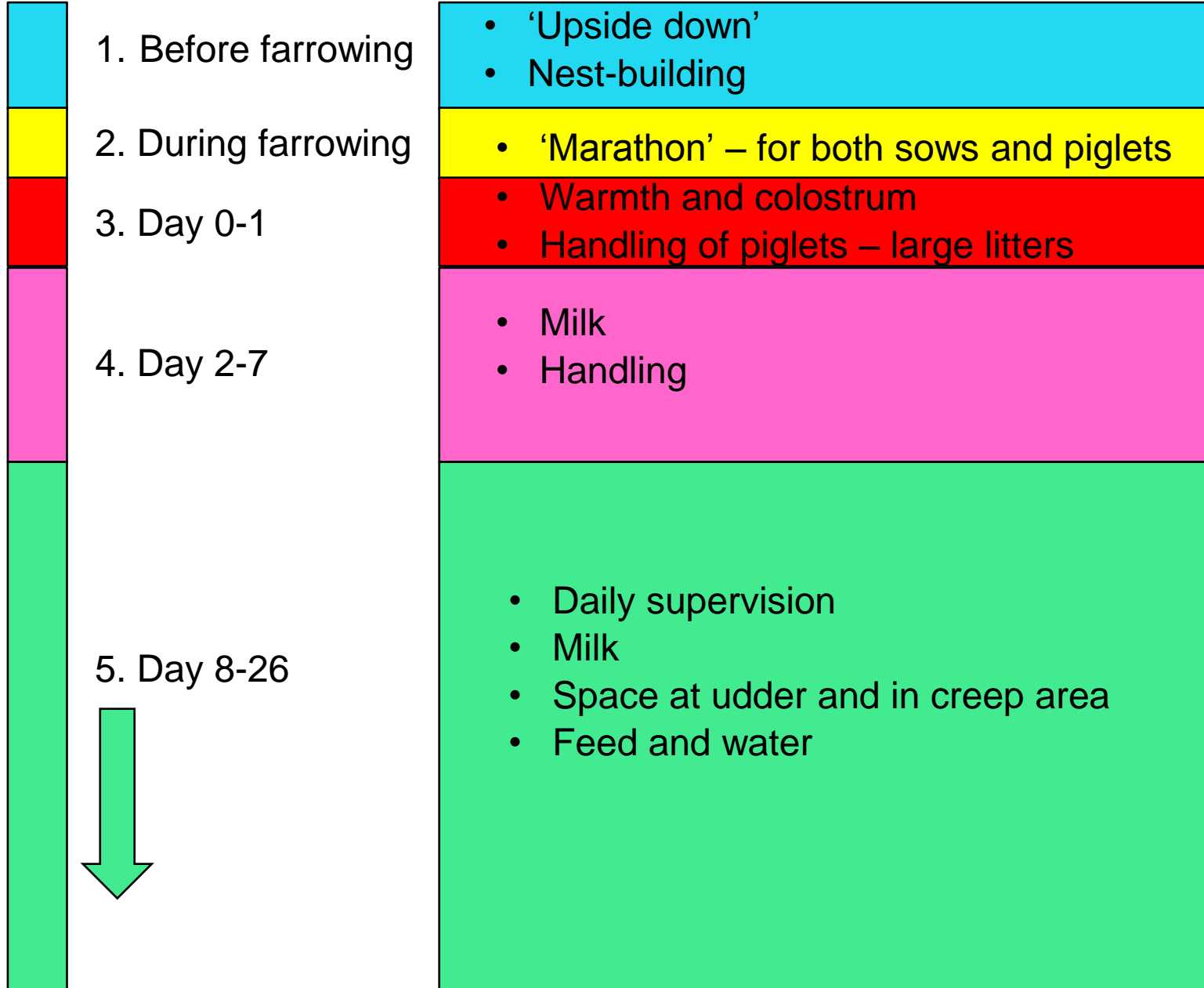
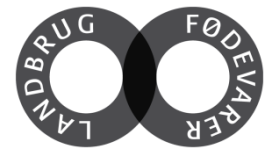
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Will be tested  
in 2013



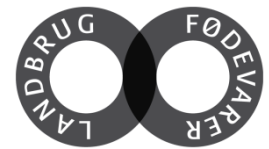
# Periods



# Denmark - Loose farrowing

## - joint project 08-10

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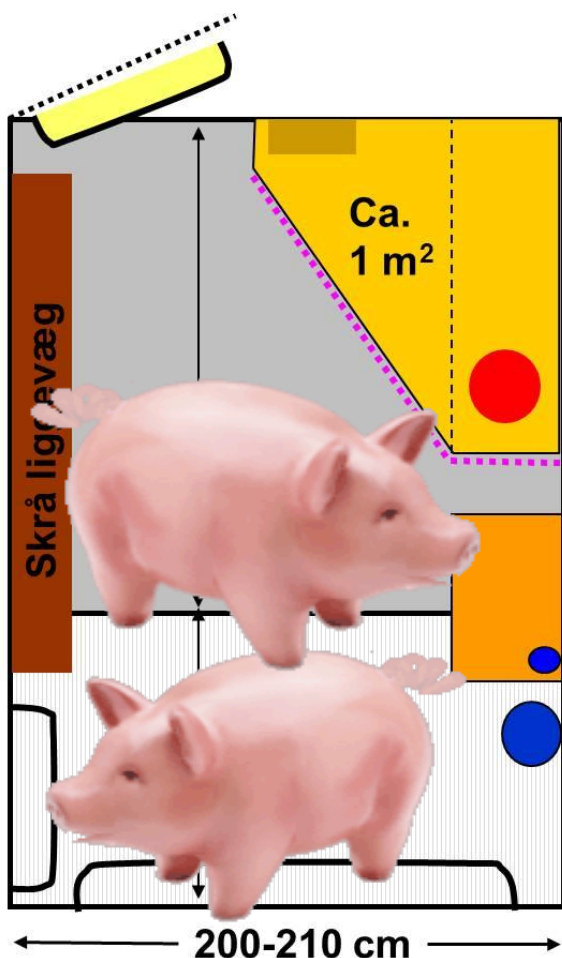


- **Research, development and practical experience**
- **Criteria**
  - Sow
  - Neonatal piglets
  - Staff
- **Project group**
  - Jyden
  - Danish Animal Welf. Soc.
  - DJF - AU
  - SAAC
  - Skjold
  - Perstrup
  - Hedegaard
  - SKOV
  - Ergofloor
  - PRC





# Framework



## 1. Creep area adjacent to the aisle

- Piglets are checked everyday
  - Safety
  - Fast
  - Limit risk of disease transfer

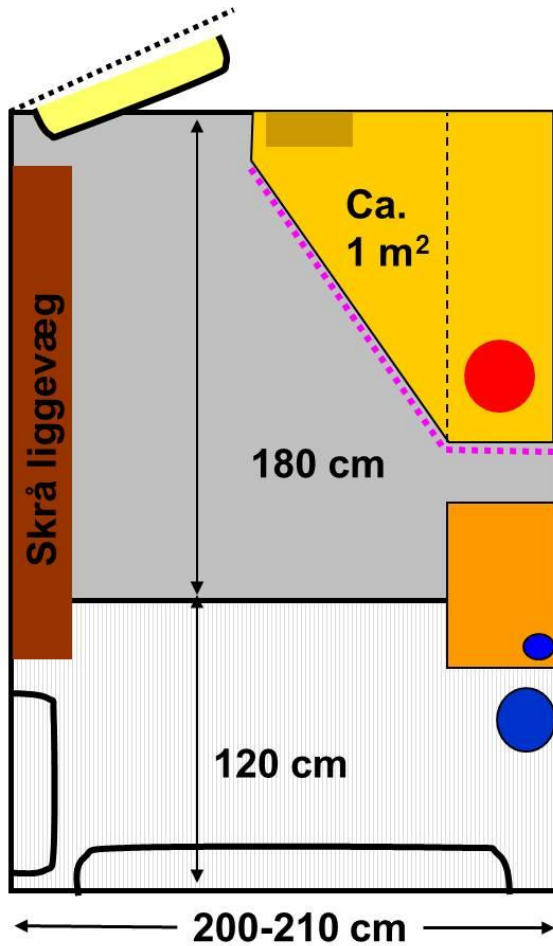
## 2. Sow-resting area next to creep

- The sows choose to lie next to creep
  - Partly solid floor – at least in Denmark
    - Reduce environmental impact
      - Partly solid floor is cheaper than aircleaners etc
      - Possible to use local extraction
    - Warmth – dry floors before farrowing – and piglet survival
    - Keep nestbuilding- and rooting material in pen – not in slurry

## **3. The sow walks away (turns away) from feeding area, when defaecating**

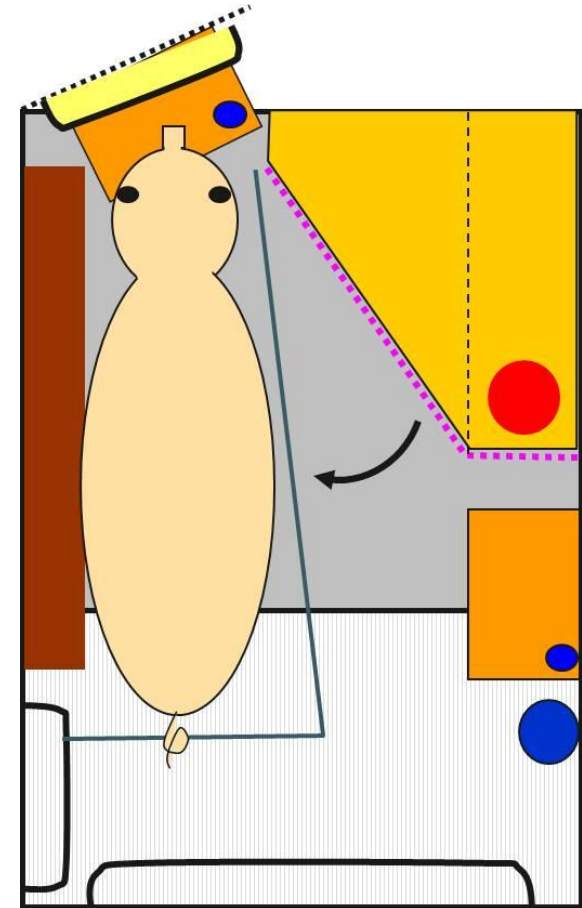
# → Two pen design

**FF = Free Farrowing**



AU/DAWS/Jyden/PRC +

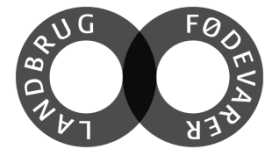
**SWAP = Sow Welfare and Piglet  
protection**



KU/PRC

# Walk the talk

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1200 sow unit





# Details

- **Sow-dimensions**

- Eat, defaecate, rest
- Support when lying down
- No access to creep area

<http://vsp.lf.dk/Viden/Stalde/Staldindretning/Farestald/Losdriftssti.aspx>

- **Piglet-dimensions**

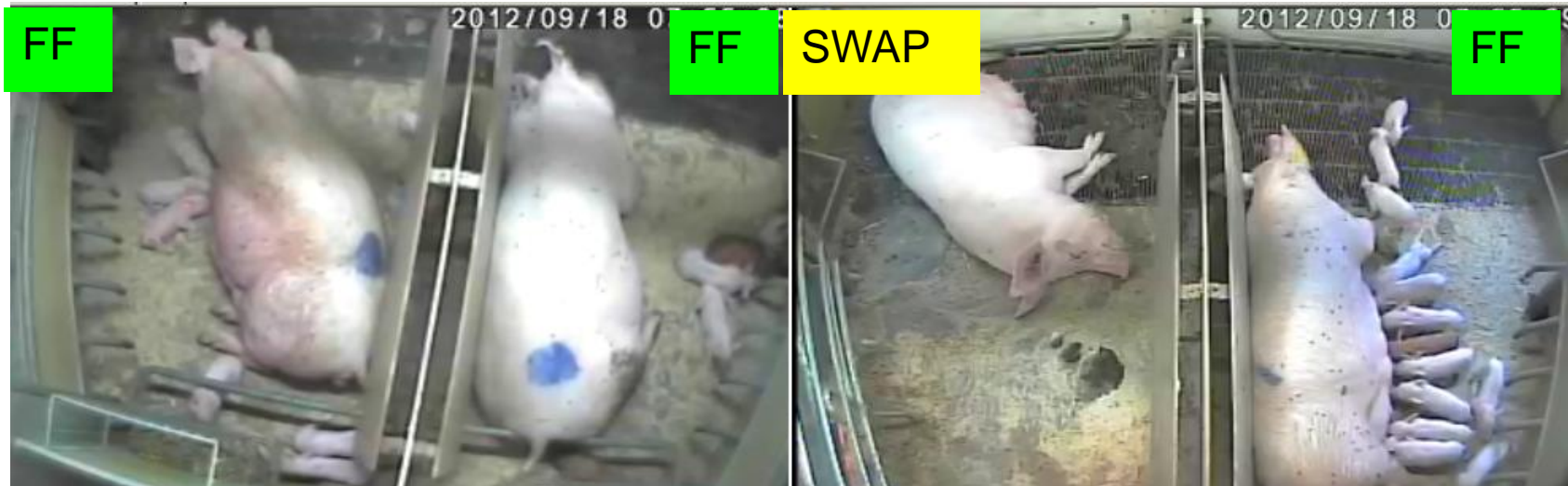
- Safety
- Easy access to udder
- Easy access to creep area
- Space – also with large litters and late in then lactation period

- **Work routines**

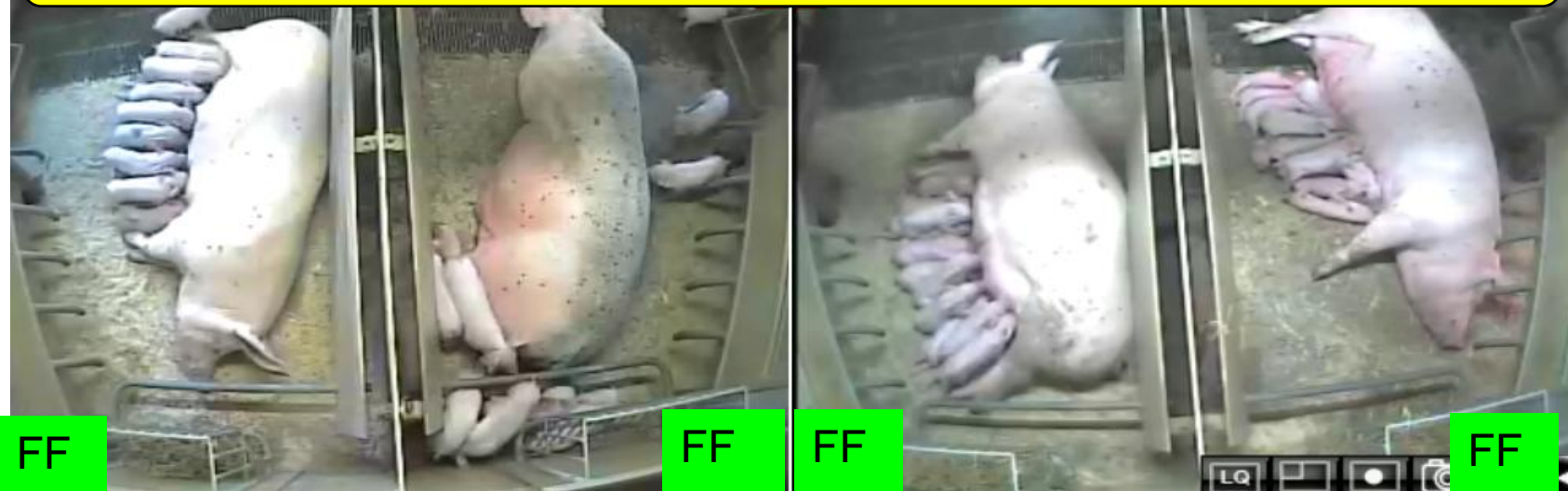
- Daily – or several times a day – the whole period
- Once or twice daily – but only for a few days
- Once for each litter



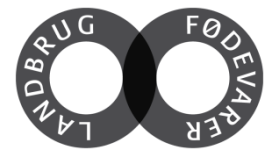
# FF and SWAP



Think loose – or loose as much as possible



# Economy



## Productivity

- Higher piglet mortality?
- Improved weaning weight?
- Improved sow longevity?
- Less antibiotics?



## Investment

- Larger pens
- No standard – ‘tailor-made’

**Sainsbury** - By 2020, all our meat, .... products will be sourced from suppliers who adhere to independent higher welfare standards

**Antonius**

## Premium price

- Premium  $\approx$  branding
- Branding  $\approx$  volume
- Volume  $\approx$  ‘standard’

**McDonald's** moves to 100% Freedom Food Labelled Pork

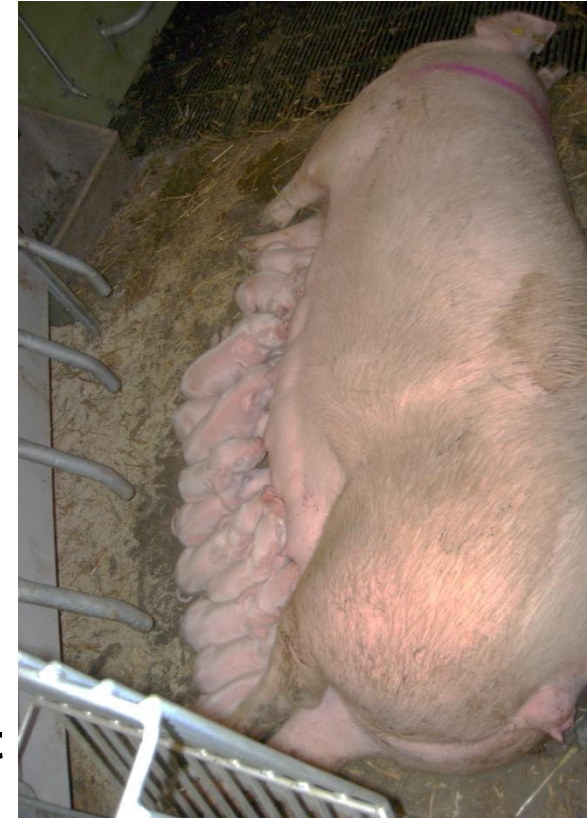


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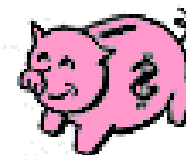
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# Loose lactating sows

*It's a challenge –*

*But the Danish farmers that have invested  
don't regret !*



## Project:

### Loose lactating sows

- Journalnr. 3663-D-08-00311
- Journalnr. 3663-D-10-00458

With funds from  
Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries and EU

