



SWINE WELFARE & HEALTH:
A Veterinarian's Perspective

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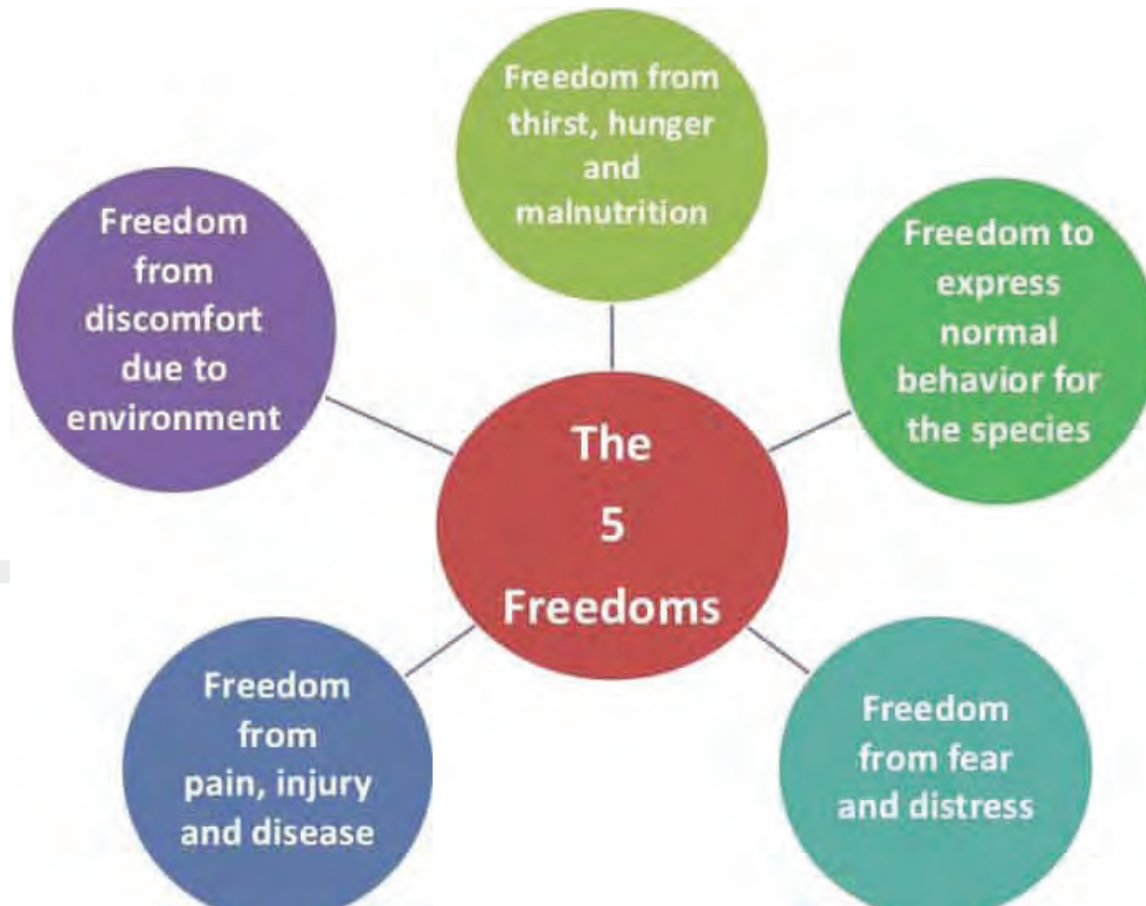
SWINE VETERINARY PARTNERS



AGENDA

- **The 5 Freedoms of Animal Welfare**
- **Out of feed events**
- **Enrichments**
- **Crate divider removal**
- **Individual treatments**
- **Oral Meloxicam after farrowing**
- **Sodium salicylates**
- **Banamine during vaccination**
- **Relax**
- **Preventative medicine**

THE FIVE FREEDOMS OF ANIMAL WELFARE



Out of feed events

Should we be concerned by pigs being out of feed?

- For how long?
- Frequency?
- Not that much data in the industry to understand the impact
- Lots of factors to consider



Out of feed events

Research trial: Summer 2023

- Turned off feeders for 20-24 hours

Results:

- **Normal ad libitum feed:**
 - ADG 1111 g/day, FE 2.67
- **Once every 2 weeks:**
 - ADG 1093 g/day (-18 g/day), FE 2.71
- **Once per week:**
 - ADG 1073 g/day (-38 g/day), FE 2.70



Out of feed events

Secondary issues/risks:

- Tail biting/vices
- Fighting/aggression/injuries
- Gastric ulcers
- Increased incidence of diseases
- Reduced growth and size variation



Image from sefari.scot

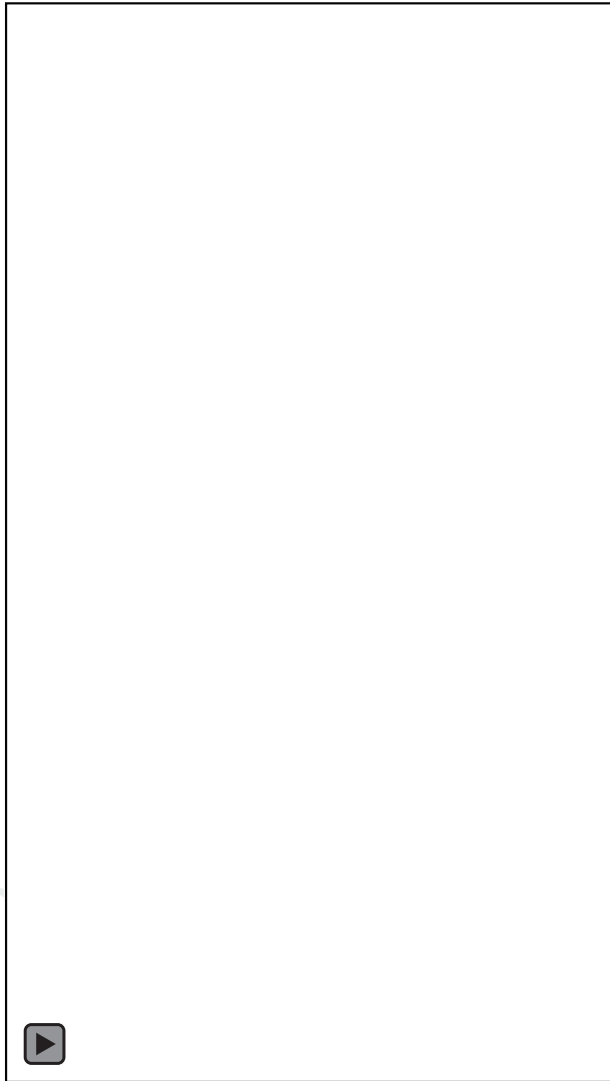
Enrichments

- Hanging chains
- Toys
- Walking pens
- Playing music



Images from easyfix.com

Enrichments



Crate divider removal in farrowing

- Provides more laying space to reduce the risk of laid-ons
- Improves socialization and reduces stress on piglets during weaning.
- Timing of removal?



Crate divider removal in farrowing

Research trials:

- Removal after colostrum intake (after 24 hrs)
 - 3 different farms
 - **Resulted in a reduction of 1.5% – 1.9% PWM**

ROI

Not costly to implement and try

Assuming 1% PWM=\$6.75/sow

Avg 1.67% decrease = \$11.25/sow



Treatment of individual animals

- For pain, lameness and other sickness/disease
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)
 - **Anti-inflammatory, antipyretic, analgesic**
- Often given with an antibiotic if an infection is likely
- Many options in Canada
 - Ketoprofen
 - Meloxicam
 - Flunixin meglumine
 - Sodium salicylates



Oral Meloxicam after farrowing

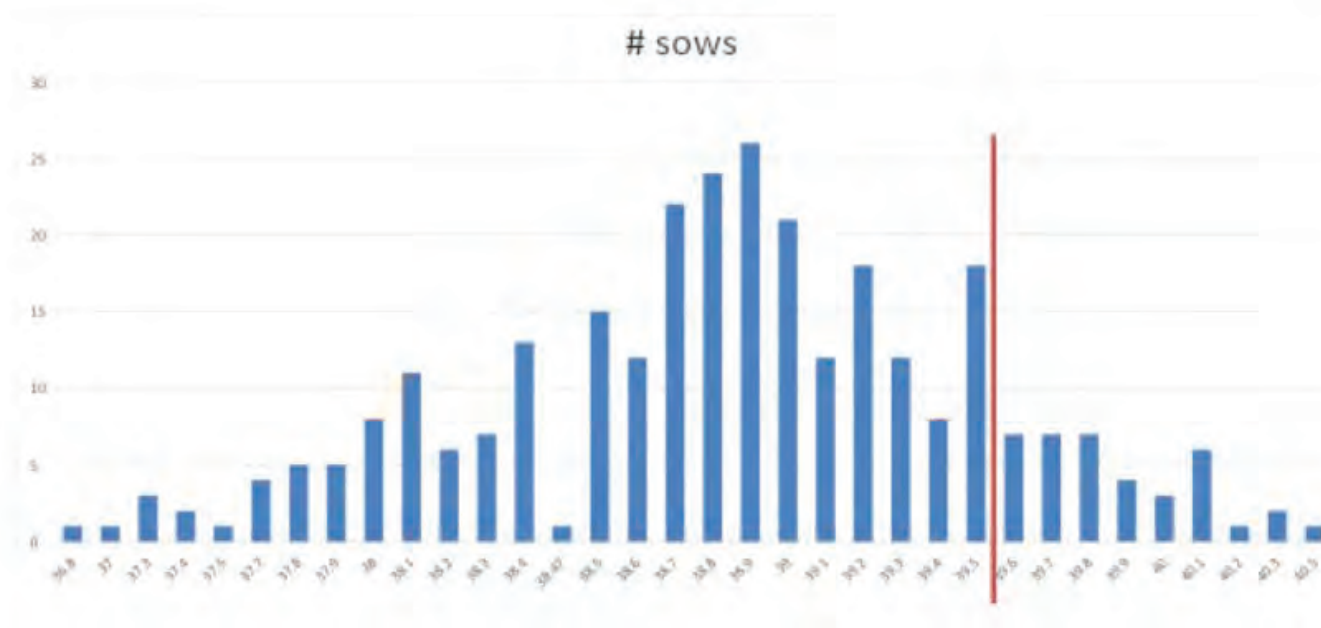
What's the benefit of pain treatment after farrowing on performance?

- **Fever and/or pain** at farrowing results in:
 - Reduced feed intake
 - Increased risk of metabolic disease
 - Higher risk of mastitis
 - Lower colostrum intake



Oral Meloxicam after farrowing

SOWS TEMPERATURE (C) DISTRIBUTION AT FARROWING



Oral Meloxicam after farrowing

Research trial:

Rectal temperature > 39.5 degrees Celsius Day 1 after farrowing

Control: Placebo 6-7.5 ml/sow/day delivered for 3 days

Treatment A: Oral Meloxicam (15 mg/ ml) 6-7.5 ml/sow/day (0.4 mg/kg) for 3 days

Treatment B: Predef 2X 5 ml/sow/day for 3 days



Oral Meloxicam after farrowing

Meloxicam treatment resulted in:

1. Reduced rectal temperature of sows on day 3 post-farrowing
2. Reduced pre-weaning mortality (2.47%)
3. Increased number of weaned pigs (0.34 pigs)

ROI = 2.8:1

\$6.03 for 3 days of treatment

0.34 extra piglets per litter = \$17 (0.34*\$50/piglet)



Sodium Salicylates

- A water soluble NSAID
- Potential uses:
 - Piglets at weaning with Influenza
 - At the time of vaccination
 - Prior to farrowing for gilts (top dress)
 - Seeing positive outcomes in various field applications

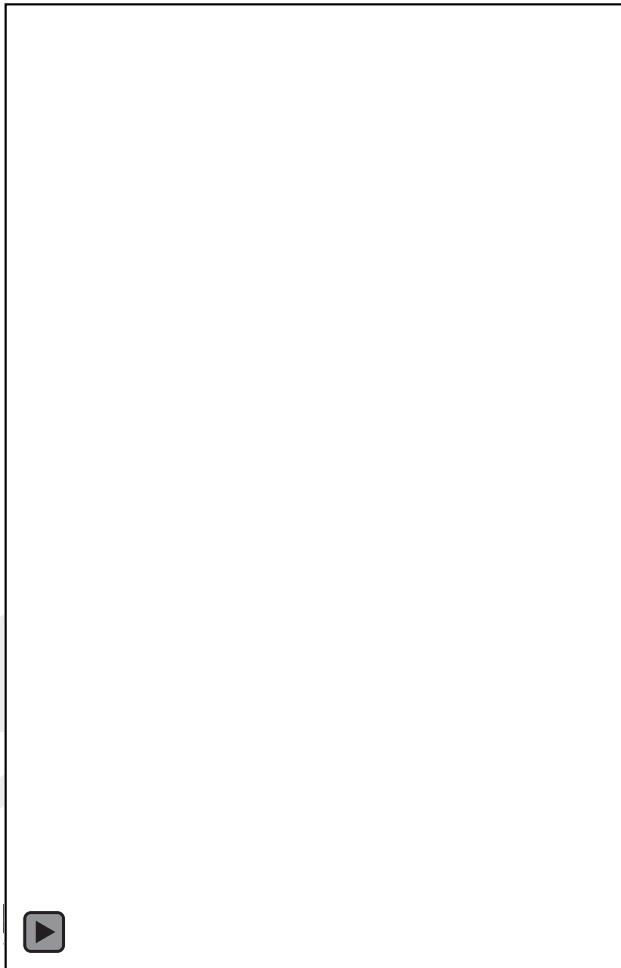


Relax (water medication)

- To maintain calm in pigs during stressful periods
- A blend of magnesium sulfate, tryptophan, cinnamaldehyde, star anise and citrus sinensis
- Field applications
 - Short-term increased density
 - Mixing sows – loose housing
 - Vaccination
 - Mixing pigs at pre-market
 - Tail biting



Banamine during vaccination



Justification:

- **Vaccination causes an immune response that can induce:**
 - Fever
 - Decreased activity
 - Feed consumption reduction
- **Banamine is:**
 - A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory
 - An antipyretic (fever control)

Questions:

- Does it influence the immune response?
- Is there a long term effect on ADG?

Preventive Medicine

- Preventing diseases/health challenges rather than needing treatment
- Focus on overall well-being of the animals
- Closely tied to improving welfare, performance and profitability



Preventive Medicine

- Biosecurity
- Vaccination programs
- Strategic antimicrobial and anti-inflammatory use
- Colostrum management
- Iron administration
- Tail docking
- Ventilation optimization
- Diet optimization



Summary

- There are a variety of different tools/products to help reduce pain/fever/inflammation in pigs
- Some simple techniques can have a dramatic improvement in pig welfare
- Work closely with your vet to come up with the best solutions for your farm.



QUESTIONS?

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