

CHECK LIST FOR REDUCTION OF TAIL BITING

At observation of hanging tails or tails pressed into body (for 10 % of the pigs in a pen), or for pigs with tail bite

FOCUS ON	CHECK RIGHT AWAY IN PEN	ACTION
WELL-BEING OF PIGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pigs with tail bite · Increased activity – pigs clinging to boots when entering the pen · Decreased appetite · Depressive state of pigs · Disease 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Take out pigs with tail bite (if necessary, move to sick pens) or mark pigs with tail bite in pens for easy observation on following days · Treat pigs with tail bite in consultation with vet · Observe the pen and take out: pigs with high activity/restlessness, pigs going after other pigs' tails or have blood on their head · Take out or separate pure-bred pigs (gilts + hogs) · Treat disease in consultation with vet · Providing minerals can moderate increased activity of pigs
FEED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Empty feeding stations · Block in automatic feeding system · Too few feeding places – que at feeding stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Fill in empty feeding stations · Clear automatic feeding system if blocked · Increase number of feeding places – or reduce number of pigs in pen
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Low water pressure · Dirty water troughs · Too few water cups/nipples – que at drinking stations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Repair defect water cups/nipples · Clean dirty water troughs/cups · Give access to more water stations – or reduce number of pigs in pen
LOCAL ENVIRONMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Draught and cold: pigs freezing, huddle together · Warmth and humidity: pigs are soiled, lying in areas with manure · Temperature variation/change in weather · Poor general pen hygiene incl. lying area · Too little light · Radiation from earth or leakage current 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Make shelter by bales of straw, partition walls or canopies. Do this in time before change of weather · Put up weather porch or winter shreds on outdoor access · Increase air change, establish sprinklers/wallows, increase frequency of showers · Put in clean and dry straw/litter · Muck out and clean dirty areas · Check light intensity and hours with light on · Contact electrician or specialist in leakage current
STOCKING RATE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pigs too big or too many in the pen 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Reduce number of pigs or move to larger pen
OCCUPATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lack of roughage of good quality · Lack of new and fresh rooting materials for occupation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Remove old roughage and provide fresh · Put up more racks for roughage or provide it at different places in the pen · Provide rooting material that can be manipulated and destroyed – robe, branches, christmas trees or the like