



H11 – Exchange of litters

If a sow lactation has stopped, a litter of vitality piglets can start lactation again.

1. If a hole litter is showing sign of reduced growth, move them to a sow with a good milking capacity.
2. The receiving sow must have litter, where are big, uniform piglets.
3. The receiving sow should be a young sow.
4. Exchange litters immediately, make sure that no one sow is without piglets at any time.
5. The sows what you do exchanging litters must have same number of piglets.
6. After exchange, pay special attention to the litter with reduced growth. For instance, bring a heat lamp to them.
7. Do not adjust the feed dose of doing exchange of litters.



Successful exchange of an hole litter with reduced growth

Exchange failed, because:

- the exchange has done too late and the piglets with reduced growth are too weak to suckle.
- the sow what has that litter of reduced growth has become sick.
- piglets in the litter with reduced growth have become sick.
- the sow lies on her stomach much of the time or stands up a lot → the piglets can't get milk.
- the piglets are agitated - possibly because the sow refuses to let them nurse.



This litter was moved too late, and the piglets are too weak to manage, what will increase mortality.





Extra comments – Exchange of litters

Before exchanging litters, make sure that all other conditions are in order (see, for instance, H14 - Supervision of the farrowing facility; H15 - Disease and treatment of sows; and H16 - Disease and treatment of piglets).

1. Often, exchange of litters is only necessary in the first or second week after farrowing. Do two litters exchange, when the hole / most of litter suffering from reduced growth. If only few piglets in a litter suffer from reduced growth, see H12 – Foster sow for piglets with reduced growth.
2. It is essential that the sow what get the litter with reduced growth has a high milk yield, that how the weak piglets gets milk quickly. The other sow gets big uniform piglets. Those big piglets will come fast suckling milk from sow and that how stimulate the milk production starting again.
3. Young sows are quick to accept a new litter
4. Time is essential as piglets with reduced growth, because them can't manage long. Check that they start suckling, they haven't always enough energy to stimulate the new sow to a high milk yield.
5. When the hole litter is changed - the piglets don't need to fight for a new hierarchy. That's why is important that both two sows have a same number of functional teats.
6. It is essential to make sure that the piglets have an optimum environment. (See H13 - The environment of the piglets; H23 - Feeding of piglets)
7. Do not adjust the feed dose of doing exchange of litters on the exchange day. Keep an eye on the feed intake of the sows - especially the first two days after the exchange. If the sow what get the litter with reduced growth fails to start lactating, you may have to move the litter to a foster sow (See H12 - Foster sow for piglets with reduced growth).

