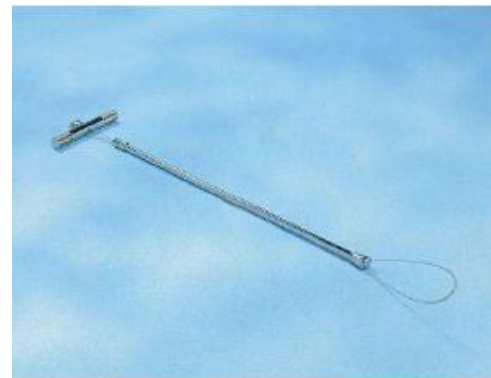




H6 – Obstetric aid

Right time obstetric aid can help for stuck piglet and It can save also sow and not yet born biglets alive:

1. Do obstetric aid only, if really needed
2. Wash sow vulva area with soap and lukewarm water
3. Make sure there are nothing cage pipes between your arm and sow, that is not possible to injury, if sow like to lie down
4. Use gloves and lubricating gel
5. Catch the piglet around the head or hind leg
6. If the piglet is coming backward, catch the hind legs
7. Pull the piglets out using steady pull
8. Swing the piglet back and forth, to open airways → dry a pig
9. If the sow is standing, put the pigs in the heating corner
10. If the sow lying, put the piglets on the uterus
11. Pull out all the piglets where you can reach
12. Take a break: If not more piglets have born in the one hour, do obstetric aid again



Above: On right time given obstetric aid
Below: Helping loop for obstetric aid

Examples of problematic farrowing:

Farrowing does not progress:

- give obstetric aid
- take out so many piglets as possible
- check the sow again after 30 minutes

Piglets has stuck on birth canal:

- give obstetric aid
- pull out the piglet
- give an hour-long break to the sow

Piglet is coming in the wrong position:

- give obstetric aid
- push piglet inwards
- take hold of the pig head or hind legs and pull out
- give an hour-long break to the sow



The sow should have obstetric aid on time



Euroopan maaseudun
kehittämisen maatalousrahasto:
Eurooppa investoi maaseutualueisiin



Extra comments – obstetric aid

1. Give obstetric aid only if need (look H5 – Supervision of farrowing). Obstetric aid damages the uterine mucosa and that's why exposes the uterus to the bacteria. Those sows where have done obstetric aid have bigger risk to have mastitis infection → has negative effect welfare of sows, milk production and fertility.
2. Wash the sow's vulva with soap and lukewarm water to avoid manure contact into the uterus.
3. If the sow is standing and you are doing obstetric aid through the cage, you could damage your hand if the sow suddenly like to lie down.
4. Use gloves to avoid possible allergic reaction from uterus fluid. The lubricating gel protects the uterine mucous, if damages comes it will swell up. The lubrication gel makes also smaller risk to come infection on uterine. Use only one hand to handling the born piglets. Change glove if touch any other place of sows outside, than just born piglets.
5. Take hold of the pig neck. If this is not possible, hold on piglet's lower jaw. If this is possible, use the middle finger and ring finger. If that is not working, use helping tool (look below).
6. If the piglet has turned on back position, take hold of the hind legs. Take hold of hind legs to using your forefinger, middle finger and ring finger, so that you have two legs between those fingers.
7. Pull the piglets out using steady pull. That how you can control how much power you need, this way sow is not come hurt.
8. Those piglets what have born using by obstetric aid have usually fluid in the lungs. Take hold the piglet's hind legs and swing forward and back to clean the airways. Use that hand where is not glove.
9. Those piglets what have born using by obstetric aid are usually also weak. If the sow is standing, there is risk that sow will lie down the piglets. That's why it is better to put those piglets first to heating corner, there them are safe and have warm.
10. If the sow is lying, move the piglets immediately after obstetric aid to udder. If needed, move other piglets so, that also new piglet can suckling milk.
11. Obstetric aid is ready, when all the pigs what can reach have pull out.
12. Obstetric aid stresses the sow. Stress causes that contraction ends for about an hour. Check the sow after one hour again. If piglets are little too far to catch, check the sow again after 30 minutes.

Tools: sometimes is impossible to get good hold of the pig. Therefore, it is always good to have clean helping tool ready on farrowing section.

- **Helping loop** is pipe with a loop. That pipe moved close to the pig and put the loop around head, lower jaw or hind legs, to get a good grip on the pig.
- Buy **gloves with loop**. If needed, you can pull piglet out with using those gloves.

