



## Kansainvälisesti kilpailukykyinen sianlihantuotantoketju -hanke



### H8B – Heat- and pregnancy check

You could find the returners with a boar from week group. With a pregnant scanner you can find the empty sows until from day 24, that how you can reduce the wasted days.

#### 1. Heat check with the boar

- Check animals, what have inseminated 3 weeks ago
- Do the checking on calm moment at daytime
- Checking with the boar should do always under supervision
- Use always the active and experienced boar, use differed boars
- Make a round with the boar in the pregnancy checking room
- You could place the boar in a group of pregnancy sows (10 minutes)
- The boar could be on the pen, what keep register, which sows have been with boar and how often (ESF).



The boar is making heat checking on 3 weeks heat time

#### 2. Pregnancy check with pregnancy scanner

- All the sows should scan on 24 – 28 day pregnancy
- Remember to scan also the sows on sig pen
- Use a gel on the scanner head and place head on a groin
- Turn slowly the scanner head until you see a clear image
- If the image is unclear, add the gel
- If the result is not sure, mark the sow and check again after one week
- Scan the empty sows on both sides, mark minus for empty sow and transfer to insemination room or cull the sow.
- If on the farrowing room comes empty sows, re-scan after 2 – 4 weeks.



Do the scanning on 24 – 28 days pregnancy

#### 3. Working plan for the empty sows

- Transfer the sow on the insemination room or cull
- Do heat checking daily
- Inseminate the sow, when it is on standing heat
- When the sow had inseminated, move into week group
- Everyone should be clear, how long the sow has chance to become pregnant before culling



## Kansainvälisesti kilpailukykyinen sianlihantuotantoketju -hanke



1. When you have done heat checking **daily** for the sows, which are 18 – 25 days from insemination, you will find returners on time. 30 – 50 % of returners will find on a day 19 or after day 24, rest (50 – 70 %), will find in the middle of period.

The marks of heat are:

- The sow has swollen vulva
- The sow jumps on the other sows back. Check heats at next 3 days.
- The sow will allow other sows and boar to jump on her back
- The sow is very active
- The sow is looking for a boar
- The sow can found on the checklist (ESF)

The boar will help to find heats, but the boar can't find all sows on heat:

- The sows and boars have own preferences
- Young and the sows what are on the low level of ranking order are afraid to show heat under the dominating sows.

You should use help of the boar to find empty sows on time. However, the boar is not guarantee, that every empty sow will find, because every empty sow doesn't come on heat. Many of the empty sow haven't regular heat round. That's why you do not find them with heat checking, but you can find them with a pregnancy scanner.

2. You could start to do pregnancy scanning from day 24. If you scan earlier, the results of pregnancy are not so sure, because finding of the fetuses from screen is difficult. Put the gel at the scanner head, and place head on a groin, just above the udder. Avoid moving head on the skin, otherwise you will need to put gel again. To find good view, swipe forward / backward or sideways, until you see right image. However, right position is little bit foreground, if you scan straight upwards you will see a bladder on the screen (big black hole). With experience, you will find the right place quickly.

The scanner will show the hardness on the screen, as harder, the image is whiter, while the liquids are black on screen. For this reason, 24 – 28 days of pregnancy is easy to see. On that time, you can see pregnant sow's fetuses, but they are still like "liquid collections", so you will see black holes on screen. When the pregnancy time is longer, the holes, will begin to fill with wither, until finally can see the piglet's bones with totally white. Mark the result immediately on the sow. If you scan the sow empty, mark sow with minus and transfer them to insemination room or waiting for culling immediately after scanning. If the result is not sure, scan first on both side, then mark the sow with uncertain mark and put location up. Check that uncertain sow with scanner after one week, also other person could check that sow. If the sow is empty or still uncertain, after re-scanning, transfer sow to insemination room for a certain time. If the sow is empty, you could also cull the sow. On the same time with scanning you should check the body condition and if needed do adjustment for feed amount. If the farrowing room comes empty sows, you should re-scan pregnant sows again. This scanning should do 2 – 4 weeks after animals transfer to gestation. On that moment, you could see if the transfer causing some losses.

3. It is important, that on the farm have made general working plan for empty sows, and everyone will know that. On that plan account the age, condition and production results. According of that plan, the empty sow will move to insemination room or cull the sow. On the farm must have own area on insemination room, where will transfer those empty sows what try to re-inseminate. Everybody on farm must to know that area. From this place the sow will leave on the group after insemination or culling after certain time. On this place the sow has usually chances to come on heat 3 weeks, at that time one heat round have gone. Those transferred sows should mark with jointly agreed way, that mark will indicates when that 3 weeks chance time will end. You can't know those sows heat round, that's why you should check them daily.