Nest material decreases farrowing duration in crated sows

NERTHUS

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Rafaella F. Carnevale[1], Matheus S. Monteiro[2], Bruno B. D. Muro[1,2,3], Marcos V. B. Nicolino[2], Laya K. A. Silva[1], Roberta Y. Hoshino[1], Cecília A. F. Melo[1], Jennifer S. Motta[1], Cesar A. P. Garbossa[2]

[1]Nerthus Pesquisa e Desenvolvimento, São Carlos, Brazil; [2]Department of Animal Nutrition and Production, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of São Paulo, São Paulo, Brazil; [3] PoulPharm, Belgium

Background and Objectives

- Modern sows are still very driven to create nests prior to farrowing;
- Actual systems: limited space or materials; concerns about clogging sewer systems;
- Sows cannot satisfy their natural behavior, causing distress and frustration, jeopardizing farrowing traits and colostrum production.

Material and Methods

- Sows were randomly allocated to treatment groups at previous day of expected farrow date;
- Farrowing duration was calculated as the interval from the first and the last piglet born
- The number of total born, liveborn, stillborn, and mummified were recorded.
- Colostrum intake was calculated as described by Theil et al. (2004), and colostrum production was calculated as the sum of litter colostrum intake.
- Variables were analyzed with generalized linear models and statistical differences were set at $p<0.05$

CON (n = 6)
Without acess to nesting material

BIONEST (n = 6)
Acess to 3 kg of biodegradable, water soluble and edible nesting material

Results

Table 1 – Impact of nesting materials on farrowing traits, colostrum intake and yield

	Farrowing traits			
Variable	Control	BioNest	SEM	P-value
Farrowing duration (min)	274.500	182.333	29.932	**0.034**
Birth interval (min)	15.594	11.532	1.819	0.145
Total born per litter (n)	17.833	17.429	1.540	0.851
Born alive per litter (n)	15.500	14.428	1.504	0.611
Stillbirth (%)	6.106	4.028	2.226	0.474
Colostrum intake (g)	277.506	303.786	16.019	0.722
Colostrum yield (g)	4303.562	4512.732	273.289	0.600

Discussion and Conclusion

The results of decreased farrowing duration, support the notion that supplying sows with biodegradable, water soluble and edible nesting material is effective in improve the farrowing kinetics

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