

Appendix - Pig Production Case Studies

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Free-range system, Brazil



Straw-based system, United Kingdom

Introduction to the case studies:

This book is based on science and the practical experience of farmers running systems which exhibit good animal welfare practice.

These case studies demonstrate that systems designed for good welfare can be run economically in countries throughout the world. These include:

- Free-range systems from the UK, Sweden, Spain, Hungary, USA, Australia and Brazil
- Group systems for dry sows with bedding from the UK, France, Czech Republic and Australia
- Indoor systems with free-farrowing from the UK, France, Czech Republic and Hungary
- Indoor systems where sows and piglets are introduced into family groups from the Czech Republic and Brazil
- Deep-bed systems using a range of bedding materials for growing pigs from Brazil
- Straw-based systems for growing pigs from the UK, France, Czech Republic and Australia
- Systems with late weaning of piglets (8 weeks or more) from Sweden, UK, Spain, Czech Republic and Hungary
- Organic systems from the UK, Spain, Czech Republic and Australia
- Traditional and rare breed systems from the UK, Spain, Hungary and Australia
- Traditional subsistence systems from the Ivory Coast

These case studies exhibit good animal welfare practice, but it is important to note that this does not always apply to the entire system. There are practices in some of these farms which cannot be condoned on welfare grounds. For example, a few of these farms use confinement systems such as sow stalls or farrowing crates. Straw or other bedding material is not always provided throughout the life-cycle. Mutilations such as castration, tail-docking and tooth-clipping are practised on many of these farms. Not all animals have access to veterinary care when it is needed. More frequent inspection could be recommended on some farms. It is important to note that participation in a case study does not imply CIWF Trust endorsement of a farm or system. These case studies are included because at least part of the system demonstrates good animal welfare practice from which others can learn.

Good animal welfare, especially in the form of good stockmanship, can be good for production. On the other hand, the design of systems for very high welfare can increase costs. These case studies include farms, both indoor and free-range, which compete successfully in the mass market without a welfare premium. Others, most notably the Spanish case studies, get a premium price for a traditional quality product. In yet others the product is sold at a premium as a high welfare as well as a quality product.

If you know of other systems deserving to be written up as a case study, please let us know. CIWF Trust expects to visit more pig farms over the coming years, extending the portfolio further across the world and demonstrating additional good welfare systems. CIWF Trust expects to produce materials including case studies on other farm animal species, starting with broiler chicken production systems. Further case studies will be placed on the web as they are developed.



Free-range breeding system, Fittleworth, United Kingdom



Deep-bed system, Brazil