

SCROFA

WHAT YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT PIGS

www.weda.de

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WEDA

We care about pigs



Animal Welfare

Image source: Röger

Keeping of long-tails on straw

The pros and cons of keeping on straw, the keeping of long-tails, supporters and opponents of outdoor climate houses, etc.: the subject of animal welfare dominates the pig

farming sector like no other. Reason enough for the Scrofa editorial staff to place the focus of this issue on the subject of animal welfare.

We interviewed the

Sassen-Stolle farm in Lower Saxony, Germany. The Naturland farm keeps sows and piglets and works successfully with WEDA liquid feeding technology. More about

this on page 7.

We also went to Finland to talk to Timo Heikkilä. He's considered to be an expert in the keeping of long-tails, with more than 16 years of experience.

Timo revealed to us what is important for successfully keeping long-tails. See page 6 for more.

Enjoy reading!

SPACE in France

WEDA Dust Control awarded an innovation star

WEDA was recently awarded the innovation star for its WEDA Dust Control system at the SPACE trade show in France. Dust Control reduces undesired dust when loading feed into liquid feeding systems.

"We're exceedingly pleased about this award", says Ralf Meyer, Head of Development at WEDA. "With Dust Control we developed a good solution. In today's pig feeding the feed containers are usually ventilated through a tube. This allows the flour dust to escape through the vent

tube and get outside the container," he continues. "With Dust Control we have a product solution that avoids unwanted dust when loading in the feed. The new type of closure ensures pressure equalisation in the feed container and thus keeps the feeding kitchen dust-free by up to around 95%."



Remy Noebel nimmt die Auszeichnung für WEDA entgegen.

Social Media

WEDA on the net

The importance of social media is growing. Reason enough for us to venture into the depths of social media.

Up until now we were only present on Facebook and YouTube, but meanwhile we're on Instagram, LinkedIn and Xing. And the company evaluation portal Kununu is also convincing.

Why not visit one of our channels? We'd be more than pleased if you followed us!



Boathouses in the port of Smögen Island.

Image source: Fotolia/ by-studio

Sweden

The whole country is Lagom!

Here it is once again, the question of our focus country and how we report about it. The Scrofa editorial team finally came up with a brilliant idea: let's just ask Siri! No no, we're not talking about Siri from the familiar smartphone and software producer, but Siri who works for our Swedish representation. She kindly complied with our request and answered a couple of questions about her country. Have fun reading her report!

Sweden is located in Northern Europe directly between Norway and Finland.

Over 10 million people live in Sweden and everybody loves „Fika“. The word means something like „stop what you're doing and take time out for a coffee break with your loved ones, along

with tasty cookies and „Fikabröd“ (sweet biscuit or pastry). When the Swedes celebrate a party they celebrate it with at least seven different cakes or pastries. In this context one also finds the book „sju sorters kakor“ (seven kinds of Swedish cakes and biscuits) in almost every Swedish kitchen.

The Swedes love the word „Lagom“ – in fact the whole country is Lagom indeed! It basically means „not too much, but not too little either“. The aim is to create a balance between everything, and this balance can for example be achieved when visiting Ekstakusten on the Swedish island of Gotland. The sunset must not be missed! The island lies in the Baltic Sea and is a historical province.

Visiting cities in the north such as Kiruna at

the right time, the enthusiastic guest can even see auroras in the sky. Another Swedish phenomenon is the darkness in winter and the midnight sun in summer. The further up north, the shorter the days become in the winter months, and correspondingly longer in the summer which lasts from June to September.

Sweden is a large and very multicultural country. Many traditional costumes are based on the conditions of the landscapes in which their wearers live.

One thing all Swedes have in common is their holidays – such as midsummer, which is celebrated in a big way. They decorate a „midsommarstang“ (a maypole) and dance around it in a circle. All kinds of people, both young and old, come together. The Swedes eat

herring and fresh potatoes and drink a „Nubbe“ (a schnaps), and many readers are probably familiar with the corresponding toast from films: „SKAL“.

Something very special in Sweden is the „allmansrätten“ (Every Man's Right). It means that everyone has free access to forest and land, meaning one can move around freely and even camp temporarily without asking the owner of the land for permission, whereby nature should be respected and not damaged or destroyed under any circumstances.

As far as agriculture is concerned, the farmers are currently again breathing a sigh of relief. The mood is once again improving, at least after the last few years. The fields were flooded due to heavy rainfall in autumn 2017. 2018 was the driest year in decades



Stockholm, the Swedish metropolis and capital.

Image source: Fotolia/ Sergii Figurnyi

and the harvests were extremely bad. The farmers were at the point of collapse and slaughter prices were rather poor. It was a really tough year. 2019 looks much better though and the Swedish pig farmers seem to be

looking positively to the future. This is a development that we naturally see with great pleasure.

CULINARY SPECIALITIES FROM SWEDEN

Heartily Swedish!

Swedish cuisine is deemed to be particularly simple and uncomplicated. Very typical is home cooking such as fish dishes, minced meat, potatoes and sweets.

The Swedish population loves cooking with local products, so berries, mushrooms, spices and special herbs also go into the pot. Even Sweden's geographical location is reflected in its cuisine. The short summers and long winter periods have a great influence on the customs, feasts and dishes. Also, the Swedes attach much importance



Raggmunkar

Image source: Siri Siggelin

to making products themselves such as bread and jam.

Not as well known as Köttbullar but still typically Swedish is „Raggmunkar

med stekt fläsk“ (potato pancakes with bacon and cranberries). It tastes great and goes down a treat! A genuine Swedish Raggmunk must always be served with bacon and cranberries. The name is a fusion of the word „ragg“, meaning the crispy fried edge, and „munk“ which is a synonym for (filled) doughnut. Siri's sent us her favourite recipe!

Source: www.visitsweden.de

Raggmunkar for 4

- 110 g wheat flour
- 280 ml unskimmed milk
- 800 g potatoes
- 2 tsp of salt
- large egg
- Butter for frying

Mix the milk and flour in a bowl. Mix the eggs and salt. Grate the potatoes and stir into the dough. Leave to rest for 30 minutes.

Heat a generous amount of butter in a pan. Pour approx. 120 ml of the dough into the pan and fry both sides on medium heat for approx. 4 minutes until golden brown to make pancakes.

Keep the pancakes warm in an oven dish in the oven at approx. 75°C. Fry the bacon until golden brown and crispy, then drain.

Serve the potato pancakes with the bacon and cranberry jam.

Source: www.visitsweden.de



Lüdeke Stolle, Johannes Sassen-Stolle and Meike Stolle (left to right) at the outside run of the sows.

Image source: Sassen-Stolle

Pig farming with passion

The Sassen-Stolle family puts a lot of time and effort into their ecological farming

Our farm report takes us to the Sassen-Stolle farm in Dötlingen in Lower Saxony, a small community in the district of Oldenburg, Germany.

Johannes Sassen-Stolle, who formerly kept pigs conventionally, has been running a certified Naturland farm with sows and piglets here since March 2018 together with his wife Meike and son Lüdeke.

Scrofa+: "Mr. Sassen-Stolle, you produce for Naturland. Which standards do you have to adhere to?"

Sassen-Stolle: "With Naturland no tail docking is allowed and keeping the animals on straw is obligatory. Up to 50% with grates in the housing are possible. The animals must be pro-

Straw bedding

vided with a straw run and have access to roughage at all times. Naturland also has fixed space requirements for each animal: 7.5 m² must be available inside and 2.5 m² on the outside for farrowing. Pregnant sows must be offered 2.5 m² on the inside and 1.9 m² outside. Piglets up to 25 kg have to be planned with 0.6 m² inside and 0.4 m² outside, while piglets up to 50 kg on the other hand are planned with 0.8 m² inside and 0.6 m² outside."

Scrofa+: "How many sows

do you have on your farm?"

Sassen-Stolle: "At the moment we've got 130 sows here, and an expansion to 170 sow boxes is being planned. We're also planning to start with fattening with 360 fattening boxes."

Scrofa+: "What feeding place ratio do you work with?"

Sassen-Stolle: "In the sow area with 1:1, and with 1:2 in the piglet area."

Scrofa+: "You feed your animals with WEDA liquid feed. Why did you decide to use a liquid feeding system?"

Sassen-Stolle: "I already did well with WEDA when I kept my animals conventionally. The WEDA technology allows good dosage and the sows accept the feed well. The feeding is

Reliable WEDA technology

also very flexible in terms of the feed components."

Scrofa+: "Would you recommend WEDA technology to other organic pig farms?"

Sassen-Stolle: "Yes, because WEDA offers dependable technology that's individually tailored to the operation and it's not sensitive to disruptions."

Scrofa+: "How do you

feed the pigs in terms of feed components, crude fibre content and so forth?"

Sassen-Stolle: "We are currently working with ready-made feed from an organic feed mill, but in the near future we're also considering by-products from organic production as well as our own grain."

Scrofa+: "You also cultivate arable land and operate a biogas plant. Please tell us a few more details."

Sassen-Stolle: "Our biogas plant runs with 35% manure and slurry, 30% maize silage and 35% clover grass. The system output is at 500 kw. On our fields we grow grain, potatoes, maize, clover grass and rapeseed."

Scrofa+: "What do you think of the current discussion on animal welfare?"

Sassen-Stolle: "There's a high level of uncertainty among sow keepers because the politicians are not offering any conclusive concepts. I think that or-

Uncertainty among sow breeders

ganic and conventional pig farming are likely to gradually come together over time."

Scrofa+: "What advice would you give to conventional farms who are considering switching to organic farming but don't really

dare to take the jump yet?"

Sassen-Stolle: "It's absolutely important to first check the approval capability and look at as many farms as possible. Also make use of the advice of the associations and the Chamber of Agriculture. But it's particularly im-

Conversion costs time and money

portant to ask yourself whether you really want this conversion, because one thing has to be clear: organic pig farming means more work, high costs, a higher production risk and lots of controls."

Scrofa+: "In your opinion what are the main problems with a conversion? What should you pay special attention to?"



Outside run with straw

Image source: Sassen-Stolle

Sassen-Stolle: "One problem is the long changeover time. It's at least two years. Added to that are the long planning and approval times which are associated with correspondingly high costs. And of course high

conversion costs. There are also big changes for the farm manager: you need completely new expertise."

Scrofa+: "Many thanks for the interview."



Be.Well New animal welfare brochure

It's ready – our new, free product brochure about animal welfare. Interested? We will gladly send you the brochure free of charge by post. Simply send your address to redaktion@weda.de.

Alternatively, you can also find the Be.Well brochure on our website at: www.weda.de.



Made by WEDA!

WEDA introduces itself: electronic production, customer-specific programming and service

In the last Scrofa+ issue we took a look at our mechanical production. This time we would like to introduce you to our electronic production, customer-specific programming and customer service.

Our tour begins with the electronic production. "As you'll see, the tasks of electronic production are very extensive and diverse," explains department head Michael Pund, showing us the way to the workplace of Magnus Krimpenfort. This is where the shear force transducers are produced that are mounted under the WEDA containers. "I make sure that a piece of metal is transformed into a shear force transducer that precisely weighs the contents in our mixing and service water containers," says Magnus Krimpenfort, adding with a smile: "How it works exactly is my secret, but I can say this

much – we're actively supported in the production by the Andreaswerk association in Vechta".

We continue further to the colleagues who take care of assembling the WEDA control computer. "Making one from two is how you could sum up an essential part of our job," states Dirk Fangmann. "Here we assemble different components to make circuit boards. These are then subjected to extensive software testing." The Excellent 4PX controls WEDA feeding systems all over the world. It is a nice thought for example that someone is working with a computer in Asia that was recently constructed and tested in Lutten, Germany.

Next stop: Hubert Lohmann. "My focus is on circuit diagrams," he says. "I receive a schematic plan of the sold system and a list

of the products purchased by the customer from our project managers. Based on that information I create a circuit diagram for the colleagues who later produce the switch cabinet for the system."

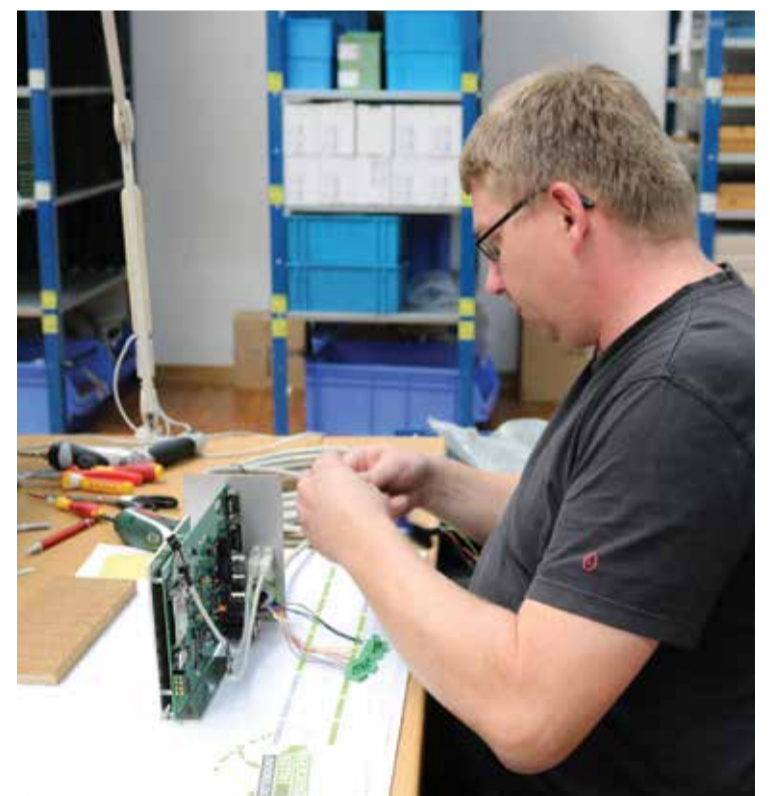
As you might have guessed, this takes us to the next station which is customer-specific switch cabinet construction. "Based on Hubert Lohmann's plan, the size of the switch cabinet, the required number of cards and the number of required motor circuits are determined, and the switch cabinets are then equipped and wired accordingly," explains Michael Pund. We note that there is a lot of manual work in the switch cabinets. "A machine could definitely not do the work as well as my human colleagues," he adds.

While the switch cabinet is being built, individualisation of the system is also being taken care of next door in the customer-specific programming department. "We adapt the system to the needs of the customer," says department head Martin Dierkhüse. "Meaning that we create special, customer-specific programme sequences with the help of standard programme modules, and assign the inputs and outputs of the software to the hardware inputs and outputs. Each programme created is then put through extensive tests."

Back in electronic production we talk to Jörg

Schoster, responsible for the depot. "Where I work the produced shear force transducers and control computers as well as the PCBs built by us are stored and shipped." Every computer needs spare parts at some point we think, and ask him what the situation is in this respect. "That's no problem," he laughs. "We've got spare parts for our control computers that we sold over 30 years ago. Everything from Primus to M12 and M16, right up to 4PX Perfect and Komfort." "Not bad" we think and briefly consider what it would be like if all PC manufacturers acted the same way. But back to our tour today.

Next stop: the WEDA customer service. All colleagues have customers on the line who don't want to be kept waiting. "Customer service is available during the week from 7 am to 5 pm, and afterwards mobile up to 10 pm in emergencies. It also helps with emergencies on weekends between 7 am and 8 pm" says Michael Pund, while we're waiting to talk to a colleague from the service department. "This extensive reachability is important because our customers work with live animals," he continues. Michael Rempe has now hung up and he has no new customer on the line. "We help customers over the phone," he tells us. "We can dial into the customer's system with their authorisation and thus solve problems 'di-



Assembled circuit boards are extensively tested.



Preparation of circuit diagrams



Production of shear force transducers



Customised switch cabinet construction

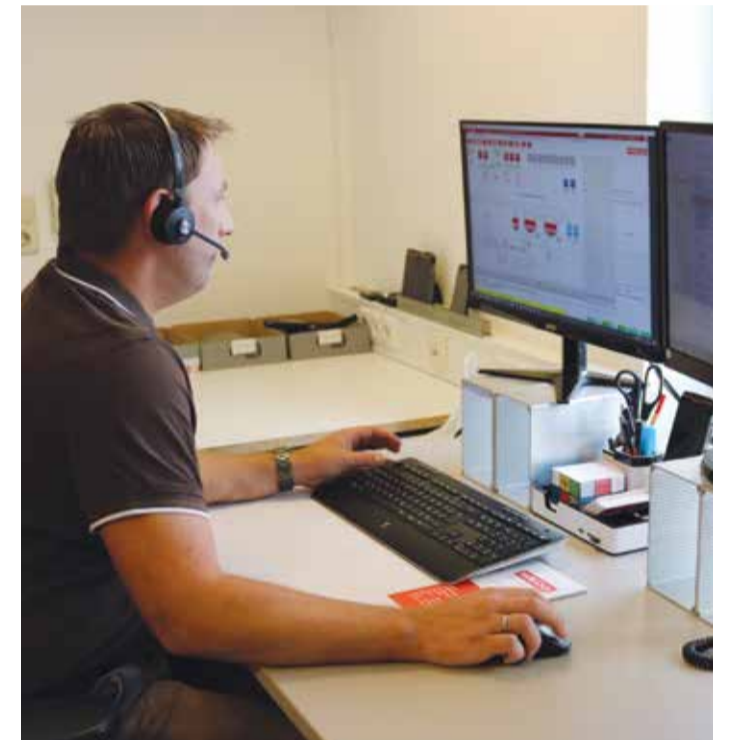


Depot

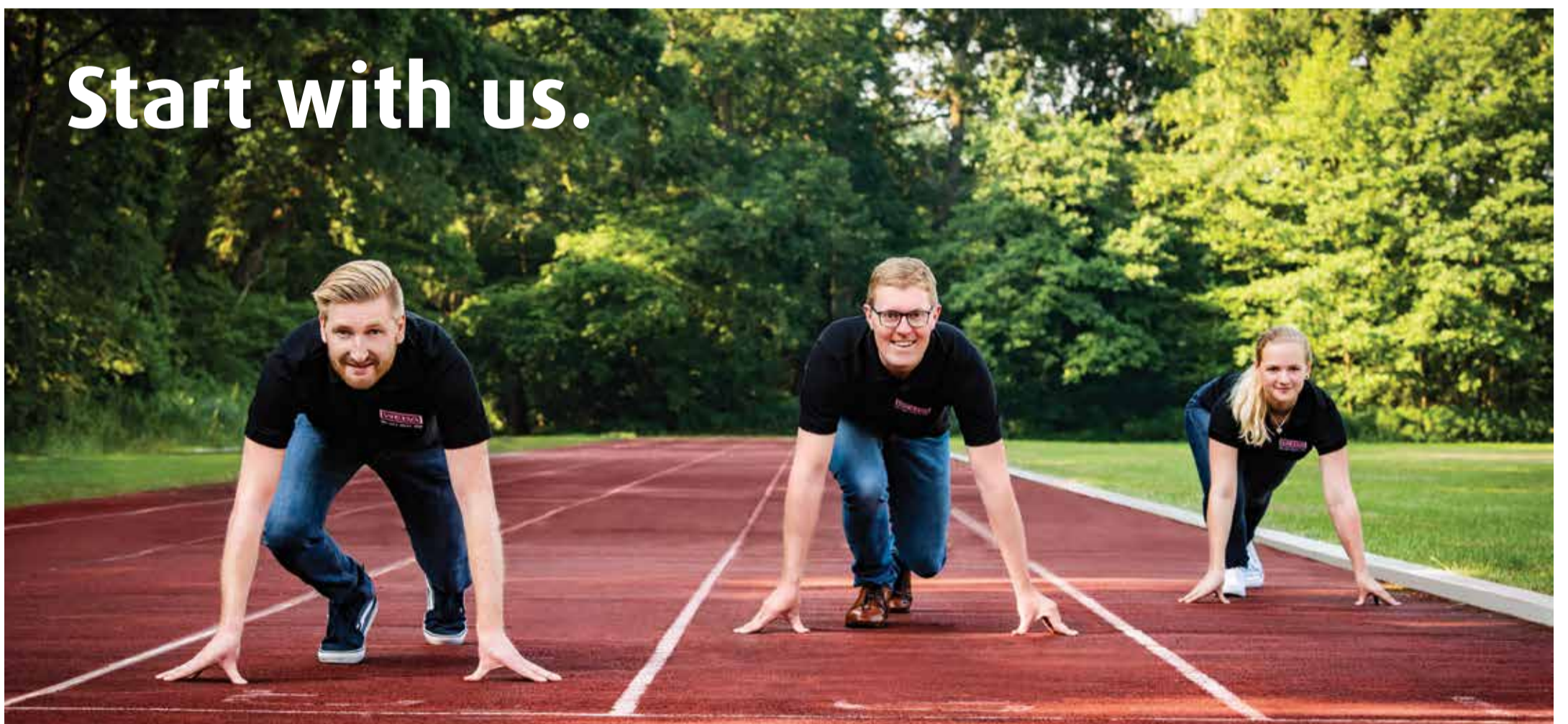
rectly on location'. If that's not possible we'll either send a WEDA installer or contact one of our partners near the customer." Michael Rempe has to get back on the phone – a customer from Asia is on the line. Maybe even the one whose control computer we were thinking about earlier? "That may well be," he says after the phone call. "The customer wanted some information about possible settings in the control computer. He's very satisfied with his liquid feeding system – he just told me on the phone." That's quality made by WEDA.



Customer-specific programming



Service



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We care about pigs

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Pig farming without docking

Tips from a Finnish professional for keeping long-tails



Image source: Timo Heikkilä

The Heikkilä farm with 3,500 sows, 6,000 piglets on flatdeck and 1,200 gilts.

For this issue we take a trip to Finland. In fact more precisely to Rusko, a small town 200 km west of Helsinki. This is the location of Timo Heikkilä's farm with 3,500 sows, 6,000 piglets (7-30 kg) on flatdecks and 1,200 gilts (30-140 kg).

Timo Heikkilä is Finland's largest piglet producer, a long-standing WEDA customer and a valued expert in the keeping of long-tails. His farm was recently selected by the European Commission as the best example of a long-tail pig farm.

Scrofa+: "Mr. Heikkilä, how long have you been keeping long-tails for?"

Heikkilä: "I started with long-tails on 1 January 2003. Here in Finland, tail docking has been prohibited since 11 November 2002 and the transition period was 50 days."

Scrofa+: "How many of your animals arrive at the slaughterhouse with damaged tails?"

Heikkilä: "With us it's about 2%."

Scrofa+: "Where do you see the causes of tail biting?"

Heikkilä: "I think stress is the main cause of tail biting. Stress is caused by a number of factors: the animals can't eat at the same time, the air conditioning is not properly set – meaning bad air and/or draughts – and there's not enough activity and play material. Getting rid of these sources of stress means we can already achieve a great deal."

Scrofa+: "What procedure would you, as an experienced practitioner, recommend to pig farmers who would like to convert to keeping long-tails?"

Heikkilä: "To cut down the stress for the animals I recommend installing long troughs, giving a feeding place ratio of 1:1. Also, the animals should be fed with liquid feed. My animals get liquid feed with a high level of barley. I take a critical

Feeding place ratio 1:1

view of wheat because it has less crude fibre, and I only feed pelletised, ready-made prepared feed. Because the feed is pelletised, I prevent any salmonella entering my stock via the feed. I also

High crude fibre content

use acids in the feeding."

Scrofa+: "How important do you judge hygiene to be in the liquid feeding system?"

Heikkilä: "Yes, very important! My liquid feeding system is equipped with state of the art hygiene technology from WEDA. Hy.Light, regular cleaning with lye and cleaning of the drain pipes in the pig house means I don't give germs and bacteria any chance at all."

Scrofa+: "You mentioned beforehand the importance of a good stable cli-

mate. Could you elaborate on that?"

Heikkilä: "A good climate in the pig house is essential. In order to achieve that the pollutant gas load has to be reduced. There are three ways this is done on my farm: reduction of the ammonia content, inflow of the supply air directly into the bays and a closed area to two thirds with the floors. The last factor keeps the slurry surface low in the compartments."

Good climate in the pig house

Scrofa+: "What do you advise in terms of playing material and manipulable material?"

Heikkilä: "Using a lot of manipulable and play material is important, and we mainly rely on straw here. This must of course be good-quality straw. When

Manipulable material

we see that the animals begin to bite we throw an extra portion of straw on the floor in the bay. That distracts the animals and encourages them to play with the straw."

Scrofa+: "What do you think is the first step towards successfully converting to long-tails?"

Heikkilä: "Installing long

troughs to prevent feed envy among the animals."

Scrofa+: "What should pig farmers pay particular attention to?"

Heikkilä: "In my experience it's very important to take action in advance and not to respond when the problems are already there."

Scrofa+: "What are the initial difficulties pig farmers have to overcome when converting?"

Heikkilä: "Old pig sheds probably have to undergo extensive upgrading measures."

Scrofa+: "What do you say to pig farmers who are considering switching to

long-tails but are still hesitant?"

Heikkilä: "I'd advise pig farmers to make a list in advance with the points that have to be changed/converted. You can then go through the list one point at a time and see how the result is. Often it's enough just to change parts, so then 100% isn't necessary."

Scrofa+: "Many thanks for the interview."

Tips from Timo Heikkilä

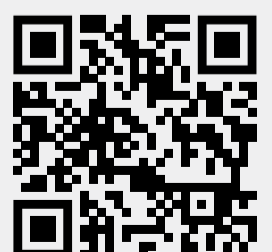
Reduce stress by:

- Installation of long troughs (feeding place ratio 1:1)
- Liquid feeding with high crude fibre content
- Lots of manipulable and play material
- Good stable climate (reduction of ammonia, inflow of supply air directly into the bays and floor area closed to two thirds)
- High level of hygiene in liquid feeding
- Extensive observation of animals



Flatdeck rearing of piglets

The European Commission has made a film about the Heikkilä farm. For the film and an article about the farm see: www.weda.de/heikkilae-hof-finnland



Status of feed intake at a glance

The new WEDA-Smart.Light makes work a great deal easier in the stable



Smart.Light shows the stable staff directly whether the animal has consumed sufficient feed.

With the new Smart.Light from WEDA, animal control is now easier and safer for stable personnel. The status of feed intake of the individual animals at each trough is

Immediate animal control possible

Status of feed intake at a glance

visible from a distance for the stable personnel.

The LED lamp, displaying different colours, enables the stable staff to immediately identify and

examine animals with deviating feeding behaviour. This optimises daily animal control and allows sick

animals to be treated much earlier than before.

The functionality is simple and universally understandable: Smart.Light consists of a small LED lamp that displays messages in the stable directly on the animal. The lamp is off if pigs have taken up

their feed quantity according to the feed curve. If only about 80 percent of the usual amount of feed is consumed, Smart.Light lights up yellow to indicate that the ration consumed is below the norm. In such cases the animals can be inspected and, if necessary,

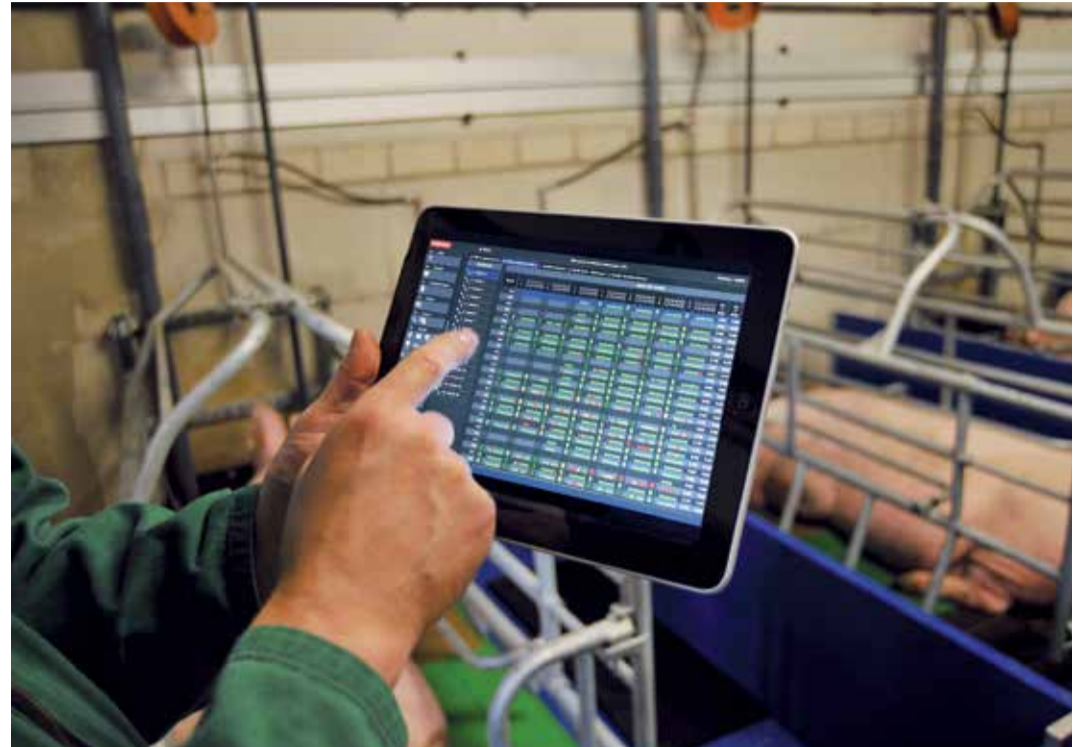
Simple, understandable functions

the trough or probe can be cleaned. If the feed quantity is below 80 percent Smart.Light glows red: stable staff can then act immediately.

Smart.Light is controlled via the reliable WEDA „Excellent 4PX“ feeding software. This ensures that the feeding data can be logged and evaluated on a special page in the programme over a period of several days. The user himself sets which colour is assigned to which limit va-

Control via WEDA software

lues. Depending on requirements, Smart.Light can be installed next to the feed



Feeding data is evaluated on a special page in the control programme and displayed in the stable via Smart.Light.

valve of the WEDA liquid feeding system, next to the valve of the Nutrix suckling piglet feeding system or next to the OptiMum dosing unit. Retrofitting existing systems with this innovative development is highly simple.



Smart.Light can be simply installed next to the valve.

New WEDA floor system

Robust, treadable and flexible



The new floor from WEDA can be installed quickly and easily.

WEDA has a new, ingenious floor system. The best part: all WEDA grates can be easily combined with each other in a modular way.

Our open, partially closed and closed plastic grates made of polypropylene for sows can be assembled quickly and easily. They are also highly durable and

extremely robust.

The grates offer a high level of hygiene because cleaning can be carried out quickly and easily with a high-pressure cleaner. They are also low-noise, treadable and non-slip and therefore present very low risk of injury. The grates are also equipped with an ejection safety device.

Optionally available edge strips ensure a clean floor connection.

Beetle eavesdropping technology

The search for grain pests



Federal Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner (right) at the JKI information stand.

Eavesdropping technology in the fight against grain pests. This is the concept behind the five-year Beetle Sound Tube innovation project.

The tube system equipped with extensive technology detects the sounds of beetles and

larvae in the grain. In this way the pest infestation of grain stores can be detected at an early stage and then specifically brought under control.

WEDA is a member of the „Beetle Sound Tube“ operational group and supports the EIP project. The project was recent-

ly presented by the Julius Kühn Institute (JKI) at the „Tag der offenen Bundesregierung“ [Day of the Open Federal Government]. At the event the functionality of the Beetle Sound Tube was explained to Federal Minister of Agriculture Julia Klöckner.

„Pig“ art in Africa

The paintings of the artist Pigcasso are a big hit

Who doesn't like being out and about in nature, picnicking and admiring the beautiful landscape? The pig lady Pigcasso loves nature, and she particularly likes to paint it. One thing is certain though: Pigcasso is probably the only pig in the world with such talent, creating true masterpieces on her canvases.

Her story begins in 2016 when Joanne Lefson, an animal rights activist, rescued the pig lady and took her back to her farm in Franschhoek in the South African countryside. Lefson then discovered the artistic talent of the pig while playing: Pigcasso was only interested in the brushes, so Lefson finally showed her how to put paint to canvas.

Pigcasso gives free rein to her creativity on the farm grounds. „We don't ever force her,“ says the founder of Farm Sanctuary SA in an interview with the portal „The Citizen“.

Pigcasso lives the good life, paints when she feels like it and earns well: the price for a painting with

the artist's original signature is over 1000 euros. You can buy the paintings in the farm's online shop or in the „oink“ gallery. Profit from the artworks goes to Farm Sanctuary SA where the pig lady will spend the rest of her life.

The Swiss watch manufacturer SWATCH which has accepted help from the pig lady for a new product special have shown that the paintings are highly coveted. The numbered watch „Art Special FLYING PIG BY MS. PIGCASSO“, limited to 2,019 pieces, was available from 05.02.2019 from SWATCH for 110 euros. In the meantime the watch is sold out though.

Sources:

www.pigcasso.org/about;
www.citizen.co.za/lifestyle



Pigcasso loves colours and is truly in her element when painting.

Image source: www.pigcasso.org/gallery/

Cuddly contemporaries

Mangalica pigs are back in fashion



Image source: Fotolia/ Szabolcs Csehak

What looks like a sheep, feels like a sheep, but isn't a sheep? Simple: Mangalica pigs, also known as woolly pigs.

These cuddly contemporaries are a Hungarian breed of pig with thick hair all over their bodies.

Mangalica pigs can live outdoors all year round

because their hair protects them from the extreme weather. In addition, 65-70% of the total mass of their body consists of fat. The animals thus have one of the largest fat percentages among pigs.

The walking balls of wool have been around since the 1830s. They are

a cross between Sumatra pigs and a widespread Hungarian breed.

Until World War II they were the predominant breed in Hungary but were then increasingly displaced by other breeds of pig.

At the end of the 1970s not even 200 pure-bred

animals were still in existence. In the meantime though there are numerous projects to prevent the extinction of the Mangalica.

Source: Wikipedia.de

„Ich glaube mein Swien pfeift“ – or, I think my pig whistles!

One animal, many meanings

Wir haben Schwein gehabt!“ [literally „we had pig!“; meaning „we were lucky!“] is a commonly used phrase in German-speaking countries. The term is often used in everyday life but hardly anyone knows that it has its origin in old shooting festivals. Back then, there was a pig as a consolation prize for the worst shooter. Hence the meaning of this unexpected luck.

„Das kann doch kein Schwein lesen!“ is another German phrase [literally „no pig can read that!“]. The saying is said to have its origins in Schleswig-Holstein. In the late Middle Ages there were only a few people in the region who could actually read and write. One family going by the name of „Swien“ took over these activities for the people in the surroundings and earned their money in this way. If they were present

with a document that was absolutely unreadable they sent the person away again. Even a Swien [„swine“] couldn't read that. Swien means „pig“ in Low German, and so the idiom was a natural development.

Some terms originate from the characteristics of pigs, and some of them wrongly in our opinion: „You behave like a pig“ for example. It refers to a person who obviously behaves in a dirty way and without any decency. Pigs though are comparatively clean animals.

Source: www.redensarten-index.de