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New EuroTier product
WEDA Smart.Scope





WEDA Smart.Scope

Novel and patent-pending

The piglet protection cage of the Smart.Scope group farrowing pen has a telescopic design and is equipped with a self-catching mechanism. When you push it forward, a gap opens at the side. The worker has free access to the piglet nest, to the sow, and even to the sow's trough without having to climb around awkwardly. To lock the animals in place before entering the compartment, a new self-catching restraint has been installed – the worker can enter safely.

The Smart.Scope group farrowing pen features two impressive innovations. The piglet protection cage has a telescopic design. Around the birth, the cage is closed and pushed forward. A lateral gap is opened – the employee gets free access to the piglet nest, to the sow, and even to the sow's trough. He can work almost like in a conventional farrowing pen. If one wants to let the animals run free, the piglet protection cage is pulled back, locked in place and the doors of the pen are opened. The piglet area is protected, the sow and the piglets can move freely in the group. WEDA has applied for a patent for this innovative technology.

Typically, in group farrowing, the piglet protection cage is attached to the front and the back of the pen to ensure good stability and to protect the piglet nest well. In order to prevent a free-ranging sow from jumping into the piglet area, the rear walls of the pens must be high enough, which makes work more difficult. One often has to climb over walls, e.g., when washing the compartment after use. Not only is this labour-intensive, but it is also dangerous because one could slip on the wet rails.



Telescopable: The piglet protection cage in its closed state. The farmer can easily and safely enter the piglet area on the left.



Now the piglet protection cage is open. Both the piglets and the sow can enter the free-range area in front of the pen.



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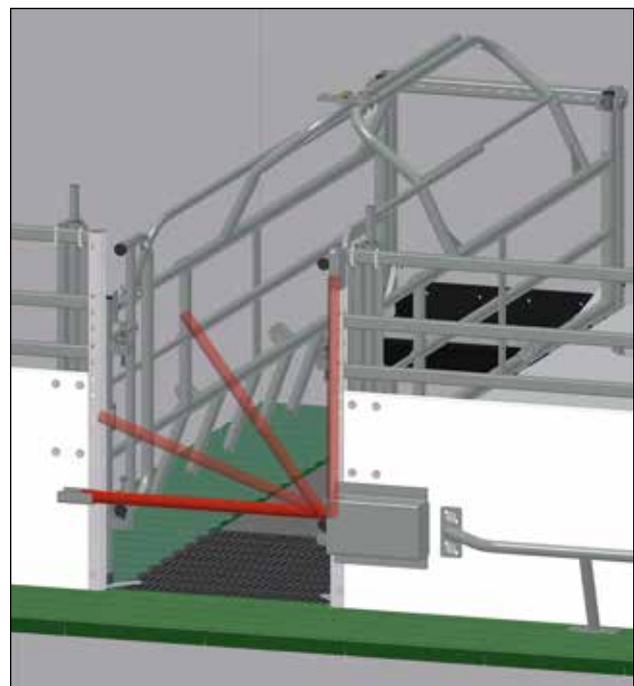
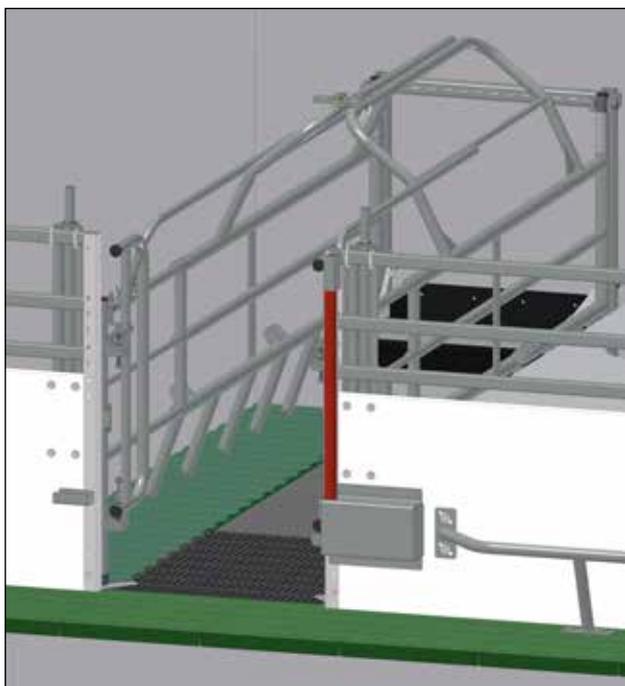
The clever self-catching mechanism

Another disadvantage is that traditionally one has to enter the group area unprotected to reach the individual farrowing pens for animal inspection. In this system, there are no inspection passages for the employee. The large passage behind the farrowing pens is used as a movement area for the animals. Since the sows often defend their piglets, the employee is exposed to great danger when the employee has to move between heavy sows.

The innovative protective cage of the Smart.Scope allows free passage to any area of the pen. That way, work is possible in the same way as in a conventional farrowing pen. In order to let the animals run free, the protective cage is simply pulled back, locked in place, and the doors are opened. The piglet area is protected, piglets and sows can move freely in the group. For cleaning, everything can be loosened, pushed in, and moved freely.

The second innovation consists of a new self-catching restraint in front of the pen that locks the sow in place after it has entered. If the sow has to be caught, the restraint is tilted horizontally into the exit of the pen by means of a pneumatic cylinder. The sows can simply step over the pipe when entering. However, since they cannot climb backwards, they cannot get over it and are trapped in the bay.

Now the farmer feeds a small amount of feed into the troughs via his feeding system. In order for the animals to catch themselves, the new self-catching restraint is tilted horizontally into the exit of the pen. Sows can simply climb over the restraint. However, since they cannot climb backwards and therefore cannot get over the restraint, they are trapped. The sows are lured into the pen by the feed, trapped and the farmer can safely enter each pen. Afterwards, the pipe is moved into the vertical position again and the sow can move freely once more.



Self-catching mechanism: For short-term immobilisation, the catch restraint is tilted downwards in front of the bay. The sow cannot climb over it backwards and is trapped.



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