

HACCP for Suckling Piglet Mortality CORE Organic

Deliverables of the COREPIG project are management tools based on the HACCP principle (Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points). These tools help farmers (in a farm specific way) to solve and prevent problems with endoparasites, reproduction and farrowing problems, weaning diarrhoea and suckling piglet mortality. They are available as Microsoft Excel® files. We recommend that the tools be used by the farmer together with the farm's advisor or veterinarian.

Each tool contains instructions for use and consists of three parts:

- i) a questionnaire for the farmer,
- ii) a check list to be used in the barn and
- iii) the farm specific report.

Description of the HACCP tool

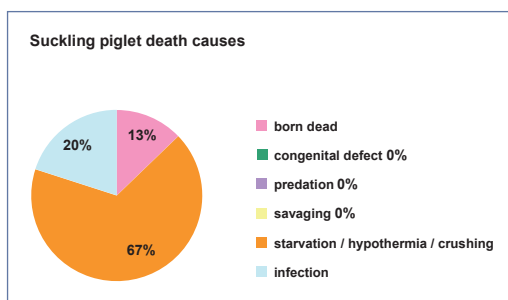
The **questionnaire** collects information on the farm conditions and farm management that are relevant to **suckling piglet mortality**.

The **checklist** serves to record the situation in the barn.

Environment		
Insulated foors	Are farrowing pen floors insulated (construction or bedding) ?	yes
Draughty pen	Is the pen draughty ?	no
Creep area	Is here a heated piglet creep area (unless farrowing outdoors) ?	yes
Nest	Does the farrowing nest have effective fenders ?	yes

The **report** consists of four parts:

1) Summary of the potential death causes of suckling piglets on the farm



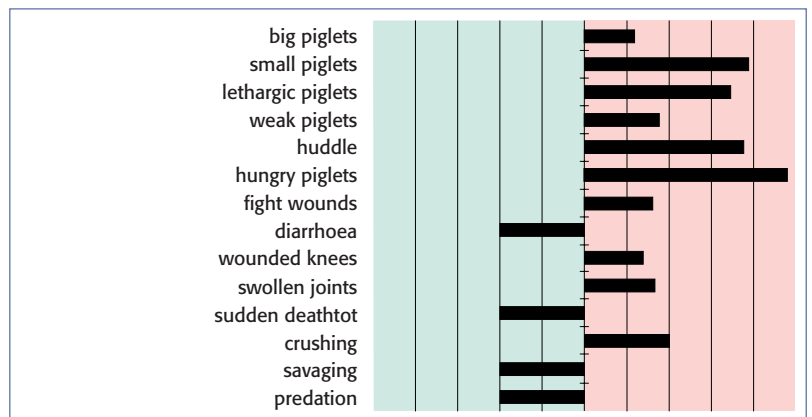
2) List of preventive measures already implemented on the farm (with explanation of their causal relationship)

Current situation	Is related to dying from	Reasoning/ causation
Do you confine the sows during farrowing? – no	born dead	Restriction of movement can impair nest building in the pre-farrowing period. This stresses the sow and can prolong farrowing because stress hormones antagonise the effects of oxytocin (> contractions).

3) List of high impact hazards which should be changed (plus recommendations for improvement)

Current situation	Key-word	Contributes to dying from	Reasoning/ causation	Solutions
Are piglets small at birth (many <1 kg)? – yes	small piglets	crushing, hypothermia	Piglets of low birthweight lose heat rapidly because of their high surface area to volume ratio. They also suckle less well because of competition with bigger littermates. This makes them lethargic and prone to remain in high risk areas close to the sow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Ensure that sows have adequate body condition at farrowing. ➤ Consult a nutritionist to check that the gestation diet is correctly formulated. ➤ If possible provide supplementary heat at the site of birth until piglets are dry.

4) Overview of the farm's 'strengths and weaknesses' regarding suckling piglet mortality



Bars to the left indicate preventive measures already being implemented, while bars to the right point out criteria, which indicate an increased suckling piglet mortality on the farm. The longer the bar, the stronger the impact.