

How to drive pigs easily

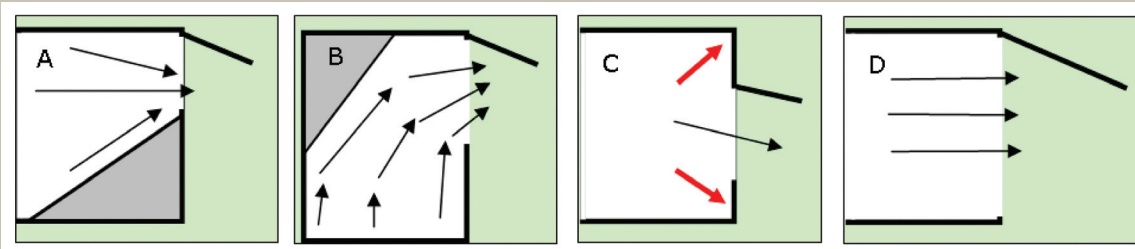
Driving pigs gently and easily is an advantage for both the pigs and the people who drive them. Successful driving can be facilitated by considering the pig's behaviour and by arranging aisles, pick-up facilities and ramps accordingly. The below points constitute good practices:

Design of the facility:

- Doors and gates must not be narrower than the driving aisles
- Cover blind corners where the pigs may get "caught"
- Driving aisles must be min. 1.5 m wide to allow room for finishers of 1.25 m without them blocking the way
- Make driving aisles "uninteresting" - cover open pen sides and avoid sudden noise
- The floor of the driving aisles should be made of the same materials from pens to pick-up ramp
- Avoid or neutralize differences in floor levels
- Avoid driving the pigs downhill
- Floor gradients should measure max. 20 cm per m
- Pigs automatically move towards light areas - use this behaviour by switching on lights in the direction where the pigs are going. Avoid strong sunlight
- Avoid draught from open doors, ventilation etc. and shield pick-up ramps against wind and rain.

Handling:

- Handle the pigs as gently as possible and do not display aggressive behaviour
- Start driving the pigs well in advance of the pick-up, and do not force and frighten the pigs. Stress makes the animals nervous and stubborn
- Use driving plates
- Move the pigs in small groups or let a couple of pigs "lead the way" before driving a large group



- A) Driving is made easier by placing the gate/door in a corner and covering the opposite corner.
- B) Turns and corners may make it difficult to drive the pigs and should be avoided - a cover plate or a mirror may help the pigs along.
- C) Blind corners on either side of the gate/door impede the driving.
- D) It is easier to drive the pigs if doors and aisles are equally wide.



This fact Sheet is also available in Danish and Russian at www.vsp.lf.dk

