

# Transfer and sorting of weaners

Efficient sorting procedures and sectioning prevent disease. When the pigs are sorted at transfer to the weaner facility, it is possible to switch diets pen-wise at the optimum time.

## Sectioned management

- Pigs are transferred to an empty, clean and warm facility
- Infection pressure is reduced as all pigs have the same age and level of immunity
- The facility is emptied after each batch

## Sort the pigs at weaning

- Place the smallest pigs (approx. 15%) in pens with a superior thermal environment
- Place the largest ones (approx. 15%) in separate pens
- Wean the remaining 70% litter-wise to minimise mixing of litters
- Do not mix pigs already weaned (eg. pigs from nurse sows) with newly weaned pigs. Place them in separate pens.

## Limited mixing improves herd health

- Do not move pigs backwards in the system; collect them in individual pens if it is absolutely necessary to move them
- Do not move pigs between pens

## Sorting of runts within a section

- Pigs that are unable to keep up with the rest of the pigs in the group must be identified and moved regularly
- Move pigs to sorting pens only as that minimises mixing
- Treat sick pigs and move them to a hospital pen

## Emptying a section

- When emptying a section, herd conditions determine how to handle the runts.
- Generally, small sections are preferred for these pigs. These sections are emptied and washed regularly.
- Continuous collection units in which all runts are mixed should be avoided, particular on farms with respiratory disorders.
- Do not move these pigs back to a section with younger pigs



Empty, clean and warm facility ready for a new batch of pigs



Superior thermal environment for the smallest pigs



Treat sick pigs and move them to a hospital pen



A weaner pen is being emptied