

## ANIMAL WELFARE

**Title:** Systematic literature review and needs assessment of housing systems for gestating sows in group pens with group feeding – **NPB #08-275** REVISED

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### **Scientific Abstract:**

Gestation sow housing is a current contemporary animal welfare issue. The current political atmosphere is driving producers to consider changing back to group housing systems for gestating sows. It is important for producers converting to group housing systems that they know the best way in which to manage their system. Therefore, the objective of this review is to address how specific characteristics of group housing systems that incorporate group feeding impact production performance/efficiency, lifetime productivity, and overall well-being of the sow. Research in this area has predominantly focused on the effects of space allowance, feeding regimes and grouping of gestating sows. From this literature review it is clear that there are many gaps in our knowledge regarding the management of group housed and fed sows which are summarized in this review.

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