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## Effective Use of Space in Swine Farming

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Many swine farms do not provide optimal space arrangements (Turner 2009). We studied twenty **sow farms** to learn about the best space arrangements in use today. Below are the findings from our research.

The space requirements are different depending on the type of farm. Nevertheless, it appears important to provide more than the minimally required **static space**. Otherwise, **hogs** tend to be sicker and less productive. In **farrow-to-finish farms**, providing **social space** is advisable. When **sows** have adequate social space they produce healthier **litters**. In the case of **farrow-to-nursery farms**, providing social space does not add additional value. Therefore, we found that it is sufficient to provide adequate **dynamic space**.



### Get ready!

- 1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

- 1 Is the swine industry large in your country?
- 2 What are the challenges of swine farming?

### Reading

- 2 Read the page from an agricultural industry journal. Then, mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).

- 1 ☐ Providing minimal static space leads to healthier hogs.
- 2 ☐ Social space is recommended in farrow-to-finish farms.
- 3 ☐ Farrow-to-nursery farms only need dynamic space.

### Vocabulary

- 3 Match the words (1-6) with the definitions (A-F).

- |                                     |   |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| 1 <input type="checkbox"/> hog      | 4 <input type="checkbox"/> dynamic space          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> sow farm | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> farrow-to-finish farm  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> litter   | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> farrow-to-nursery farm |

- A a group of baby pigs  
B a farm that raises female pigs  
C enough space for an animal to move  
D a farm that raises pigs to market weight  
E a pig that has achieved market weight  
F a farm that raises pigs until they are weaned

- 4 Write a word that is similar in meaning to the underlined part.

- 1 The female pig just had another litter.
- 2 Larger pens provide space that allows animals to interact with one another.  o c  s  c
- 3 The amount of space required to contain an animal's not enough; the pig needs room to move. s t   p  e
- 4 Raising pigs and related animals is difficult.  w