

R&D Snapshot

Strategies for the Early Detection of Sick and Injured Gestating Sows

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Purpose:

- To develop a strategy for the most effective detection method for identifying sick or injured dry sows for early treatment and reduced unplanned culling.

Take home messages:

- Low body condition score and lameness were the most frequently observed issues in dry sows
- Feeding time was found to be the best time of day to identify sick or injured sows
- The most effective method for detecting issues in group-housed sows was to walk through their pens at the end of the feeding period and encourage all sows to stand and move around
- The most effective method for detecting issues in stall-housed sows was to examine them from the back aisle during feeding time.
- Farm staff should vary their inspection times/methods to increase chances of detecting different issues. This process would be more effective by the use of SOPs for inspection of dry sows.

Additional information:

- Click [here](#) to view the full report
- Contact Pat Mitchell at pat.mitchell@australianpork.com.au or 03 5488 2306 or 0427 423 869.

