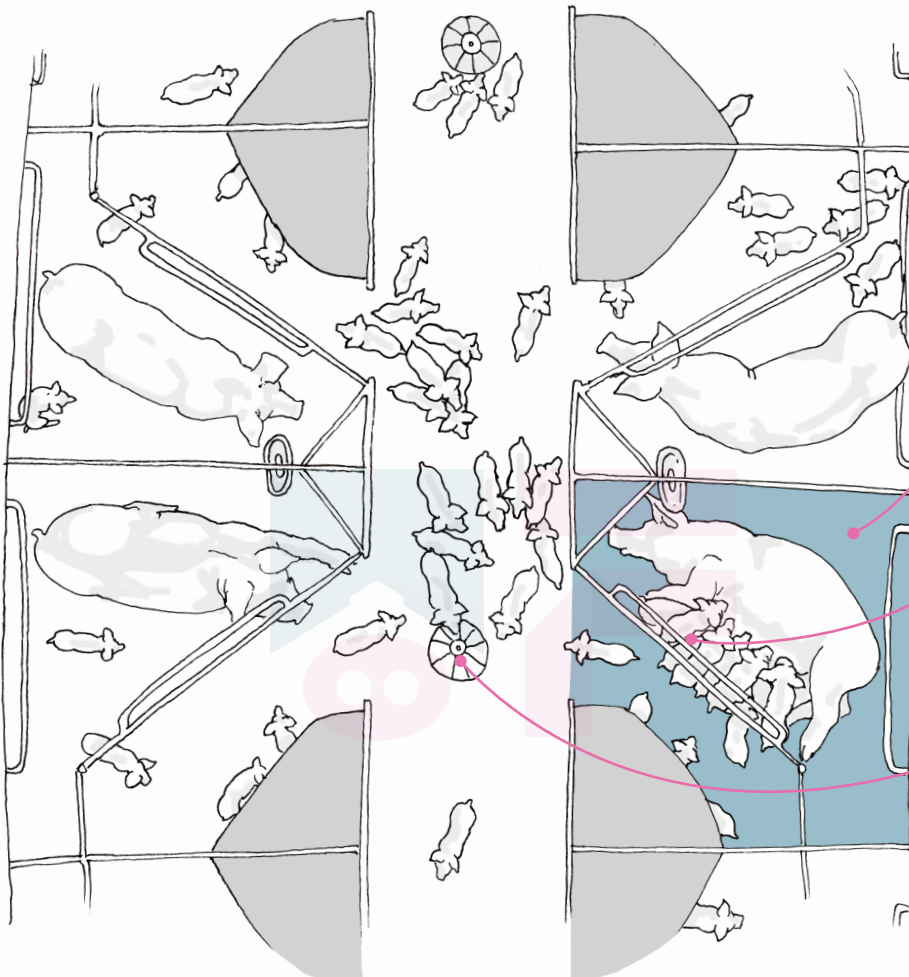


Loose lactation & piglet commingling



This design increases the size of the lactation pen allowing the piglets to comingling from 20 days of age.



Lactation pens are 6.5 m², from which 1,3 m² are designated as piglet area.

The farrowing crates are opened after a maximum of 7 days. At present, they open them on day 4.

Comingling starts after 20 days

Comingling allows the piglets to adapt to other piglets and form group hierarchies while still with their mothers, this is thought to reduce the piglets level of stress at weaning. It also increases feed intake and reduces post-weaning scours.

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FACILITIES

- 6.5 m² pens installed in 2017
- Designated piglet area: 1.3 m²
- Use of paper as nest building material.
- Floorheating.
- Presence of anticrushing rails.
- The floor is fully slated.

MANAGEMENT

- Initially farrowing crates opened at 7 days, now reduced to 4 days after farrowing, a greater level of piglet mortality was recorded when they were opened earlier.
- Piglets are allowed to comingling from 20 days of age
- Piglets are weaned at 28 days.