

The research may be interesting to readers, but formatting errors should be corrected.

Thank you for all your questions and suggestions.

Remember that the simple summary and the abstract should not exceed 200 words, check the journal format.

According to our Microsoft Word counting words tool (please check the image below), our Simple summary has exactly 200 words so it would be OK.



Article

Effects of mean weight of sows and offspring performance

Rui Charneca ¹, Amadeu Freitas ¹, José Luís Nunes ¹, Jean Ledivich ²

¹ MED—Mediterranean Agrarian University of Évora, 7006-554 Évora, Portugal; rui.chneca@uevora.pt (R.C.); amadeu.freitas@uevora.pt (A.F.); jlnunes@uevora.pt (J.L.N.); ² Independent Researcher; jean.ledivich@club-internet.fr (J.L.D.)

* Correspondence: rui.chneca@uevora.pt; Tel.: +351266760906

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

Contar palavras

Estatísticas:

Páginas	1
Palavras	200
Carateres (sem espaços)	1 063
Carateres (incl. espaços)	1 263
Parágrafos	1
Linhas	13

☒ Incluir caixas de texto, notas de rodapé e de fim

Fechar

Simple Summary: Piglet survival and performance until weaning are key features of sow productivity and, therefore, swine production efficiency. The genetic improvement of the last decades has led to larger litters but also to more heterogenous ones, with an increased number of low birth-weight piglets that are more prone to die before weaning due to their lower capacity to ingest colostrum and milk in the competitive environment with their litter-mates. Some studies show that more uniform litters can be beneficial to piglet survival, however selection for litter uniformity can lead to smaller litters or birth weight reduction. In this study we aimed to check the influence of different mean weights of uniform litters on piglet survival and performance. As main conclusions we observed lower pre-weaning mortality in uniform than in heterogenous litters, the colostrum yield (CY) of sows is dependent on the total weight of the litter and litter weight gain in the first day after farrowing is a good marker for CY. The mean weight of piglets of uniform litters influences their colostrum intake and the weaning weight but not their survival. According to the present results selection for litter uniformity is advisable due to its beneficial effects on sow productivity.

Citation: Charneca, R.; Freitas, A.; Nunes, J.L.T.; Ledivich, J.L. Effects of

Homogenize the use of p or p in statistical differences throughout the document.

The use of p is homogenized in revised version of the manuscript.

Table 1. Improve the table since it shows a moved format.

We don't understand why, but the table 1 has been unformatted when the manuscript was uploaded, mixing line numbers and table values. The correct table in below and it will be placed in the revised version of the manuscript.

Table 1. Reproductive and productive traits of sows and piglets of the original litters

	Minimum-Maximum	Mean	SD
Parity	2 - 8	3.9	1.5
Farrowing duration (min)	102 - 451	236	86
Total born	6 - 21	14.5	3
Born alive	5 - 18	13.5	2.8
Stillborn	0 - 6	0.8	1.2
Mummified	0 - 3	0.2	0.5
Mean birth weight (g) *	940 - 2193	1395	229
Intra-litter CV (%) *	3.4 - 36.4	19.7	7.1

* only born alive piglets

Table 4.- add at the bottom of the table the meaning of the literals a,b.

It is done in Table 4 and also in Table 2 in the revised version of the manuscript

Check that the format of the citations is correct.

The reference list was homogenized in letter size in the revised version of the manuscript. We hope that was the problem.