

**Fattening pig performance as affected by the number of pigs per pen,
the bedded surface area and the available volume per pig in fattening houses
with partial slatted floor**

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Despite numerous studies on housing of fattening pigs, some questions have not yet been elucidated : How many pigs per pen ? How large the area and useful volume per pig ? How many pigs per house ? Is it possible to cram the fattening pens ?

A total of 12 trials were made by the I.T.P. (*) over a 3-year period (from August 1979 to June 1982). The following conclusions were drawn :

— Whatever the feeding restriction applied (restricted castrated males or *ad libitum* females), growth differences observed between 65 and 100 kg live weight in groups of 10-15 or 20 pigs per pen were not significant. (In castrated males the daily mean gain was 657-612 and 615 g, respectively and in females it was 665-673 and 726 g in spring, 693-707 and 733 or 783-814 and 804 g in autumn).

— Reduction of the bedded area per pig (60-55 and 50 cm²) significantly improved the daily mean gain during late fattening in restricted castrated males (728-849 and 825 g) as well as in *ad libitum* females (717-831 and 826 g) in autumn. In spring, no difference was significant (696-696 and 639 or 732-706 and 700 g, respectively).

— The available volume per pig (3-4 or 6 m³) and the capacity of the fattening room (40 or 80 places) had no effect on the growth of animals subjected to static ventilation.

— Daily mean gain decreased from 60 kg live weight as soon as the pen cramming reached or exceeded 20 p. 100 (716, 681, 680 and 673 g in restricted castrated males and 751, 723, 711 and 694 g in restricted females also when the number of pigs per pen was 9-10-11 and 12, respectively).

**Influence of restricted space on performance and behaviour
of pigs in growing-finishing period**

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The effect of restricted space for growing-finishing 25-100 kg pigs was studied for resting area. Three treatments i.e. 0.34-0.68-1.01 m² of bedded area available per pig between 30 and 100 kg of live weight were compared in groups of eight animals (four castrated males and four females). Five replicates of 8 pigs per treatment were used.

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