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Methods to Improve Boar Exposure to Identify Pro-Estrus Sows



Use Quality Boars

Good boars are interested in females and interested in the process. Does he talk to the sows? Does he have a good presence to the sows? Does he have a good pheromone emission?



Look for Multi-Sensory Cues

Research shows that a good boar displays multiple sensory cues: sight, smell and sound. They have to be able to get the sow to understand, "I'm here," by expressing male behaviors to which a female will respond. Those include multiple sensory cues, such as vocalization, frothing of the mouth and nose-to-nose contact.



Allow Boars to Interact Freely

The best exposure uses boars that are free and loose so they can interact with sows at their preference. It's good to have a team of boars (up to six) that can be used for estrus detection. Different sows will respond to different boars in unique ways. Farms that use teams of boars have the best results.



Treat Sows and Gilts Differently

For wean sows in crates, boars should be presented to the sows and walked slowly. A sow requires 30 to 45 seconds to ensure good exposure. For gilts, it's best to expose one boar per 15 gilts. The boar needs to be in the pen for 15 to 20 minutes to stimulate puberty, which is a longer than a wean sow needs.

For More Information:

UnitedAnH.com/boar-exposure



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