



Schothorst Feed Research

SOW FACILITY



General information

- Group housing of **300 gestating sows** in 2 dynamic groups with **4 individual feeding stations per group**
- Each feeding station can feed up to **6 different types of feed**
- Individual pens for more specific research, like digestibility and tolerance experiments
- In total 112 farrowing pens are set up conform practice, but equipped with a storage feeder
- Type of experiments:
 - comparative experiments
 - dose-response experiments
 - registration and tolerance experiments (conform EU standards)
 - digestibility experiments
- Experiments can be performed in **all stages of the reproductive cycle**; gestation, lactation, weaning to oestrus interval and a combination of these stages
- Experiments performed with **2 to 6 treatments** with 20-40 sows per treatment
- Sows are allocated to treatments according to parity
- Weaning age approx. 28 days based on three weeks management system

Standard observations

- Daily feed intake
- Body weight and back fat thickness of the sow
- Number of total born and live born
- Individual body weight of the piglet weight at birth and weaning
- Creep feed intake per litter
- Piglet mortality

Additional measurements

- Blood and milk samples
- Milk production estimation
- Faecal and urine samples
- Follicle development
- Farrowing process
- Behaviour studies

