

Moving Pregnant Sows & Gilts

*Moving pregnant sows and gilts is a stressful event.
Stay calm and patient and allow the sows to move at their own pace.*



Prepare the path of movement by removing all obstacles and distractions. Secure all gates.



Move pregnant sows and gilts in small groups. Moving 1-5 sows at a time is safer, less stressful, and more efficient.



Pregnant sows will need to move slowly. They are carrying litters of 8-20 piglets. They are very heavy, uncomfortable and less agile.



It is important not to crowd or push the sows too quickly to eliminate undue stress. Stress may affect the number of live-born piglets.



Use a sort board whenever possible and maintain a slight bend in your knees. This will lessen the chance of knee injury for handlers.



In narrow alleys where it may be difficult to keep a sort board between you and the sow at all times use good judgement. Your safety comes first.



When turning 90 degree corners apply light pressure. Tap the sow on the shoulder in the direction you want her to turn.



Allow older sows who are familiar with the weaning process to lead younger sows into a farrowing room.



Sows and gilts are curious yet fearful. Allow sows time to become comfortable with new sights, textures and sounds when loading a farrowing room.



Frightened sows may try to jump over stalls. They might cause injury to themselves or their litters if they jump.