



Show employee how to properly prepare the path of movement when moving sows from the gestation barn to the farrowing barn.

- Clear all potential obstacles and distractions.
- Secure all gates and close all doors.
- Apply a drying agent to the floor to prevent slipping.



Show employee the appropriate size of group of sows to move at one time.

- Sows can be moved individual, but may also benefit from moving as a group.
- Moving groups of one to five sows is safer, less stressful and more efficient than moving larger groups.



Walk the employee through the gestation barn and explain why an expectant sow will need to move more slowly.

- A pregnant sow is carrying a litter of eight-20 piglets.
- A pregnant sow is very heavy, uncomfortable and less agile than usual.



Explain to the employee the importance of minimal stress on a pregnant sow.

- Crowding and being pushed to quickly will add much undue stress to the sow.
- Stress may affect the number of piglets to which sow will give live birth too.



Show the employee how to safely prepare to handle pregnant sows.

- Use of a sort board will reduce knee injuries.
- Stand with knees bent to allow give, in case a sow runs into the handlers legs.



Show the employee a narrow alley or 90 degree turn where sort board use may be difficult.

- Pay attention to the temperament of the sow
- Sows must be moving calmly and not appear to be stressed for employees to handle sows without a sort board.
- Use good judgment and put your own safety first.



Walk the employee through the path of movement from Gestation to Farrowing. Point out 90 degree turns and show employee how to guide pregnant sows through these turns.

- Apply light pressure.
- Tap the sow on the shoulder in the direction you want her to turn.
- Create visual barriers to keep her moving in the right direction.



Show the employee the benefits of allowing older sows to lead younger sows.

- Older more experienced sows (older parity sows) are familiar with the process and less hesitant.
- Gilts and younger sows will follow older sows.



While moving a sow between barns and into the farrowing room, explain why allowing time for the sow to become comfortable is more efficient than pushing hard.

- Sows and gilts are curious yet fearful
- Allow sows time to explore and become comfortable with new sights, textures and sounds.



Explain to the employee the dangers of a frightened sow.

- A sow may try to jump over stall gates, which could injure herself and/or her litter.
- Sows may slip and fall.
- Sows can knock over employees and cause them injuries.