

Competitive Feeding System

Floor Feeding

- Lowest conversion cost
- Need solid areas for feed drops

Shoulder Stalls

- Low conversion cost
- Can use existing feed lines

Competitive Feeding System

- Suitable for small static groups of 10 to 20 sows
- Good stockmanship required: form small, uniform groups and monitor sows daily at feeding
- Expect variation in body condition, feed wastage and production challenges due to competition
 - Small pens require more space per pig in pens and more alleyways for access
 - Feeding aggression is reduced in shoulder stalls compared to floor feeding

Non-competitive Feeding System

High Tech

Low Tech

Group Sow Housing Decision Tree



Determining which group housing system to use can be a daunting task. There are multiple systems to choose from, and no hard rules to follow. This decision tree provides a rough guide based on key questions you need to ask yourself.

Should I renovate my existing barn or build a new barn?

DECISION #1

Value

Does your existing structure still have value or a limited lifespan?

Limited Life

Do you want a short or long term investment?

Long

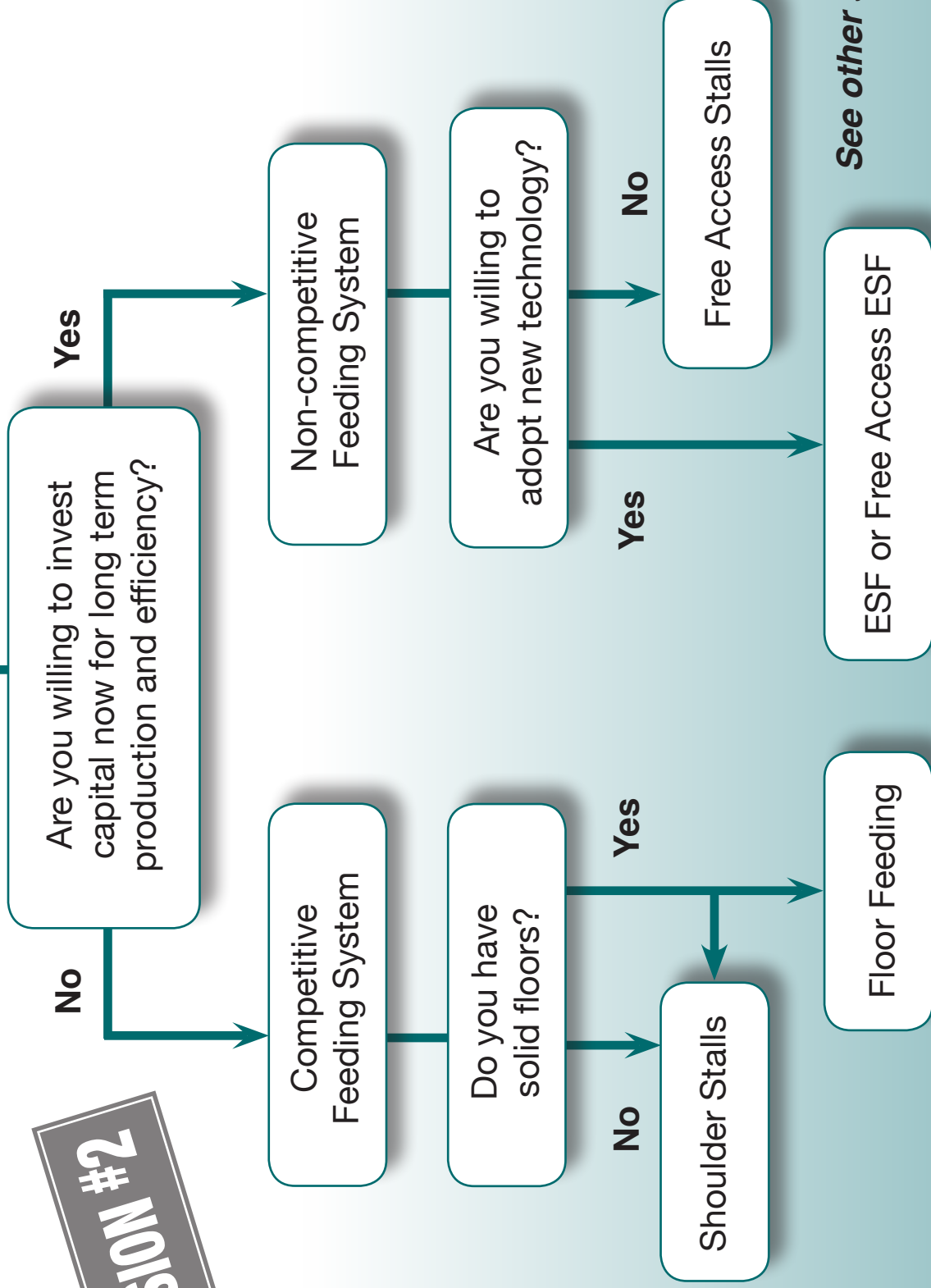
Build new barn

Short

Renovate existing barn

Should I choose a competitive or non-competitive feeding system?

DECISION #2



Free-Access ESF

- Static pens of 20 to 60 sows
- Individual feeding is electronic
- Moderate conversion cost
- Efficient use of space

ESF

- Static pens of 50 to 60 sows OR dynamic pens of 60 to >300 sows
- Individual feeding is electronic
- High conversion cost
- Efficient use of space

Free-Access Stalls

- Static pens of 20 to 40 sows
- All sows in a pen receive the same amount of feed
- Minimal aggression and competition
- High cost

Non-Competitive Feeding Systems

- Individual feeding allows for more uniform body condition
- Reduced feed costs due to less wastage and overfeeding
 - Can still have competition at the feeder stall
- Small pens require more space per pig in pens and more alleyways for access
- Potential for precision feeding as technology and data management improve

Prairie Swine Centre would like to acknowledge the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Rural Affairs swine team for their assistance in developing this decision tree.

For more information on group sow housing visit
www.groupsowhousing.com