

Group Sow Housing Feeding Systems

PRO

Determining which group from, and no hard rules Combined with the Gro

Category	Floor Feeding	Shoulder Stalls
Space Allowance	Pro: Moderate space requirement	Pro: Moderate space requirement
Cost	Pro: Low cost	Pro: Low cost
Daily Management	Pro: Low tech Con: High management input to sort groups, find and manage dropouts	Pro: Low tech Con: High management input to sort groups, find and manage dropouts
Training	Pro: No sow training	Pro: No sow training
Social/Welfare	Con: High aggression and competition	Con: Aggression and competition
Other	Con: Over feeding used to reduce aggression	Con: Over feeding used to reduce aggression

PROS & CONS

Choosing a housing system to use can be a daunting task. There are multiple systems to choose from to follow. This chart outlines some of the pros and cons of each of the different systems. Using the Housing Decision Tree, this should help you decide which system fits your needs.

ESF	Free-Access ESF	Free-Access Stalls
Pro: Low space requirement	Pro: Low-moderate space requirement	Con: High space requirement
Con: Moderate to high cost	Con: Moderate cost	Con: High cost
Pro: Automated management Con: Technical expertise, ear tags	Pro: Automated management Con: Technical expertise, ear tags	Pro: Low management input Con: Low tech
Con: Training required	Con: Some training required	Pro: No sow training
Pro: Individual feeding Con: Sows compete at feeder	Pro: Individual feeding Con: Sows compete at feeder	Pro: Individual feeding Con: Many sows remain in stalls
Pro: Automated sorting, heat checking, 'precision farming'	Pro: Automated data collection, 'precision farming'	Con: All sows in a group get same feed amount