

# Maxwell Foods, LLC

- Maxwell Family, owners/operators of Goldsboro Milling Company.
- Founded in 1916 as a feed mill
- Started contract turkey production in 1950
- With recent purchase of Butterball from ConAgra is now the largest producer and processor of turkey in the world.
- The swine company was started in 1989 and now has over 80,000 sows in production.

# Stalls vs. Pens

- Gestation pens have been very successful
- In 1989 saw animal welfare pressures being waged in Europe.
- Pressure to eliminate stalls social issue.
- Recent announcement by Smithfield Foods to eliminate stalls driving entire industry to follow.

# Temple Grandin

- Temple Grandin has been recognized by both the livestock and animal rights groups.
- Invited to visit Maxwell system in response to large public food chain's desire for more “animal welfare friendly” pork.
- Temple's has approved Maxwell system.

# System approve by Temple

- Sows allowed to farrow in crates.
- Sows in stalls during breeding and 1<sup>st</sup> pregnancy check
- Gilts in groups of 6 to pen
- Sows in groups of 5 to pen

Temple's report:

“They are setting the standard for large scale pork production. The entire industry can use them as a model.”

# Sows in farrowing crate

- Temple & the Humane Society of the United States approves sows in farrowing crates.
- Worker safety
- Sow health
- Piglet health

# 35 Day Stalls

- Temple approved 35 day period in individual stalls.
- Allows for insemination with safety to both sow and inseminator.
- Prevents injury during heat due to “riding.”
- Allows for individual feeding for body condition during critical post lactation period.
- Time for embryos to implant

# Pens

- Sorted by size and parity
- 8' x 10' pens
- 5 sows(16 sq.ft.) - 6 gilts (13 sq.ft.)
- Some aggressive behavior to establish social order during first hours.

# Benefit of Pens

- Socially approved by general public
- Sow and gilts enjoy socialization
- Better water intake
- Better floors
- Less maintenance
- Catching recycles
- Sow health
- Herd stabilization

# Genetics

- Selected in pen gestation system
- Social behavior
- Soundness

# Proof in Performance

- Low sow mortality 4-6%
- Pigs per sow 22.75 Company average  
Range 19 PSY to 25 PSY depending on PRSS destabilization-stabilization
- 14 lb pig at 19 days of age
- Farrowing rate 84 percent