

# National Pork Board Sow Housing - Special Call for Proposals

**DEADLINE: Tuesday, November 18, 2008 – 5:00 pm C.S.T.**

## **Systematic Literature Review and Needs Assessment of Housing Systems for Gestating Sows**

Many different types of systems are being used to house gestating sows throughout the world today. Research has shown that these housing systems in current use have advantages and disadvantages for the overall well-being of the gestating sow. Currently, the National Pork Board's Animal Welfare Committee sow housing research priorities target the development and evaluation of new and innovative housing systems and the optimization of components within existing housing systems. In efforts to further focus these research priorities and to develop educational resources for producers, the Pork Checkoff is making a special request for proposals to conduct **exhaustive, systematic** reviews of the domestic and international literature on any one of the following three categories:

- 1) **Individual stalls (specifically includes straight sided stalls, turn around stalls, and any other enclosed, individual housing system excluding free-access stalls)**
- 2) **Group pens – individual feeding (electronic sow feeders, free-access stalls, feeding stalls, etc.)**
- 3) **Group pens – group feeding (drop feeding, trickle feeding, etc)**

The objective of this exhaustive review is to address how specific characteristics of these particular housing systems impact **production performance/efficiency, lifetime productivity, and overall well-being** of the sow. Specific characteristics of the housing system that should be explored in the review are:

<b>Flooring</b>	<b>feed/water resource allocation</b>	<b>air quality</b>
<b>Pen shape</b>	<b>feed/water resource location</b>	<b>space allocation</b>
<b>Feeding regime</b>	<b>Group type (static/dynamic)</b>	<b>group size</b>
<b>bedding</b>	<b>group formation criteria</b>	<b>time of grouping</b>
<b>Genetics</b>	<b>equipment existence/availability</b>	<b>Other</b>

The "Stated Plan for Completion" section of the proposal should have a clear and detailed description of the plan to identify resources to be used in the literature review (i.e. MEDLINE, AGRICOLA, CAB International, BIOSIS, etc.). Each database includes some unique journal sources, so it is recommended that multiple databases be used. The literature review should include both domestic and international sources. Please include a description of how non-peer reviewed literature (abstracts, case studies, trade magazine articles, etc.) will be included in the review. This entire section will be used to evaluate the depth and breadth of the proposed literature search. Copies of the

literature reviewed should be made available to the National Pork Board upon submission of the completed review.

The review should be written according to current JAS formatting guidelines. Upon completion of the review, a 1-2 page “how-to” information sheet about the reviewed category(s) will be developed for future distribution to a producer audience. Additionally, the literature review will reveal needs for future research. A future research needs assessment document must be created and should outline specific areas where additional research is needed along with justification as to why. This needs assessment will be used as a road map for future research calls in this area. Please include information regarding the “how to” information sheet and needs assessment within the “Stated Plan for Completion” section of the proposal.

**Additional questions can be directed to:**

Sherrie Niekamp    [sneikamp@pork.org](mailto:sneikamp@pork.org)    515-223-3533