



Big Dutchman®



Pure Line



agilo

Group housing of lactating sows
— concepts for future-proof sow management —



More welfare for sows and piglets, more security for the farmer's future

Under the name **Agilo**, Big Dutchman offers two new group housing systems for lactating sows:

➤ **Agilo HL** and

➤ **Agilo FB**

An important feature of both systems is the large amount of space they offer for sows and piglets.

In the service centre and gestation area, sows are already often kept in groups. But for lactating sows, group housing is much less common. This is mostly due to the fact that the requirements regarding animal management and monitoring of such concepts are higher.

However, sows and piglets benefit from group housing because they can exhibit their natural behaviour:

- ✓ the sows are already kept in the same group before farrowing
- ✓ for farrowing, the sows and the piglets remain together in farrowing boxes
 - good maternal bonding
 - reduced risk of losses caused by overlying
- ✓ the farrowing box is opened after some days
 - interaction between the sows and all piglets of the group

- the piglets can act out their need for movement
- any ranking fights occur early on, reducing the piglets' risk of injury
- the sows' great freedom of movement boosts the metabolism and therefore increases feed intake, keeping the sows in a good condition.

It is, by the way, also possible to continue rearing the piglets in this system after weaning.

Let our experts advise you towards finding the best system for your individual requirements.



Agilo HL: group housing of lactating sows in a large group movement pen

Agilo HL: simple and robust housing system without bells and whistles

Agilo HL means a group housing concept where the farrowing frame remains open all the time after it is opened manually, i.e. it can only be closed manually by the staff. The sow's trough can be installed close to the

ground so the piglets learn from the sow how to feed from it. The drinker is also accessible for both sow and piglets. Through a piglet access door, the young pigs can enter the group movement pen. Here,

additional drinkers, feeders and enrichment material or even a separate piglet area can be offered.



Flooring system with plastic slats and integrated heating plates for the piglets and cool cast iron slats for the sow



Piglets using piglet access doors

Agilo FB: farrowing pen with free-access function

Agilo FB means a group housing concept where the sow can open and close the farrowing pen independently. She is thus able to eat and relax without being disturbed. A centralised free-access function is also

included, increasing comfort for the staff and reducing the time required for animal inspection. The flooring and feeding systems in the group movement pen are identical to Agilo HL.

The piglets also use piglet access doors to reach the group movement pen.



The sow decides whether she wants to remain protected by the farrowing frame or enter the group movement pen



The piglets have their own doors

What are the characteristics of the Agilo concept?

- ✓ group housing system with separation option for the sow, i.e. a farrowing box for each sow plus a group movement pen for all sows and piglets;
- ✓ individual farrowing in the farrowing frame creates a good bond between dam and piglets and reduces losses caused by overlying;
- ✓ an attractive group movement pen
- promotes the sows' agility: higher feed intake, better condition and increased milk production;
- ✓ the piglets define their hierarchy long before being weaned so there are fewer ranking fights after weaning;
- ✓ less stress during moving for the piglets, no new environment with new germs for a smooth transition to piglet rearing;
- ✓ well-suited for four to ten sows per group;
- ✓ Big Dutchman recommends using the Culina feeding system for suckling pigs to increase weaning weights and ensure more uniform piglets;
- ✓ the concept can also be used in houses with an open front.



„I am very happy that I selected group lactation pens and would always take this decision again!“

*Florian Hoenmans-Leurs
from Germany*



Big Dutchman.

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