Abstract

Three farrowing facility types and two farrowing seasons were compared. The farrowing facility types were: FA: Open front farrowing accommodation with masonry walls and concrete floors; AR: Farrowing arc huts, in number of eight; UNRC: Improved farrowing huts. The following variables were registered: Piglets born alive (NLeNV); Piglets weaned (NLeD); Average (Kg.) weaning weight (PLeD); Number of piglets died between farrowing and weaning (NLeMN-D); Piglet's mortality in percentage (%MLeN-D); Sows parities numbers (NOP). Feeding and management were similar for all treatments. Each sow and her litter were taken as a replication, which were accumulated over time, with sows of the same genetic origin assigned at random to each farrowing accommodation type. Farrowing season (EP) were: Autumn - Winter (A-W) and Spring - Summer (S - S). The interaction Farrowing Facility Types x EP was not significative (p = 0.89). The %MLeN-D and NLeMN-D, were lower (p < 0.05) in the UNRC farrowing hut in relation to the FA facility. For %MLeN-D the results were 20.39 % ± 1.53 the FA facility vs. 15.76 ± 1.50 and 14.01 ± 1.73 % for the AR and UNRC farrowing huts, respectively. There were no differences (p > 0.05) between the two farrowing hut types. PLeD was bigger (p<0.05) for the UNRC farrowing hut, with no differences between AR and FA farrowing facility types. With regard to farrowing season (EP) the %MLeN-D was bigger (p = 0.024) during A - W (20.68 % ± 1.57), compared with the S - S season (15.22 % ± 1.19).

Keywords

(sows), (farrowing huts), (outdoor); (design), (productivity)