



SowSo

SowSolution

A large **#GUDP** project (SowSo) will now focus on early detection and management of milk deficiency in sows (Postpartum Dysgalactia Syndrome/PDS). The project is carried out in a consortium consisting of **#AHV International**, **#BioCV** and **#SAGRO** under the leadership of **postdoc Marianne Kaiser** (DVM, PhD), **#Anivet**, Aarhus University.

The **aim of this project** is to mitigate PDS through the early identification of susceptible sows, and to evaluate an alternative treatment (AHV Metri Paste), as opposed to conventional antibiotics. The susceptible sows are identified utilizing data collected from an electronic ear tag system (BioCV).

In this sense, a recent study has shown that sows suffering from PDS exhibit reduced nest-building behavior. Using an ear tag equipped with microacceleration registration (BioCV), SowSo aims to develop an algorithm capable of discerning differences in movement patterns between healthy and sick PDS sows. The BioCV technology will be able to give farmers an early warning of sows at risk of developing PDS. An early diagnosis of PDS can thereby ensure early initiation of therapy, which will minimize the harmful consequences of PDS.

Once the BioCV technology is fully developed, it will be tested in the second phase of the study, designed to evaluate three treatment strategies against PDS (antibiotics, pain-relieving drugs (NSAIDs) and AHV Metri Paste). Preliminary pilot studies suggest that AHV Metri Paste provides support to sows during the critical post-farrowing period. AHV Metri Paste contains active plant extracts that are believed to stimulate the sow's appetite, metabolism, and immune system.

By early detection of PDS and subsequent stimulation of the sow's immune system, we hope to reduce the need for antibiotic treatment in sows suffering from PDS.



FACTS about PDS

Causes insufficient milk production → Piglet starvation, reduced piglet growth, increased piglet disease and mortality.

Poor sow welfare and prolonged farrowing.

Long-term reproductive problems (e.g., higher frequency of return rate, abortions, and late onset of heat).

Increased sow mortality.

Fewer live-born piglets.



The project is financed by the Green Development and Demonstration Program (GUDP) under the Danish Agency for Agriculture in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Fisheries.