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Housing, ease of handling and minimising inter-pig aggression at mixing for nursery to finishing pigs as reported in a survey of North American pork producers

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Highlights

- Producers' housing, handling and management of nursery-finisher pigs was surveyed
- Respondents ($n = 298$) selected the usefulness of techniques to reduce aggression
- 53% selected at least one management technique to minimise mixing aggression
- Those that regularly mixed unfamiliar pigs were more likely to use a technique
- Socialising piglets pre-weaning was rated as most useful but used by 19 respondents

ABSTRACT

Inter-pig aggression is a welfare issue that has undergone extensive research. Although management techniques have proven useful in minimising aggression in research settings, it is not known how often these are used on-farm. One objective of an online survey of North American pork producers was to learn about the housing, ease of handling, and management of nursery to finishing pigs, including what techniques were used to minimise aggression, how useful they were perceived to be and what were potential barriers to their use. Respondents were given a list of techniques to select which ones they used, and indicate how useful they

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