

Nursery and Grower/Finisher Management in Swine 2000 and Swine 2006

In 2000, the USDA's National Animal Health Monitoring System (NAHMS) conducted a study on swine health and management practices from a random sample of swine production sites in 17 States divided into 4 regions.¹ These States represented 94 percent of the U.S. pig inventory and 92 percent of U.S. pork producers with 100 or more pigs.

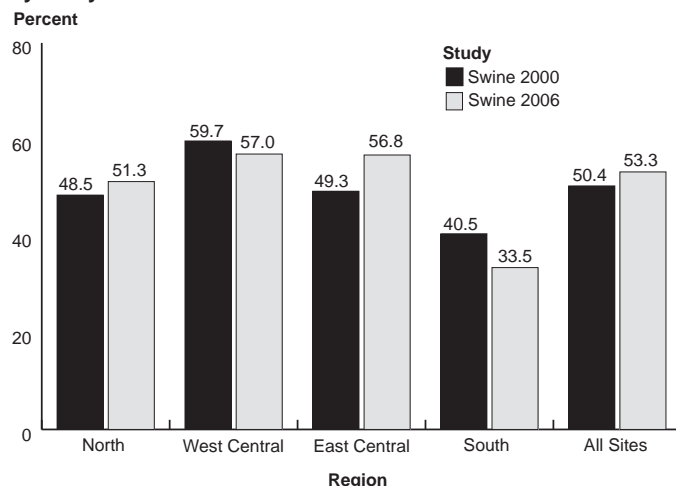
The same 17 States participated in NAHMS latest study of the U.S. swine industry, Swine 2006. In 2006, these States accounted for 94 percent of the U.S. pig inventory and 94 percent of U.S. pork producers with 100 or more pigs.

The following provides a comparison of nursery and grower/finisher management practices in 2000 and 2006 using data collected during both studies.

Nursery management

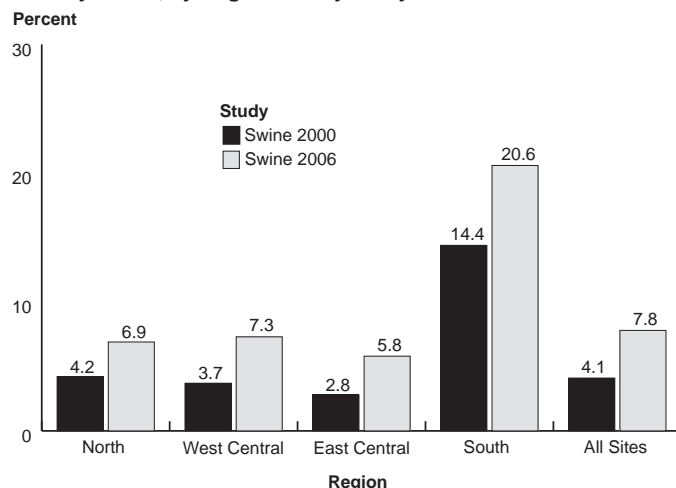
The percentages of sites with a nursery phase were similar in 2000 and 2006. In 2000, 50.4 percent of all sites had a nursery phase compared with 53.3 percent in 2006. The South region had the lowest percentage of sites with a nursery phase (figure 1).

Figure 1. Percentage of Sites with a Nursery Phase, by Region and by Study



Overall, the percentage of sites that specialized in nursery pigs exclusively increased from 4.1 percent in 2000 to 7.8 percent in 2006. Although the South region had the lowest percentage of sites with a nursery phase, it had the highest percentage of sites that specialized exclusively in the nursery phase (figure 2).

Figure 2. Percentage of Sites that Specialized Exclusively in the Nursery Phase, by Region and by Study



¹ States/ Regions

North: Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin
West Central: Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, and South Dakota
East Central: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, and Ohio
South: Arkansas, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Texas

Biosecurity in the nursery phase

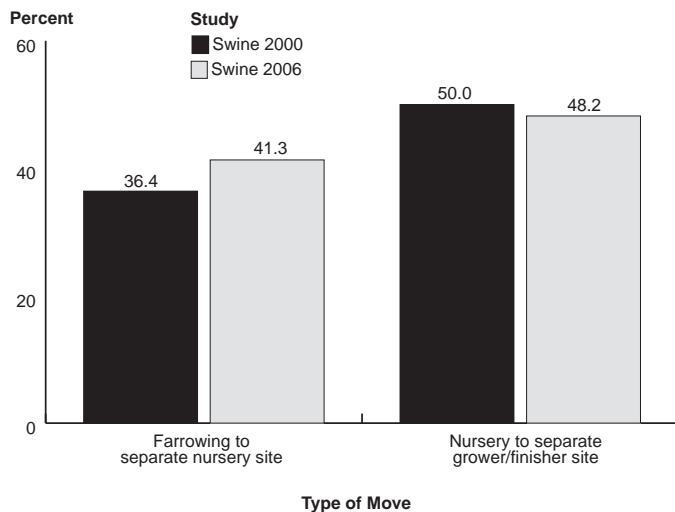
Table 1 shows the types of housing and flow systems used for nursery pigs in 2000 and 2006. Most sites containing nursery pigs housed the pigs in total confinement in 2000 and 2006. The percentage of sites that managed nursery pigs using all-in/all-out pig flow increased from 64.1 percent in 2000 to 71.0 percent in 2006. The percentage of sites that used no housing for nursery pigs (e.g., pasture) remained nearly unchanged from 2000 to 2006.

Table 1. Percentage of Nursery Sites, by Facility Type and by Management Style:

Facility Type	Percent Nursery Sites	
	2000	2006
Facility Type		
Total confinement	75.9	74.0
Management Style		
Continuous flow	32.3	25.0
All-in/all-out	64.1	71.0
No housing	3.6	4.0

Multiple-site production involves moving pigs to a separate site/location between phases of production to maintain physical separation of pigs in different phases. Figure 3 shows that the percentages of sites utilizing multiple-site production were similar in 2000 and 2006. In 2006, 41.3 percent of sites moved pigs from the farrowing site to a separate nursery site, up from 36.4 percent of sites in 2000. Approximately one-half of sites moved pigs from the nursery to a separate grower/finisher site in 2000 and 2006.

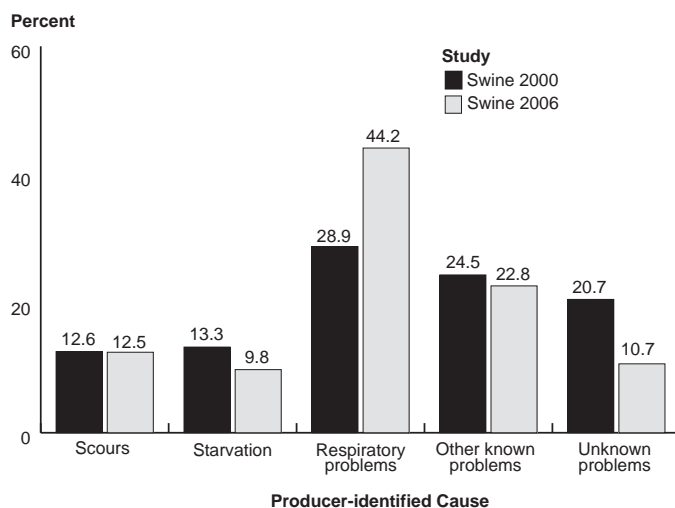
Figure 3. Percentage of Sites that Moved Pigs from One Site to a Separate Site as Pigs Changed Production Phases, by Type of Move and by Study



Deaths in the nursery phase

There were no differences in the percentages of nursery pigs that died from 2000 to 2006 (2.6 and 2.9 percent of nursery pigs, respectively). However, figure 4 shows that the percentage of deaths attributable to respiratory problems increased from 2000 to 2006, while unknown causes of mortality decreased from 2000 to 2006.

Figure 4. Percentage of Nursery-phase Deaths*, by Producer-identified Cause and by Study

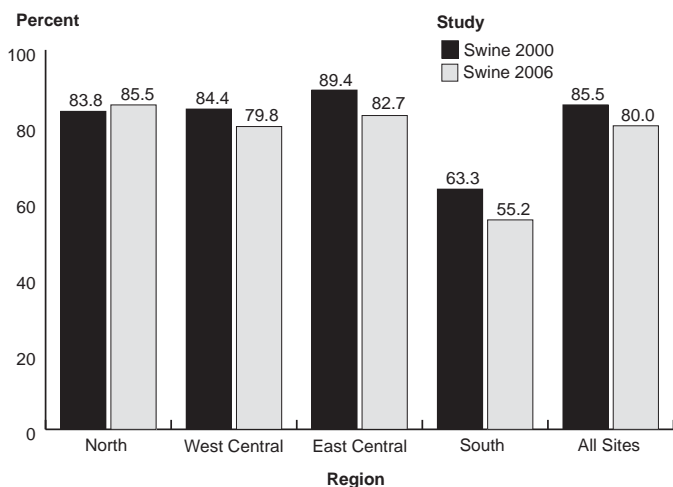


*Deaths from December through May.

Grower/finisher management

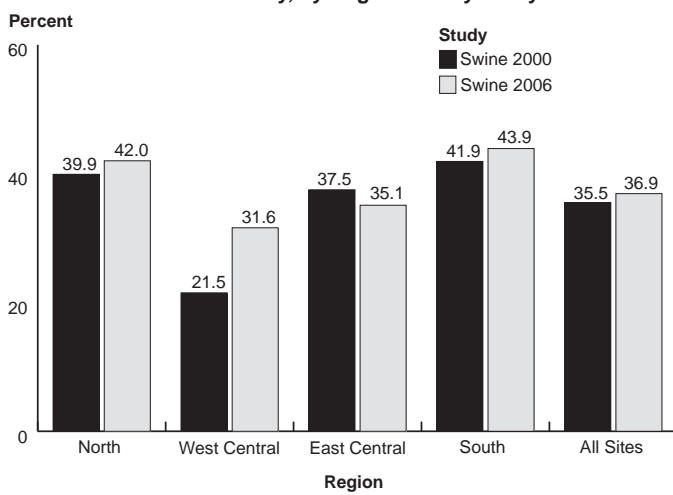
Figure 5 shows the percentage of all sites that had a grower/finisher phase in 2000 and 2006. The South region had the lowest percentage of sites with a grower/finisher phase.

Figure 5. Percentage of Sites with a Grower/Finisher Phase, by Region and by Study



The grower/finisher phase was the most common area of specialization, with about one of three sites specializing exclusively in the grower/finisher phase during 2000 and 2006 (figure 6). In the West Central region, the percentage of sites with only a grower/finisher phase increased from 21.5 percent in 2000 to 31.6 percent in 2006.

Figure 6. Percentage of Sites that Specialized Exclusively in the Grower/Finisher Phase Only, by Region and by Study



Biosecurity in the grower/finisher phase

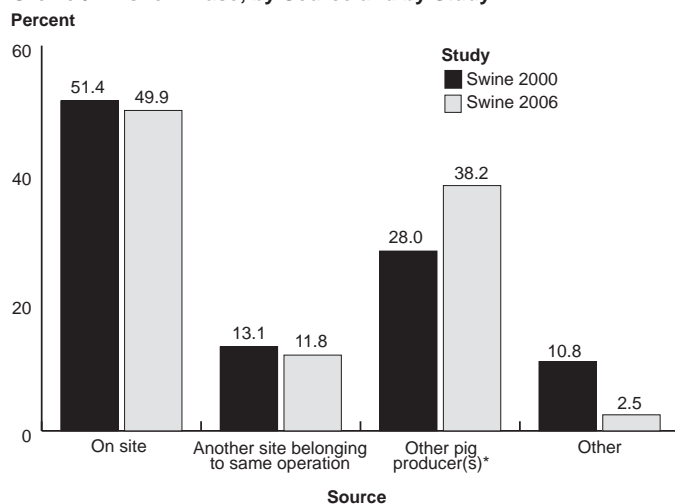
The percentage of sites that housed grower/finisher pigs in total confinement increased from 42.9 percent in 2000 to 53.2 percent in 2006 (table 2). The percentage of sites that managed grower/finisher pigs using all-in/all-out pig flow increased from 56.9 percent in 2000 to 70.8 percent in 2006.

Table 2. Percentage of Grower/Finisher Sites, by Facility Type and by Management Style

Facility Type	Percent Grower/Finisher Sites	
	2000	2006
Total confinement	42.9	53.2
Management Style		
Continuous flow	40.5	26.1
All in/all out	56.9	70.8
No housing	2.6	3.1

The percentage of sites that used the same operation (either on-site or off-site) as a source for grower/finisher pigs in 2000 was virtually unchanged in 2006 (figure 7). The percentage of sites that used different pig operations to obtain grower/finisher pigs increased from 2000 to 2006. However, the question asked producers in 2000 differed from that asked in 2006², which may account for the increase.

Figure 7. Percentage of Sites that Brought Any Pigs into the Grower/Finisher Phase, by Source and by Study



*Question in 2000 was "feeder pig producer(s)—both contract and noncontract." In 2006 question was "other pig producers."

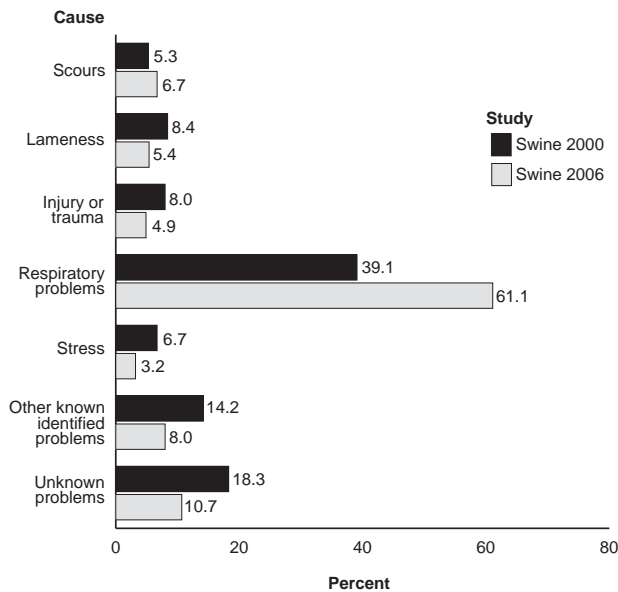
² Question in 2000 was "feeder pig producer(s)—both contract and noncontract." In 2006, question was "other pig producers."

The percentage of sites that used a single off-site source to obtain grower/finisher pigs did not differ in 2000 and 2006; 76.1 percent of sites that obtained grower/finisher pigs from an off-site source used only one source in 2000 and 78.6 percent of sites did the same in 2006.

Deaths in the grower/finisher phase

The percentage of grower/finisher pigs that died during the grower/finisher phase increased from 2.9 percent in 2000 to 3.9 percent in 2006. The percentage of deaths attributable to respiratory problems increased from 39.1 percent in 2000 to 61.1 percent in 2006 (figure 8).

Figure 8. Percentage of Grower/Finisher-phase Deaths*, by Producer-identified Cause and by Study



*Deaths from preceding December through May.

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