



APSA 2023 19TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

Australasian Pig Science
Association (Inc)

Sofitel, Brisbane, Australia

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Dr Kirsty Chidgey



Space allowance for growing pigs: animal welfare, performance and on-farm practicality

Dr Kirsty Chidgey is New Zealand Pork's Animal Welfare Scientist and Advisor based in the School of Agriculture and Environment at Massey University, Palmerston North. Dr Chidgey has been involved in the pork industry since 2010 and completed a PhD investigating sow and piglet performance and behaviour in a pen-based farrowing system. She is interested in practical, science-based research that benefits and enhances on-farm practice.

A recent review of the Code of Welfare for Pigs in New Zealand included proposals to increase the minimum space allowance for growing pigs. However, there is a lack of information on how space allowance impacts a pig's welfare status. Additionally, scientific approaches to assessing the effect of space on other aspects such as pig performance are inconsistent. Dr Chidgey will outline the existing literature to explore the impact of space on the welfare and performance of growing pigs, and the practical implications of increasing space allowance on existing farms.