



# Big Dutchman®



## agilo

Group housing of lactating sows  
– concepts for sustainable sow management –



# More welfare for sows and piglets, more security for the farmer's future!

Under the name **Agilo**, Big Dutchman offers three new group housing systems for lactating sows:

- **Agilo HL**
- **Agilo FB**
- **Agilo RS**

An important feature of all three systems is the large amount of space they offer for sows and piglets.

In the service centre and gestation area, sows are already often kept in groups. But for lactating sows, group housing is much less common. This is mostly due to the fact that the requirements regarding animal management and monitoring of such concepts are higher.

These requirements are compensated for by the advantages, however, because group housing fits much better with the natural behaviour of sows and piglets:

- ✓ with Agilo HL and FB, the sows are already kept in the same group before farrowing
- ✓ for farrowing, each sow and her piglets remain together in farrowing pens
  - good maternal bonding
  - reduced risk of losses caused by overlying
- ✓ the farrowing box is opened after some days or the sows and piglets are moved into a group pen in the case of Agilo RS
  - interaction between the sows and all

- piglets of the group
  - the piglets can act out their need for movement
  - any ranking fights occur early on, reducing the piglets' risk of injury
  - the sows' ample freedom of movement boosts the metabolism and therefore increases feed intake, keeping the sows in a good condition.

It is, by the way, also possible to continue rearing the piglets in this system after weaning.

Let our experts advise you towards finding the best system for your individual requirements.



"I am very happy that I selected group lactation pens and would always take this decision again!"

*Florian Hoenmans-Leurs  
from Germany*

# agilo HL **Simple and robust housing system without bells and whistles**

**Agilo HL** means a group housing concept where the farrowing frame remains open all the time after it is opened manually, i.e. it can only be closed manually by the staff. The sow's trough can be installed close to the

ground so the piglets learn from the sow how to feed from it. The drinker is also easily accessible to the sow and the piglets. Through a piglet access door, the young pigs can enter the group movement pen. Here,

additional drinkers, feeders and enrichment material, or even a separate piglet area, can be offered.



Agilo HL: group housing of lactating sows in a large group movement pen



Flooring system with plastic slats and integrated heating plates for the piglets and cool cast iron slats for the sow



The piglets have their own doors

# agilo FB Farrowing pen with free-access mechanism (patent pending)

**Agilo FB** means a group housing concept where the sow can open and close the farrowing pen independently. She is thus able to eat and relax without being disturbed. A centralised free-access

mechanism is also included, increasing comfort for the staff and reducing time required for animal inspection. The flooring and feeding systems in the group movement pen are identical to Agilo HL.

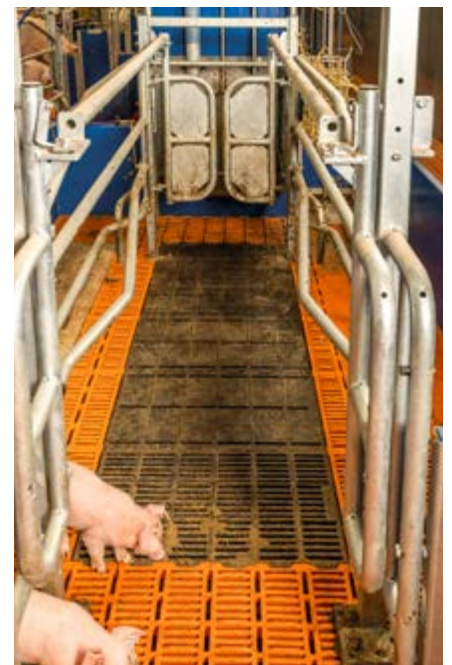
The piglets also use piglet access doors to reach the group movement pen.



Agilo FB: group housing of lactating sows in a large group movement pen



The sow decides whether she wants to remain protected by the farrowing frame or enter the group movement pen



Patent-pending free-access mechanism

# agilo RS Group housing some days after birth

**Agilo RS** means a group housing concept where the piglets are born in a separate farrowing house with farrowing pens. After some days, the sows and their piglets are moved into the group pens. Each pen has a large, well-structured area for the sows and piglets. Additionally, there is a separate piglet area. Generous openings provide the piglets with easy access to the sows. The sows, in contrast, cannot access the piglets' creep. The sows have lots of room to move and can easily separate the pen into eating,

activity and defecating areas. Specially designed sudden-descent protectors help protect the piglets from overlying. Differently structured floors ensure a high lying comfort for the sows, making the choice of where to lie down a difficult one. Tree trunks can be used for scratching and help the sows to keep out of each other's way. The piglets also like nibbling on the trunks. Feed for the sows is supplied to separate feeding spaces by the DryRapid dry feeding system. Drinking nipples installed in the

rear part of the pen, which the sows use for defecating, ensure that the pen remains clean and dry. Cast iron slats make for good manure penetration. Every pen is equipped with a door between the sow area and the piglet area for inspections.



The piglet nests, which are installed separately from the sow area, allow the sow to now and again move around her space without the piglets at her feet. The openings for the piglets are easy to close manually for monitoring purposes or

vaccinations. The piglets' creeps are separated by a curtain so the piglets can enjoy a comfortable temperature level. The sow area can therefore remain much cooler. Thanks to flat troughs with short feeding space dividers, the sows can eat without

stress. The piglets can also access the sow's trough, learning the natural way how to consume solid feed.



Piglet nest covers can be opened and closed automatically at the touch of a button for monitoring purposes



Heating plates and heat lamps create a comfortable climate in the creeps



Generous piglet access doors can be opened and closed manually to make inspection easy

## What are the characteristics of the Agilo concept?

- ✓ group housing with separation option for the sow, i.e. for Agilo HL and Agilo FB: farrowing pen with group movement area for sows and piglets; for Agilo RS: separation option for the piglets;
- ✓ individual farrowing in the farrowing frame creates a good bond between dam and piglets and reduces losses caused by overlying;
- ✓ an attractive group movement pen promotes the sows' agility: higher feed intake, better condition and increased milk production;
- ✓ the piglets define their hierarchy long before being weaned so there are fewer ranking fights after weaning;
- ✓ well-suited for three to ten sows per group;
- ✓ less stress due to moving for the piglets, no new environment with new germs for a smooth transition to piglet rearing;
- ✓ Big Dutchman recommends using the Culina feeding system for suckling pigs to increase weaning weights and ensure more uniform piglets;
- ✓ the concept can also be used in houses with an open front.



“Lots of freedom of movement for the sows and a creep for the piglets – that’s what I call animal welfare!”

*Renke Specht  
from Germany*



# Big Dutchman.

**Europe, Middle East & Africa:**  
**Big Dutchman International GmbH**  
P.O. Box 1163 · 49360 Vechta, Germany  
Phone +49(0)4447 801-0 · Fax -237  
big@bigdutchman.de  
www.bigdutchman.de

**USA: Big Dutchman, Inc.**  
Phone +1 616 392 5981 · bigd@bigdutchmanusa.com  
www.bigdutchmanusa.com

**Brazil: Big Dutchman (Brasil) Ltda.**  
Phone +55 16 2108 5310 · bdb@bigdutchman.com.br  
www.bigdutchman.com.br

**Russia: 000 "Big Dutchman"**  
Phone +7 495 2295 161 · big@bigdutchman.ru · www.bigdutchman.ru

**Asia/Pacific: BD Agriculture (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd.**  
Phone +60 3 334 83 555 · bdasia@bigdutchman.com · www.bigdutchman.com

**China: Big Dutchman (Tianjin) Livestock Equipment Co., Ltd.**  
Phone +86 10 5632 0188 · bdcnsales@bigdutchman.com  
www.bigdutchmanchina.com