

# Master thesis: Roughage provision to piglets

**Starting date:** Flexible, ideally from January 2026  
**Duration:** 6 – 12 months  
**Working Place:** Posieux  
**Language:** English, French  
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## Background

Stimulating solid feed intake before weaning facilitates the transition from milk to solid feed and reduces associated health problems in piglets after weaning. Solid feed intake is enhanced when piglets can feed together with the sow due to social transmission. In a currently running PhD project piglets were given access to roughage with or without the sow during the lactation period and after weaning and the development of piglet feeding behaviour and health was investigated. During the project, video data has been collected on sow and piglet behaviour as well as production parameters for piglets on group and individual piglet level.



## Master thesis in the field of pig welfare

Based on the candidates' interests, several potential research questions and objectives can be in the focus of your master study with us:

- Investigate social behaviours and time budgets of piglets differing in access to roughage before and after weaning
- Investigate synchronicity of feeding behaviour of sows and piglets
- Explore behavioural differences of piglets categorized as roughage eaters vs. non-eaters

Data on behaviour will be collected using video analysis from already existing videos. In addition, there will be the possibility to work in the pig barn on site and support data collection as part of the running PhD project.

## Your profile

We are looking for a passionate candidate about pigs, behaviour and animal welfare with a background in biology, agriculture or similar disciplines and a basic knowledge of ethology and coding videos. As a candidate, you should be interested in animal welfare and behaviour and not averse to spending time at the computer.

## What we offer

- Possibility of co-authorship on a published scientific article
- Engaged support and supervision by a motivated research team
- A highly relevant subject with direct relevance to pig welfare
- Opportunity to contribute to an innovative project and deepen your scientific knowledge

## Application

If you are eager to contribute to a project relevant to improving pig welfare, we encourage you to apply. Please email us a short dossier, including a half-page motivation letter and your CV.



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