# REDUCING ANTIBIOTIC USE BY CHANGE OF MANAGEMENT DURING SUCKLING

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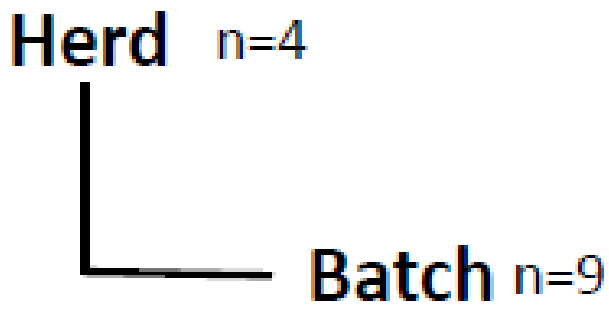
Weaned pigs consume a significant part of antibiotics used for animals in Denmark. Strategies to prevent the need for antibiotics in this age group are pivotal.

## OBJECTIVE

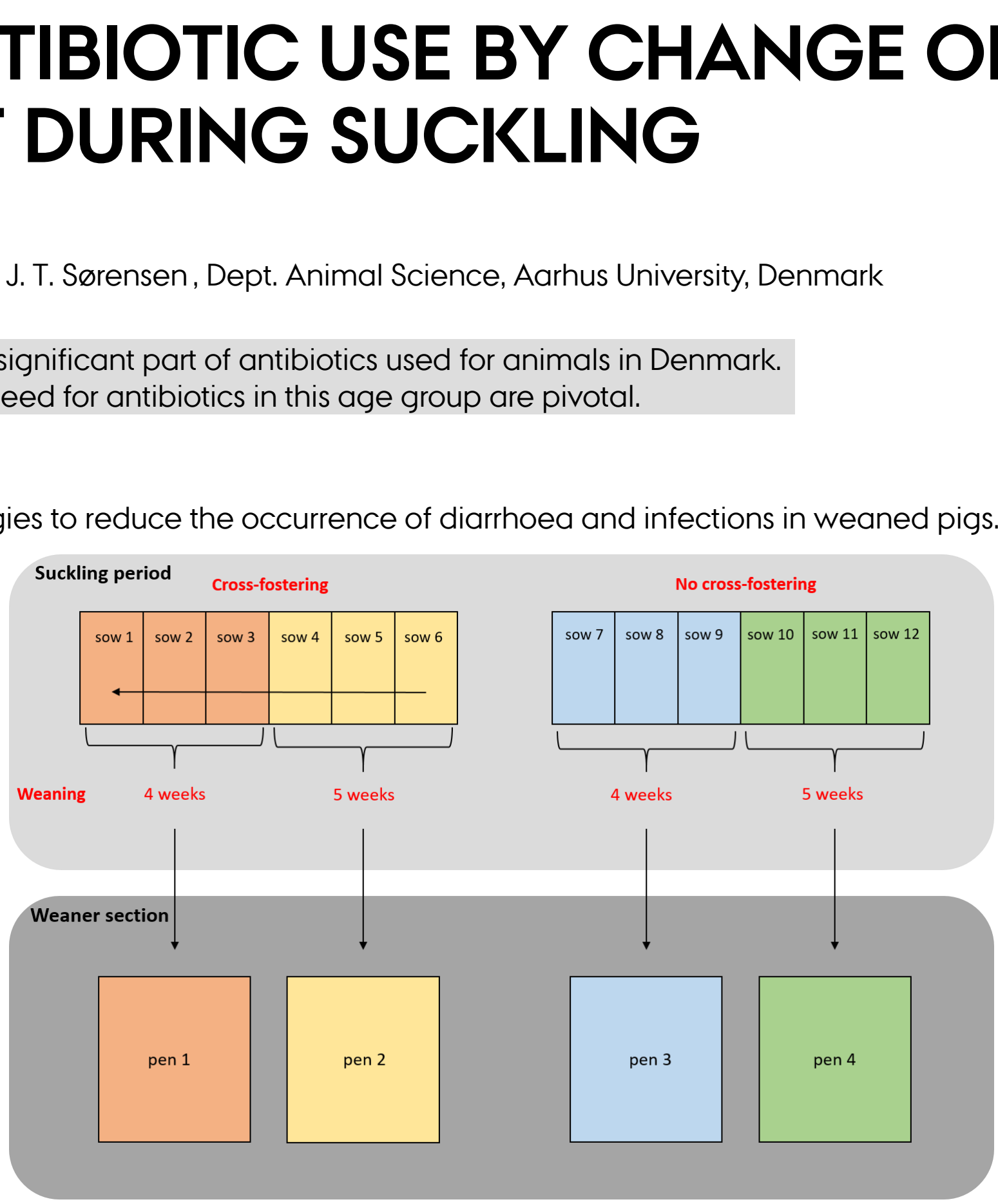
To investigate management strategies to reduce the occurrence of diarrhoea and infections in weaned pigs.

## 2X2 FACTORIAL DESIGN

1) Weaning age:
   a) 4 weeks
   b) 5 weeks
2) Cross-fostering
   a) Yes
   b) No (fostering with own mother)




The study is conducted in four commercial conventional Danish sow herds with nine batches in each herd.




Study design at batch level.12 litters are included and allocated by random to the four experimental groups: 4 weeks + cross-fostering, 5 weeks + cross-fostering, 4 weeks – cross-fostering, 5 weeks – cross-fostering.

## INCLUSION CRITERIA

Herds: Convenience and voluntary inclusion of 4 herds with min. 500 sows.
Sows: Healthy, non-first parity sows.
Piglets: Each sow lays with the number of piglets equal to her number of active teats.

## RULES

No routine use of antibiotics and only treatment if clinical signs of disease are present.
Zinc oxide to prevent weaning diarrhoea is not allowed.

## OUTCOMES

Antibiotic usage (farmers decision to treat), weight gain and mortality.
qPCR: PCV2, E. coli F4 and F18, L. intracellularis and B. pilosicoli.
Complete pen and clinical examinations at weaning and d4, d7 and d35 after weaning.

## PERSPECTIVES

Results are expected to be used for development of feasible alternative management to improve health in weaners in pig production without routine usage of antibiotics and zinc oxide.

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