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#### Education:

- Master's degree in veterinary medicine (2023)
- Agricultural technician diploma (2011)

#### Research areas:

- Sow Health and Welfare: Housing Systems and Farrowing Management
- Sow Maternal Behavior and Piglet Health and Welfare
- Sustainable Livestock Production

#### Brief description of Ph.D project:

The Ph.D. project aims to investigate how housing systems and feeding strategies during gestation and lactation affect sow welfare, behavior, and piglets' health and welfare in pig farming. In particular, the study will assess the

impact of different farrowing crate designs (ranging from conventional confined systems to alternative open crates) on maternal behavior, piglet crushing rates, and growth performance. At the same time, the research will explore how the nutritional composition of the sow diet, especially the fiber content and feed physical traits, and the onset of inflammatory syndromes in the offspring, such as the Swine Inflammation and Necrosis Syndrome (SINS). The work will be mainly based on on-farm data collection conducted in commercial pig units.

Behavioral data will be collected through direct observations and video recordings, focusing on postural activity, maternal care, and piglet survival. In addition, data from farmers will be gathered through questionnaires or interviews to investigate their opinions, concerns, and expectations regarding the transition from conventional to alternative farrowing systems. This integrated approach will combine animal-based and farmer-based perspectives to identify practical, sustainable, and economically feasible solutions for improving animal welfare and productivity in modern pig production systems.

Supervisor:

Prof.ssa Flaviana Gottardo

Publications: Google scholar link

[https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=u\\_3ztA0AAAAJ&hl=it](https://scholar.google.it/citations?user=u_3ztA0AAAAJ&hl=it)