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## Sow Lift Keeps Pigs Safe

The Crystal Spring Sow Lift from Gro Master, Inc. helps prevent piglet crushing deaths by elevating the sow 10 in. above the creep area when she stands up. When the sow lies down, there are no piglets around her to crush.

The sow's weight triggers a pedal. When she stands up, the pedal is released, which activates the airlift system. When the sow lies back down on the pedal, the crate is slowly lowered to creep level.

Jonathan Kleinsasser, sow lift inventor, said he used a 10-in. diameter air bag from the truck industry to design the simple, air-powered lift system. "I wanted this system to have a 15- to 20-year lifespan, so I chose heavy-duty materials," he explained.

A low-profile, scissor lift provides minimal pit interference. Kleinsasser said the sow lift is flexible and adaptable to nearly any pit size, flooring style or farrowing crate.

Stalder asked what would happen if manure were to get on the operating mechanism. Kleinsasser explained that the air valve mounting brackets and mounting bolts are made of stainless steel. "There are no moving parts at the back end where the manure and urine are; therefore, manure can cause very little damage," he said.

Kleinsasser, responding to Feldmann, said the Sow Lift could be retrofitted with existing farrowing crates.

Gro Master, Inc. offers the sow lift at a suggested retail price of \$640.

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