

10 Apply The Same Practices As Intensive Breeding

Data collection and support decision making

Using dashboards and visualisation of the data to help farmers make management decisions is becoming more common, increasingly in areas such as slaughter data, where significant benefits to productivity, health and welfare can be made through better use of data. Routine weighing of pigs in a few pens serve as sentinel, monitoring for daily weight gain. Graphs showing trends serve as an early warning system and decision support tool.

A Danish pig farmer is using a data monitoring system to record real time biological data, including water and feed intake and weights; the cost for the monitoring system was 2,92 €/pig*year vs piglet mortality reduced by 5-10%, 5-10% reduction in vet costs and total reduction in production costs of 5,2%. In an Irish farm the number of pigs weaned per sow per year increase by 11.8% and the average daily growth in weaners increased from 433 to 486 g/day.

Graphs showing trends serve as alarm system (early warning) decision support tool for all sites. When employees start the day, they check the system for alarms and check the curves for obvious issues not detected by the alarm. By early detection of errors they are able to handle the problem and improve/correct the issues at hand.

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