Use of Slaughter Data to Develop Dashboard

Point of production: Finishing Country of origin: Ireland





Production data exists in different 'boxes' or databases, from breeding to slaughter. The movement of this data from one box to another was done by farmers when they had time.

Using dashboards and visualisations 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.

The solution – Best practice

Routine data (lung and liver) from the slaughter plant was incorporated into a dashboard system to look at various production and management parameters on the farm, including: herd performance figures, biosecurity assessment, pluck (lungs and liver), tail check and antimicrobial benchmarking. The main variables used for the dashboard are imported into an excel database to produce a report which allows for benchmarking and setting targets.

The main identified issue was the high levels of pleurisy and pericarditis, which the farmer did not realise were a problem. The dashboard changed his focus into control of these by better batch management, reduced mixing and creating separated streams for weak pigs. This resulted in improved performance via improved pig health and associated reduced use of antibiotics.

Points to consider and additional information

The main benefit was providing information which enabled the farmer to focus his efforts where the problem was (a problem that he had not considered until he used the dashboard system).

Many users of herd management software are unaware that additional data can be incorporated into performance reports. Producers should consult the manufacturers of their herd management systems and other data providers to request that data move between systems, adding value.





Farmers attending training stations on recognition of lung lesions and effects of biosecurity on pig health.





Cost/Benefit analysis

Costs:

- Vet visits These are routine and not an additional cost
- Feed (Euro/kg live weight) 0.73
- Total costs (Euro/kg live weight) – 1.17

Benefits

- Reduction in pleurisy (approx 15%) and pericarditis (approx 5%) – Reduced losses at slaughter (approx 3%)
- Weaner ADG has increased from 433 to 486g/day
- Pigs weaned per sow/year increase of 11.8%
- Pigs reared per sow/year increase of 14.2%
- Pigs sold per sow/year increase of 14.1%



Pathology training session

Further research & Project links

https://eupig.eu/

Link to technical report #Benchmarkyourfarm report Contact RPIG (Ireland): Ciaran Carroll



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 727933. This publication only reflects the author's view and the European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.