

Swine Barn Analysis

Hogs consuming less feed per day

By **METAFARMS ANALYTICS TEAM**

THE MetaFarms Production Index for the third quarter of 2015 showed that swine consumed less feed per head and per day as finishing weights dipped.

The index is based on closeout performances for nursery, finishing and wean-to-finish groups and shows how those compared with the same period last year.

Data come from pork producers using the MetaFarms software system and represents more than 500 pork production companies located in the U.S. and Canada. Nursery data include more than 1,000 closeouts, finishing data include more than 1,800 closeouts and wean-to-finish data include more than 350 single-stocked closeouts. The data were scrubbed and made anonymous to protect confidentiality.

Keep in mind that nursery groups closed in the third quarter started on feed in May, June and July; finishing groups started on feed in February, March, April and May, and wean-to-finish groups started on feed in January, February and March.

Nursery groups closed in the third quarter saw a drop in mortality for the third straight quarter, and the mortality rate was down slightly versus a year ago (Table). However, mortality was down 12.6% from the 2015 first quarter — 3.15% versus 2.76%.

Days on feed during the third quarter decreased by only a half-day compared to the same period in 2014, but the average out-weight was almost 2 lb. lower than the same period in 2014. This marked the third quarter in a row that the average out-weight was down by more than 2%.

The feed conversion ratio was basically unchanged and has not been above 1.61 or below 1.59 since the second quarter of 2014, when it was 1.63.

Finishing groups saw lower mortality rates — the third straight quarter with a decline of 5% or more from the same year-ago period (-5.14%, -5.07% and -6.60%). Days on feed dropped from 123.0 to 120.3 days, but it should be

noted that the number for the second quarter was 116.3 days.

The average out-weight decreased by almost 6 lb. versus the 2014 third quarter. The difference in average out-weight from the first quarter to the third quarter of 2015 was a drop of 8.6 lb. per animal — from 283.4 lb. to 274.7 lb., down 3.05%.

There was a slight uptick in average daily gain (ADG) during this period; this was the seventh straight period that ADG increased from the year-ago level. The feed conversion ratio improved for the third straight period, rising from 2.81 to 2.86.

Wean-to-finish mortality experienced a large decrease from the 2014 third quarter — down 12.73% — but the rate was up 21.32% from the 2015 first quarter (6.44%

versus 5.07%).

ADG slightly increased, by 1.79%, compared to the 2014 third quarter. What's interesting is that ADG for the last three quarters has been either 1.63 or 1.62. Feed conversion ratio has seen consistent improvements for the last three quarters, with a 2.79% improvement since the first quarter, rising from 2.55 to 2.63.

The amount of feed wean-to-finish pigs consumed per head was the lowest it has been in the last seven quarters, during which the highest amount fed was 714.6 lb. per head; this quarter, it was 668.5 lb. per head — a difference of 46.1 lb., or 6.45%. Over that same time period, the difference between the most days on feed and the least (2015 third quarter to 2014 first quarter) was nine days, or 5.24%.

MetaFarms Production Index, 2015 Q3

Nursery	2014	2015	% change
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.85	12.78	-0.53
Mortality, %	2.80	2.76	-1.42
Avg. weight out, lb.	56.7	54.9	-3.10
Feed per head, lb.	69.7	67.1	-3.80
ADG, lb./day	0.89	0.86	-2.89
Feed conversion ratio	1.60	1.61	0.08
ADFI, lb./day	1.42	1.38	-2.82
Avg. days on feed	49.0	48.5	-0.97
Finishing			
Avg. start weight, lb.	54.64	52.63	-3.68
Mortality, %	4.41	4.18	-5.14
Avg. weight out, lb.	280.5	274.7	-2.06
Feed per head, lb.	637.5	616.4	-3.30
ADG, lb./day	1.81	1.82	0.64
Feed conversion ratio	2.86	2.81	-1.75
ADFI, lb./day	5.17	5.11	-1.12
Avg. days on feed	123.0	120.3	-2.14
Days to first market sale	105.7	103.8	-1.83
Wean-to-finish			
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.68	13.15	3.67
Mortality, %	7.38	6.44	-12.73
Avg. weight out, lb.	281.9	275.9	-2.14
Feed per head, lb.	703.9	668.5	-5.02
ADG, lb./day	1.55	1.58	1.79
Feed conversion ratio	2.63	2.55	-2.71
ADFI, lb./day	4.08	4.04	-0.97
Avg. days on feed	172.2	165.1	-4.09
Days to first market sale	155.6	150.5	-3.27

