

Swine Barn Analysis

Hog finishing weights, daily gain rebound from Q3

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THE MetaFarms Production Index for the fourth quarter of 2015 showed that hog finishing period weight gain and out-weights rebounded seasonally from the third quarter.

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

Data are sourced from pork producers using the MetaFarms software system and represent more than 500 pork production companies located in both 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 fourth quarter started on feed in August, September and October; finishing groups started on feed in June, July, August and September, and wean-to-finish groups started on feed in April, May and June.

Nursery mortality was up 0.14% (a 5.37% change) from the same period in 2014 (Table). Compared to the first quarter of 2015, fourth-quarter mortality was down 0.35% (a 12.5% change).

Feed conversion ratio (FCR) saw a minimal change of 0.9%. FCR has not gone out of the 2.59-2.61 range since the third quarter of 2014. Starting weight rose 0.11 lb., the average weight out rose 0.08 lb. and average days on feed increased 0.7 day. With pigs on feed longer and FCR going up, it is not surprising to see feed per head increase as well (up 1.9 lb.).

Finishing mortality declined 0.41% in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 and was the third straight quarter in which finishing mortality has gone down.

Normally, average daily gain (ADG)

is lower in the third quarter due to the summer heat and then “bounces back” in the fourth quarter. Last year was no different, with fourth-quarter ADG — at 1.90 lb. per day — increasing 0.08 lb. from the third quarter.

Unfortunately, the average weight out was down 2.4 lb., and days to first market sale were unchanged from the fourth quarter of 2014, although the average weight out was up 6.0 lb. from the third quarter of 2015 — rising to 280.7 lb. from 274.7 lb. Another bright spot is that FCR improved 0.05 point (a -1.75% change) compared to the fourth quarter of 2014.

Wean-to-finish mortality saw a steep drop of 0.45% (a -7.75% change) in the

2015 fourth quarter compared to the 2014 fourth quarter. The decrease was even greater — 1.01% — when comparing fourth-quarter mortality of 5.43% to third-quarter mortality of 6.44% — an 18.6% change.

Comparing the fourth quarters of 2015 and 2014, ADG was down slightly by 0.01 lb., and days to first market sale decreased by 4.4 days. Even though the average starting weight was up by 0.4 lb., the average weight out dropped 4.0 lb. — from 284.9 lb. to 280.9 lb. As noted in the finishing portion, the 2015 fourth-quarter average weight out rebounded 5.0 lb. from the summer heat of the third quarter — at 280.9 lb. versus 275.9 lb.

MetaFarms Production Index, Q4

Nursery	2014	2015	% change
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.87	12.98	0.82
Mortality, %	2.66	2.80	5.37
Avg. weight out, lb.	55.6	56.4	1.59
Feed per head, lb.	67.6	69.5	2.72
ADG, lb./day	0.88	0.88	0.50
FCR	1.60	1.61	0.90
ADFI*, lb./day	1.40	1.42	1.41
Avg. days on feed	48.1	48.8	1.29
Finishing			
Avg. start weight, lb.	53.49	53.08	-0.77
Mortality, %	4.08	4.04	-0.79
Avg. weight out, lb.	283.1	280.7	-0.88
Feed per head, lb.	643.9	626.9	-2.64
ADG, lb./day	1.89	1.90	0.71
FCR	2.83	2.78	-1.75
ADFI, lb.	5.36	5.30	-1.05
Avg. days on feed	120.0	118.1	-1.55
Days to first market sale	104.1	104.1	-0.07
Wean-to-finish			
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.94	13.34	3.07
Mortality, %	5.88	5.43	-7.75
Avg. weight out, lb.	284.9	280.9	-1.41
Feed per head, lb.	699.8	686.1	-1.96
ADG, lb./day	1.62	1.61	-0.31
FCR	2.58	2.57	-0.36
ADFI, lb./day	4.18	4.15	-0.67
Avg. days on feed	167.3	165.0	-1.33
Days to first market sale	154.3	149.9	-2.86

*ADFI = average daily feed intake.

