

## Sow Barn Analysis

# Large sow farms wean additional piglet

By METAFARMS ANALYTICS TEAM

**T**HE MetaFarms semiannual sow performance comparison shows that, compared to 2015-16, the largest sow farms weaned an additional pig per mated female in 2016-17.

This measure is based on performance for sow farms and how it compares with the same period last year.

Data were scrubbed and made anonymous to protect confidentiality. The data come from pork producers using the MetaFarms Enterprise Agriculture Management software solution, representing more than 500 pork production companies located in the U.S. and Canada.

Sow data include more than 340 farms

with nearly 700,000 sows.

Keep in mind that sow information is gathered from Nov. 1 of one year to April 30 of the next year and then is divided into three groups based on average mated inventory during the period.

By sow farm size, the comparison provides the following take-aways:

- Pigs weaned per mated female per year (PVMFY) increased by nearly one pig (0.8-0.9 pig) at sow farms with more than 2,000 sows.
- The number of sows bred a second time (repeats) decreased as the sow farm size increased.
- Weaning age increased by 0.6 day in mid-tier farms.
- Birth loss percentage and average

farrowing interval decreased as farm size increased.

- Farrowing rate percentage increased as sow farm increased.

Comparing 2015-16 results to 2016-17 results shows:

- The largest farms saw an increase in PVMFY of nearly a whole pig (0.9 pig).
- Smaller farms saw a decrease in PVMFY of nearly a whole pig (0.8 pig).
- Sow mortality increased 2.1% at the largest farms.
- The number of pigs weaned per sow farrowed increased by 0.2-0.3 pig across the board.
- There was an increase of 0.3 pig across the board in average live-born pigs. ■



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**MetaFarms sow farm performance by herd size, 2015-16 and 2016-17**

	-----Herd size-----					
	---<1,000-2,000---		---2,000-4,000---		---4,000-plus---	
	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17	2015-16	2016-17
Number of sows	173,143	169,144	332,388	288,622	237,250	271,453
PVMFY	24.2	23.4	25.1	25.3	25.0	25.9
Litters/mated female/year	2.30	2.18	2.35	2.32	2.36	2.39
% weaned sows mated						
in under 7 days	87.3	87.7	87.4	87.9	88.1	88.1
% repeats	9.5	8.8	8.0	7.8	7.2	6.7
% gilts	18.2	19.3	18.6	18.7	18.3	16.7
Matings/service	1.97	1.93	1.96	2.00	2.02	1.99
Wean-to-first service interval, days	7.4	7.1	6.8	6.5	6.6	6.6
% pregnant at day 35	92.0	92.2	91.8	91.9	91.6	91.8
Farrowing rate, %	82.1	82.4	83.6	84.1	83.8	84.3
Avg. total born	13.6	14.0	13.7	14.0	13.7	14.0
Birth loss, %	10.3	10.2	9.2	9.0	8.7	8.6
Avg. live-born	12.2	12.5	12.5	12.8	12.5	12.8
Avg. farrowing interval, days	147.6	148.1	145.9	145.6	145.3	145.7
Preweaning mortality, %	12.8	12.9	12.8	12.4	14.5	13.2
Pigs weaned/sow farrowed	10.4	10.6	10.5	10.7	10.3	10.6
Avg. weaning age, days	20.7	20.6	19.7	20.3	19.7	19.5
Avg. mated female inventory	1,018	1,001	2,817	2,749	5,392	5,122
Herd parity (without gilt pool)	3.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7
Sow culling, %	43.5	45.5	45.4	44.4	46.3	45.6
Sow mortality, %	9.6	9.3	10.5	10.7	10.8	12.9
Entry-to-first service interval, days	35.9	30.9	23.6	27.1	19.3	25.2