

Swine Barn Analysis

Wean-to-finish pigs go to market sooner

By **META FARMS ANALYTICS TEAM**

THE MetaFarms Production Index for the first quarter of 2017 shows that wean-to-finish pigs reached market sale faster than a year ago.

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

Data come from pork producers using the MetaFarms Enterprise Agriculture Management software solution, representing more than 500 pork production companies in the U.S. and Canada. Data include more than 1,000 nursery closeouts, more than 1,800 finishing closeouts and more than 350 single-stocked wean-to-finish closeouts totaling more than 15 million pigs. Data were scrubbed and made anonymous to protect confidentiality.

Nursery groups closed in the first quarter started on feed in November and December 2016 and January 2017; finish-

ing groups started on feed in September, October, November and December 2016, and wean-to-finish groups started on feed in July, August and September 2016.

Comparing the 2016 versus 2017 first quarters shows:

- Nursery key performance indicators (KPIs) for 2017 were down across the board.

- Feed conversion ratio (FCR) for the finishing group had a noticeable increase (0.05) in 2017.

- Days on feed and days to first market sale were virtually unchanged for the finishing and wean-to-finish groups.

- Wean-to-finish mortality in 2017 increased 0.29%.

- The average weight out decreased 3.09 lb. for the finishing group but increased 1.11 lb. for the wean-to-finish group.

Comparing the wean-to-finish performance in the first quarter of 2017 to the third quarter of 2016 shows:

- Mortality improved 1.27% (6.26% ver-

sus 4.99%).

- Average daily gain (ADG) improved 0.05 lb. (1.64 lb. versus 1.59 lb.).

- FCR was inflated 0.07 (2.63 versus 2.56).

- Average daily feed intake (ADFI) increased by 0.25 lb. (4.32 lb. versus 4.07 lb.).

- Pigs were on feed an average of 3.1 fewer days (166.3 days versus 163.2 days).

- Days to first market sale decreased by 3.5 days (151.3 days versus 147.8 days).

Some other notable points from the data include that first-quarter 2017 wean-to-finish feed per head was at its highest level in the last eight quarters; the combined nursery group mortality (3.50%) and finishing group mortality (4.20%) was 2.7% higher than wean-to-finish mortality (4.99%), and nursery group KPIs all had percentage change decreases from the fourth quarter of 2016. ■

MetaFarms Production Index, Q1

Nursery	2016	2017	% change
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.9	12.8	-0.80
Mortality, %	3.69	3.50	-5.11
Avg. weight out, lb.	56.25	54.79	-2.59
Feed per head, lb.	69.7	66.7	-4.38
ADG, lb./day	0.87	0.86	-1.19
FCR	1.63	1.61	-1.28
ADFI, lb./day	1.41	1.38	-2.45
Avg. days on feed	49.4	48.4	-1.97
Finishing			
Avg. start weight, lb.	54.7	54.4	-0.65
Mortality, %	4.14%	4.20%	1.41
Avg. weight out, lb.	282.02	278.93	-1.10
Feed per head, lb.	639.3	642.6	0.52
ADG, lb./day	1.93	1.91	-1.10
FCR	2.84	2.89	1.73
ADFI, lb./day	5.49	5.52	0.61
Avg. days on feed	116.4	116.3	-0.06
Days to first market sale	100.8	101.0	0.15
Wean-to-finish			
Avg. start weight, lb.	13.4	13.0	-2.68
Mortality, %	4.70	4.99	6.12
Avg. weight out, lb.	280.84	281.95	0.40
Feed per head, lb.	702.2	705.9	0.52
ADG, lb./day	1.64	1.64	0.15
FCR	2.63	2.63	0.00
ADFI, lb./day	4.31	4.32	0.15
Avg. days on feed	162.6	163.2	0.38
Days to first market sale	147.8	147.8	-0.03