

# Swine barn mortality improves across all groups

By **META FARMS ANALYTICS TEAM**

**T**HE MetaFarms Production Index for the fourth quarter of 2016 shows decreasing mortality rates among all closeout groups (Table).

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

Data are sourced from pork producers using the MetaFarms Enterprise Agriculture Management software solution and represent 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 14 million pigs. Data have been scrubbed and made anonymous to protect confidentiality.

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.

Comparing the fourth quarter of 2016 to the 2015 fourth quarter reveals that:

- Nursery key performance indicators were down across the board in 2016.

- Finishing pigs' average starting weights for 2016 were up nearly 2 lb., while out-weights were down slightly.

- Finishing pigs' days on feed and days to first market sale averaged three days fewer.

- Finishing mortality was down and was at the lowest level in 2016.

- Nursery and finishing combined mortality was down 0.18 percentage units (a -2.54% change).

- Wean-to-finish average daily gain (ADG) and feed conversion ratio saw slight improvements.

Looking closely at mortality, the following items stand out:

- Nursery mortality during 2016 was at the lowest level in the fourth quarter; the highest level for the year was recorded in the first quarter, at 3.64%.

- Finishing mortality during 2016 was at the lowest level in the fourth quarter; the year's highest level was in the second quarter, at 4.37%.

- Fourth-quarter 2016 wean-to-finish mortality was down 0.64% (a 10.2% change) from the third quarter — at 6.26% versus 5.62%. ■

## MetaFarms Production Index, 2016 Q4

	2015	2016	% change
<b>Nursery</b>			
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.98	12.89	-0.70
Mortality, %	2.80	2.81	0.35
Avg. out-weight, lb.	56.4	55.9	-0.90
Feed per head, lb.	69.3	68.9	-0.61
ADG, lb./day	0.88	0.87	-1.57
Feed conversion ratio	1.61	1.62	0.37
Avg. daily feed intake, lb.	1.42	1.40	-1.21
Avg. days on feed	48.8	49.1	0.61
<b>Finishing</b>			
Avg. start weight, lb.	53.07	55.00	3.64
Mortality, %	4.10	3.92	-4.51
Avg. out-weight, lb.	280.5	278.7	-0.61
Feed per head, lb.	625.8	619.4	-1.03
ADG, lb./day	1.90	1.91	0.54
Feed conversion ratio	2.78	2.80	0.59
Avg. daily feed intake, lb.	5.29	5.35	1.14
Avg. days on feed	118.1	115.6	-2.16
Days to first market sale	104.0	101.2	-2.69
<b>Wean-to-finish</b>			
Avg. start weight, lb.	13.37	13.18	-1.38
Mortality, %	5.40	5.62	3.98
Avg. out-weight, lb.	280.7	282.3	0.55
Feed per head, lb.	685.9	685.9	0.0
ADG, lb./day	1.61	1.63	0.74
Feed conversion ratio	2.57	2.56	-0.64
Avg. daily feed intake, lb.	4.15	4.16	0.10
Avg. days on feed	164.8	164.7	-0.12
Days to first market sale	149.9	150.9	0.67