

Swine Barn Analysis

Swine mortality rates decline

By METAFARMS ANALYTICS TEAM

THE MetaFarms Production Index for the first quarter of 2015 is based on closeout performance for nursery, finishing and wean-to-finish groups and compares those with the same period last year.

These data have been scrubbed and made anonymous to protect the confidentiality of software users. The data come 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 1,100 closeouts, finishing data more than 1,900 closeouts and wean-to-finish data more than 350 closeouts.

Keep in mind that nursery groups closed in the first quarter started on feed in November, December, January or February. Finishing groups started on feed in August, September, October or November. Wean-to-finish groups started on feed in June, July, August or September.

Nursery closeouts in the first quarter of 2015 had better feed conversion and better (lower) mortality compared to the first quarter of 2014 (Table). In fact, the nursery mortality rate of 3.15% was a 15% improvement from a year ago (3.72%). However, mortality did increase by 18.4% compared to the fourth quarter of 2014 (2.66%), which was the first increase in nursery mortality since the first quarter of 2014.

Pigs left the nurseries weighing about 1 lb. less, taking one fewer

day and eating 4 lb. less feed compared to one year ago.

The trend for increasing weights in finishing closeouts continued for another quarter. Pigs coming out of finishing groups were 2 lb. heavier than a year ago (0.5 lb. more than the fourth quarter). There has been only one quarter of declining weights since the third quarter of 2013.

The amount of feed consumed per head was up 7.7 lb., or 1.2%. Average daily gain (ADG) was up 1.5%. Finishing pigs were on

feed for the same amount of days. Mortality was 6.6% lower, which marks three quarters in a row with decreased finishing mortality.

Mortality in wean-to-finish groups was down 2.8% compared to a year ago (Table). Even more impressive, mortality was down 13.9% compared to the fourth quarter of 2014.

Similar to finishing groups, the average out-weight was up 1.5% year over year. ADG was fairly flat, with the feed conversion ratio seeing a 1% improvement.

MetaFarms Production Index, Q1 2015

	2014	2015	% change
Nursery			
Avg. start weight, lb.	12.9	12.9	—
Mortality, %	3.72	3.15	-15.2
Avg. weight out, lb.	57.4	56.2	-2.0
Feed per head, lb.	72.2	68.3	-5.4
ADG, lb. per day	0.89	0.88	-0.5
Feed conv. ratio	1.65	1.59	-3.1
ADFI, lb. per day	1.46	1.41	-3.5
Avg. days on feed	49.4	48.4	-1.9
Finishing			
Avg. start weight, lb.	54.5	54.7	0.3
Mortality, %	4.31	4.02	-6.6
Avg. weight out, lb.	280.1	283.4	1.2
Feed per head, lb.	646.8	654.5	1.2
ADG, lb. per day	1.87	1.90	1.5
Feed conv. ratio	2.90	2.89	-0.3
ADFI, lb. per day	5.44	5.50	1.2
Avg. days on feed	118.7	118.7	0.0
Days to 1st market sale	102.3	102.5	0.1
Wean-to-finish			
Avg. start weight, lb.	13.3	13.1	-1.5
Mortality, %	5.22	5.07	-2.8
Avg. weight out, lb.	278.7	282.9	1.5
Feed per head, lb.	701.7	706.2	0.6
ADG, lb. per day	1.62	1.63	0.5
Feed conv. ratio	2.65	2.62	-1.0
ADFI, lb. per day	4.29	4.27	-0.5
Avg. days on feed	163.4	165.2	1.1
Days to 1st market sale	148.5	150.8	1.5

