

Sow Farm Analysis

Semiannual performance of sow farms reported

By **METAFARMS ANALYTICS TEAM**

THE MetaFarms Semi-Annual Sow Performance measure is based on the performance of 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 platform and represent more than 250 pork production companies. Sow data are from more than 340 farms and 725,000 sows.

For the May 1 to Oct. 31, 2017, period, key sow farm size takeaways include:

- Pigs weaned per mated female per year (PVMFY) were 1.9-3.1 times greater on larger farms than on farms with a herd size of fewer than 2,000 sows.

- The percentage of gilts bred was higher in the smaller sow farms.

- Average total born was similar among the different farm sizes.

- Weaned pig age was 1.2 days older on the smallest versus the largest farms.

- The sow mortality rate was 1.1% lower in the smallest versus the biggest farms.

Comparing the 2017 and 2016 equiva-

lent periods showed the following takeaways:

- The largest farms saw an increase in PVMFY of nearly a whole pig (1.3).

- Birth loss percentage improved for all farm sizes.

- Sow mortality percentage decreased among all farm sizes.

- Pigs weaned per sow farrowed increased 0.3-0.4 across the board.

- Average total born and average born alive increased 0.3-0.4 across the board. ■

MetaFarms sow farm performance by herd size (May 1-Oct. 31, 2017)

	Herd size (head)					
	<1,000-2,000		2,000-4,000		4,000+	
	2016	2017	2016	2017	2016	2017
Number of sows	126,880	114,981	308,733	324,683	212,967	243,186
PVMFY	23.4	23.5	24.6	25.4	25.3	26.6
Litters/mated female/year	2.17	2.09	2.25	2.25	2.29	2.33
% weaned sows served < 7 days	87.2	87.9	87.3	87.0	88.3	88.5
% repeats	11.9	11.0	10.3	10.7	8.6	6.9
% gilts	19.8	18.6	16.5	17.3	17.4	16.1
Matings/service	1.94	1.94	2.00	2.01	2.02	2.04
Wean-to-first service interval, days	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.8	6.7	6.5
% pregnant at day 35	91.8	91.7	91.8	91.5	91.6	91.6
Farrowing rate, %	84.3	84.8	85.1	85.1	84.5	86.6
Avg. total born	14.0	14.3	14.1	14.4	13.9	14.3
Birth loss, %	10.4	10.1	9.4	8.9	8.6	8.2
Avg. live born	12.5	12.8	12.7	13.1	12.7	13.2
Avg. farrowing interval, days	147	147	146	146	146	146
Prewaning mortality, %	12.7	13.3	12.7	13.2	12.7	12.3
Pigs weaned/sow farrowed	10.9	11.2	10.9	11.3	11.0	11.4
Avg. weaning age, days	20.6	20.7	19.8	20.0	19.5	19.5
Avg. mated female inventory	1,379	1,369	2,781	2,775	5,324	5,287
Herd parity (without gilt pool)	3.6	3.6	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.7
Sow culling, %	48.3	46.7	43.8	45.9	46.6	50.3