



NUTRIFAX

Nutrition News and Information Update



Nursery and Grow Finish Swine Benchmarking



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The importance of measuring and benchmarking production results has never been more important than it is in today's current market. The only way to know how your business is stacking up in the market is to measure and benchmark your herd's performance against others in the field. Making important business decisions is easier when you know where you stand and what areas of your production could use improvement. This is not a new concept, but is becoming ever more increasingly powerful and beneficial to many producers.

Some of the important reasons to measure performance in your grow finish and nursery barns include:

- Identifying strengths, weaknesses and opportunities compared to defined targets
- Performing corrective diagnostics
- Assessing plans and progress, either technical or financial
- Assessing the value of a business proposal
- Comparing and benchmarking

Shur-Gain offers a proprietary online system for nursery and grow finish production benchmarking - **Compi-porc**[®].

Nursery and grow-finish closeout results are entered into the system based on each individual farm. Currently **Compi-porc**[®] contains data ranging as far back as 2000. It was originally only used in Quebec but is now available across Canada. Confidentiality is key. A producer can access his or her own data and then see their data in relation to the provincial or national database.

Since performance is affected by many factors, close outs are defined by numerous details, such as:

- Lot number
- Structure,
- Type of farm,
- Mill,
- Entry and end date,
- Pig flow,
- Number of sources,
- Time to fill,
- Number of pigs entered,
- Weight in,
- Weaning age,
- Mortality,
- Number of culls,
- Days in nursery or grow-finish,
- Health or disease status,

- Amount of feed per phase as well as energy, protein, phosphorus, phytase and ractopamine (Paylean®) content of feed,
- Feed texture,
- Feed and medication costs,
- Floor space,
- Type of flooring,
- Type of finisher barn,
- Genotype of dam and sire,
- Feeder type and space,
- Drinker numbers,
- Number of pigs/pen,
- Ventilation type and capacity,
- Index of slaughter pigs,
- Carcass weight,
- In transit mortality
- Kg of condemned pigs
- Some abattoir information (% ideal, back fat).

Closeout data can then be sorted on a number of different criteria including:

- Average daily gain,
- Average daily feed intake,
- Feed to gain ratio,
- Mortality,
- Entry weight
- Potential margin.

The potential margin is a standardized calculation that makes each close out comparable in time with standardized feed cost, fixed cost, pork price and adjusted performances. This attempts to quantify the gross profit of each close out.

The reports that can be produced for nursery and grow finish close outs are: a general benchmarking report, a technical and economical report per period, a nutrient management report and slaughterhouse report. Following are two examples of general benchmarking results.

Nursery Benchmark Results

Quebec

Criteria: Quebec
 End Date : 07/01/2007 to 06/30/2008
 Feed Cost : 5.00 to 20.00
 Feeding With : Complete Feed - Diet

Sorted By: Margin

Selection	Superior						
	All	10%	25%	50%	50%	Inferior 25%	10%
Number of Lots	700	87	203	377	323	167	68
Number of Piglets Entered	1,312,512	128,884	322,003	666,463	646,049	333,301	134,320
Weight (kg)	5.85	6.25	6.07	5.97	5.72	5.69	5.67
Age (days)	17.77	18.33	18.05	17.84	17.70	17.84	18.11
Time to Fill Barn (days)	6.86	6.53	6.61	6.83	6.90	6.06	5.90
Days	48.63	45.92	47.19	47.98	49.31	49.82	51.49
Number of Piglets Sold	1,272,071	126,701	315,649	651,257	620,814	317,165	125,598
Mortality (%)	3.08	1.69	1.97	2.28	3.91	4.84	6.49
End Weight (kg)	25.45	27.36	27.10	26.65	24.19	23.52	23.16
End Age (days)	66.40	64.25	65.25	65.83	67.01	67.67	69.59
Feed Conversion Gain	1.51	1.44	1.45	1.48	1.55	1.58	1.61
Feed/piglet (kg)	29.68	30.36	30.57	30.62	28.69	28.13	28.15
Phase 1 Feed (kg)	0.46	0.35	0.40	0.44	0.48	0.48	0.48
Phase 2 Feed (kg)	1.64	1.74	1.70	1.66	1.62	1.62	1.71
Phase 3 Feed (kg)	5.50	5.38	5.29	5.30	5.70	6.22	6.93
Phase 4 Feed (kg)	21.61	21.82	22.36	22.58	20.60	19.55	18.73
Phase 5 Feed (kg)	0.47	1.06	0.81	0.63	0.30	0.26	0.30
A.D.G. (g/d)	403	460	446	431	374	358	340
A.D.F.I. (g/d)	610	661	648	638	582	565	547
Feed Cost/piglet (\$)	13.66	14.19	14.10	13.96	13.33	13.35	13.77
Cost/kg of Gain (\$)	0.697	0.672	0.671	0.675	0.722	0.749	0.787
Margin/piglet (\$)	4.52	7.84	6.91	6.01	3.01	1.89	0.27
Medication/piglet (\$)	2.07	1.99	1.95	1.99	2.15	2.31	2.36

This table, which was handed out at the Dealer Meeting in August 2008, is an example of nursery closeouts from the province of Quebec, with end dates between July 1 2007 and June 30 2008. This set of benchmark results have been sorted on the margin per piglet.

Grower/Finisher Benchmark Results

Ontario

Criteria: Ontario
 End Date : 01/01/2007 to 06/30/2008
 Market Type : Conventional
 Average Index : 95.00 to 125.00
 Average Weight at Entry : 20.00 kg to 35.00 kg
 EE in Feed : 12.75 MJ/kg to 13.50 MJ/kg
 Feed Cost : 35.00 to 100.00
 Feeding With : Complete Feed - Diet

Sorted By: Feed/Gain

Selection	All	Superior			Inferior		
		10%	25%	50%	50%	25%	10%
Number of Pigs Sold	61,173	5,769	13,777	31,667	29,506	14,500	5,767
Number of Lots	40	5	9	19	21	12	5
Average Index	108.16	109.06	108.57	108.41	107.89	107.48	106.41
Days	110.91	113.79	109.57	110.07	111.82	113.89	116.04
Start Weight (kg)	24.97	24.31	25.39	24.72	25.23	25.16	26.67
Carcass Weight (kg)	92.52	94.60	92.97	93.98	90.95	89.84	87.74
Mortality (%)	4.31	4.90	4.45	4.11	4.53	5.16	6.78
E.E. (MJ/kg)	13.16	13.15	13.15	13.15	13.16	13.15	13.15
Feed Conversion							
E.E./kg Gain (MJ)	36.33	32.30	33.68	34.56	38.21	39.31	40.57
Gain	2.76	2.48	2.57	2.64	2.90	2.97	3.09
A.D.G. (g/d)	813	820	824	837	787	762	713
A.D.F.I. (kg/d)	2.25	2.04	2.12	2.21	2.28	2.27	2.20
Feed/pig (kg)	249.03	231.61	232.19	243.66	254.79	257.97	255.46
Medication/pig (\$)	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00	0.01
Feed Cost/pig (\$)	67.54	68.53	67.22	67.92	67.14	68.58	69.34
Cost/kg of Gain (\$)	0.75	0.73	0.74	0.74	0.76	0.79	0.84
Margin/pig (\$)	10.08	17.24	15.00	13.78	6.12	2.74	-2.90

This table, which was handed out at the Dealer Meeting in August 2008 is an example of grow finish closeouts from the province of Ontario, with end dates between January 1 2007 and June 30 2008.

This set of benchmark results have been sorted on the feed to gain. Criteria have been set to remove any outliers from the data set.

Benchmarking and record analysis are key elements of the training that all Swine Nutrition and Territory Managers receive. Territory managers are the real link between pork producers and **Compi-porc®**. Watson and **Compi-porc®** are linked: Watson outcomes (reports, predictions) are compared to reality (**Compi-porc®**), which helps the Territory Manager to refine the inputs to Watson and help generate more accurate predictions for production.

With the power of **Compi-porc®** and the ability to see the very real reasons why a system fails or succeeds, a producer can make more than an educated *guess*; they can make an educated *decision* regarding the future of their business.