

Lose the grime see growth rates climb

Farm facts

Name: Andrew Freemantle, Kenniford Farm
Location: Clyst St Mary, Devon
Farm size & enterprise: 300 sows breeding to finishing split site production

Benefits

- Increased growth rate: from 600 g/day pre-clean to 940 g/day post-clean out (45 to 98 kg)
- Finishing time (45 kg to 98 kg) reduced by 39 days
- Reduced mortality rates: 5.5% to 4%
- Improved growth rates resulting in a CoP saving of £13.92 per pig finished, before any FCR benefits
- Better systems can be put in place to size the pigs, aiding a move to an all-in all-out system by pen, which may free up time to clean pens

Background

Kenniford Farm breeds and takes progeny up to 45 kg after which they are moved to a separate finishing site a few miles away. Before the intervention the finishing site was a continuous flow system and had no option for all-in all-out by pen, thus no cleaning and disinfection (C&D) had been carried out for the previous two years. Although the building was only 10 years old the owner decided that a deep clean was needed; the buildings were tired and the pigs were not performing to their potential.

//The pigs have good health and they have shown what they can do on the cleaned rented site, this should be able to be matched after the clean down of Exton. // Tony O'Loughlin, farm vet

The system

An empty finishing site not far from the current unit was rented for 12 weeks at a cost of £2000. Although cleaned before it was mothballed, the unit had been stripped of feeders and drinking systems, so all this had to be put in before it could be used.

Although the unit was convenient and empty it only had 700 pig places (7 weeks worth of pigs) and the empty out and clean down of the finishing site was scheduled to take 10 weeks. To create a gap in production TVC Marketing sold 300 x 45 kg pigs off Kenniford farm.

Half of one barn was emptied and cleaned out by staff, but because of the time it was taking, along with the feeding and mucking out on the rented site, a contracted pressure washer was employed to finish the job.

Cleaning was "top to bottom", wood was preserved, floor edges were re-concreted and steel work repaired.



Pre C&D

Post C&D

Key to success

- 1) Soak with water
- 2) Pressure wash with detergent
- 3) Rinse
- 4) Disinfect (eg Black Extreme)
- 5) Dry naturally (for three weeks before pigs enter)

Both buildings were washed and allowed to dry before any pigs entered the site.

