



PORK BRIEFS

THE LATEST INFORMATION
ON SWINE NUTRITION



Comparing the Numbers

By: Ken Palen

In an earlier article I suggested this would be a good year to look at some numbers and evaluate some opportunities due to the good quality corn this year. Well, our customers and staff have responded and are willing to share this information with the industry.

These numbers are actual summaries of performance and cost over a large database and are NOT controlled studies. Different barns, genetics, feeds, vets, and health programs have been used. But, these are the Real Numbers of Real Cost Opportunities that were available and may be available for others to consider.

Let's start with the nursery performance at 8 different locations. The actual weights starting and ending were corrected to a standardized 6-25 kgs. Feed price was standardized for comparison purposes. Therefore, the numbers affected on this comparison were as follows: feed conversion (FCR), mortality, barbeque pig (BBQ) percentage, and vet cost. Other costs included in the data are: cost of weaners, trucking, management, and operating costs to come up with an Adjusted Overall Cost.

Table 1

Producer	Total No. Pigs	FCR	Feed Cost	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Nursery 1	28,204	1.47	\$15.01	2.66%	2.39%	
Nursery 2	10,667	1.41	\$14.38	3.00%	0.45%	+\$0.16
Nursery 3	30,393	1.54	\$15.54	2.62%	1.23%	+\$1.04
Nursery 4	28,657	1.57	\$15.88	2.44%	1.15%	+\$1.06
Nursery 5	26,326	1.48	\$16.07	2.29%	1.05%	+\$1.08
Nursery 6	15,491	1.54	\$15.49	2.75%	1.29%	+\$1.18
Nursery 7	4,854	1.51	\$15.69	5.01%	1.86%	+\$1.72
Nursery 8	14,920	1.61	\$17.18	2.88%	1.22%	+\$2.89
SUMMARY (Weighted average)	159,522	1.52	\$15.67	2.67%	1.36%	
DIFFERENCE (Lowest versus highest)			\$2.80			\$2.89

cont.>>

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Next we will move on to the grower/finisher barns. Everyone in the pig industry always likes to debate feed costs and performance so we have dedicated these charts to this. The actual weights starting and ending were corrected to a standardized 25-125 kgs. Feed price was standardized for comparison purposes. Therefore, the numbers affected on this comparison were as follows: feed conversion (FCR), mortality, barbeque pig (BBQ) percentage, and vet cost. Other costs included in the data are: cost of feeder pigs, trucking, management, and operating costs to come up with an Adjusted Overall Cost.

The first chart shows a comparison of all the pigs in the database fed pellets versus mash versus liquid diets. The liquid diets did not include co-products.

Table 2

Feed Type	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Mash	23,532	923	2.59	3.37%	1.46%	
Pellets	78,019	947	2.61	3.73%	1.64%	+\$2.97
Liquid	4,115	941	2.81	3.60%	2.40%	+\$6.21
SUMMARY (Weighted Average)	105,666	942	2.61	3.64%	1.63%	
DIFFERENCE (Mash versus Pellets)						\$2.97

In this last table we have shown the difference between feed company sources and the feed types used.

Table 3

Finisher Feed Company	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Feed Company 1 - MASH	4,103	973	2.50	3.11%	0.00%	
Feed Company 2 - PELLETS	80,919	947	2.62	3.86%	1.69%	+\$2.43
Feed Company 3 - MASH	5,351	914	2.63	1.39%	0.58%	+\$3.47
Feed Company 4 - MASH	31,852	890	2.78	3.17%	2.05%	+\$5.85
Feed Company 5 - PELLETS	1,760	929	2.75	3.70%	1.60%	+\$7.59
SUMMARY (Weighted average)	123,985	932	2.66	3.55%	1.68%	
DIFFERENCE (Lowest versus highest)						\$7.59

Comparing some facility and management procedures we see some interesting opportunities. Table #4 shows the performance and cost difference between large pens and small pens in 34 different barns.

Table 4

Pen Type	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Small Pen	74,186	937	2.62	3.35%	1.58%	
Large Pen	49,799	924	2.71	3.83%	1.82%	+\$3.66
SUMMARY (Weighted average)	123,985	932	2.66	3.55%	1.68%	
DIFFERENCE (Small pen versus large pen)						\$3.66

Table #5 compares different types of ventilation in 34 different barns and how it affects performance and cost.

Table 5

Ventilation Type	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Dual Vent	27,575	934	2.61	3.89%	2.21%	
Natural Vent	35,265	930	2.63	3.18%	1.21%	+\$1.25
Fan Vent	61,145	932	2.70	3.60%	1.71%	+\$3.08
SUMMARY (Weighted average)	123,985	932	2.66	3.55%	1.68%	
DIFFERENCE (Lowest versus highest)						\$3.08

Table 6 shows the difference between hand-sorted pigs and auto-sorted pigs on performance and cost in 34 different barns.

Table 6

Sorting Type	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Hand Sort	80,822	937	2.63	3.34%	1.66%	
Auto Sort	43,163	923	2.72	3.94%	1.70%	+\$4.05
SUMMARY (Weighted average)	123,985	932	2.66	3.55%	1.68%	
DIFFERENCE (Hand sort versus auto sort)						\$4.05

Table 7 shows a large spread in cost between the best barn on Index value versus the worst barn on Index value on 45 different barns.

Table 7

Producer	Total No. Pigs	Index	Equalized Hog Value	LW Kg	DW kg	Backfat	Loin
Highest	1,967	112.68	\$201.14	134.64	107.71	18.03	68.75
Lowest	5,376	108.38	\$193.46	133.49	106.79	18.35	68.01
SUMMARY (Weighted average - 45 finishers)	225,588	111.10	\$198.31	133.41	106.73	18.79	67.65
DIFFERENCE (Highest versus lowest)			\$7.68				

The last two tables in the grower/finisher information base show a huge opportunity. The difference between overall costs was \$29.75 per pig and the difference between feed costs was \$ 34.06 per pig on 34 different barns. The chart shows highest cost, lowest cost and overall cost for both.

Table 8

Producer	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Mortality	BBQ	Adjusted Overall Cost per pig
Lowest	1,501	980	2.52	2.39%	0.00%	
Highest	1,877	655	3.19	3.70%	4.30%	+\$29.75
SUMMARY (Weighted average - 34 finishers)	123,985	932	2.66	3.55%	1.68%	
DIFFERENCE (Lowest versus highest)						\$29.75

Table 9

Producer	Total No. Pigs	ADG	FCR	Feed Cost per pig	Mortality	BBQ
Lowest	1,501	980	2.52	\$70.58	2.39%	0.00%
Highest	1,877	655	3.19	\$104.64	3.70%	4.30%
SUMMARY (Weighted average - 34 finishers)	123,985	932	2.66		3.55%	1.68%
DIFFERENCE (Lowest versus highest)				\$34.06		

Overall Opportunity

Table No.	Information	Potential \$ Savings per Pig
1	Lowest Nursery Overall Cost vs Highest Nursery Overall Cost	\$2.89
	Lowest Nursery Feed Cost vs Highest Nursery Feed Cost	\$2.80
2	Mash vs Pellets	\$2.97
3	Lowest Cost Feed Company vs Highest Cost Feed Company	\$7.59
4	Small Pens vs Large Pens	\$3.66
5	Dual Ventilation vs Fan Ventilation	\$3.08
6	Hand-Sorting vs Auto-Sorting	\$4.05
7	Highest Index vs Lowest Index	\$7.68
8	Lowest Finisher Overall Cost vs Highest Finisher Overall Cost	\$29.75
9	Lowest Finisher Feed Cost vs Highest Finisher Feed Cost	\$34.06

In summary, there are great opportunities still to be had in pork productions in Ontario. These differences have existed ever since I started in the business years ago and the numbers are similar, if not a bit greater now. This data does show that well run farrow to finish businesses can do great in today's market. Be safe in the fields and enjoy the Ontario Pork Congress with your families.

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