



Uniferon Best Practice Recommendation

Benchmark Pigs per Sow per Year (PSY) with optimized anaemia care

There are of course numerous parameters to consider when optimising profitability of a breeding herd. KPIs such as pigs/sow/year, litters/sow/year, and of course piglet mortality are often used. Other important targets considered when raising pigs may be weight at weaning and lifetime productivity of a sow or a herd.

While the traditional farrowing rate used to be 2 litters per sow per year (LSY), modern pig production has made it possible to obtain an average of up to 2.40 LSY. This is mainly a result of decreasing weaning age – in some areas weaning takes place as early as at 14 days. However, arguments are also made for going in the opposite direction and increasing weaning age. As weaning age increases, wean-service interval decreases and is less variable, litter size gets bigger and farrowing rates tends to improve. Even though this means fewer LSY, it seems the benefits in terms of increased growth rate and reduced mortality largely compensates.

Danish producers, still considered world leaders in pork production, now wean at 28 days – not because they have to, but because they believe it makes economic sense.

How may optimised anaemia care positively impact key performance indicators of production?

In a well-controlled environment the combination of “average weight at weaning” and the “number of live weaned pigs per sow per year (PSY)” makes up a strong set of KPIs in the producers dashboard – also when it comes to gauging likely effects of optimized anaemia care.

All other things equal, the anaemia free herd will have better weaning weights and wean more live pigs than in herds where anaemia is not well managed.

As to PSY benchmarks there is still quite a variation globally ranging from 20 to 35 PSY. The average goals for PSY can be estimated at some 27-29 PSY, and in some countries 30 PSY are already commonplace. 35 PSY are now considered top performance benchmark both in EU and increasingly so also in the US.

It is important to note that PSY may be measured in different ways: One method refers to the number of pigs born per sow per year; another refers to the number of surviving pigs weaned per sow per year. It is specified that for optimized anaemia care PSY is measured according to the latter; number of weaned pigs per sow per year.

Are your numbers on the way up? Do you believe it is possible to improve? What are your plans?

Winning producers working to achieve global best practice know that there is never a finish line – the bar can always be raised. Best practise requires that one masters multiple success criteria, and anaemia care is a key success criterion for optimized pig growth and subsequently the quality of iron care is crucial.

It is estimated that 50% of global pig producers achieve less than 80% of pigs at full value. The average value loss per pig is 11 USD with up to 15% of pigs below target weight at finish. Health issues continue to top the list of obstacles to reach full value and health improvement is cited as the single biggest positive impact on feed cost optimisation.

These are all good reasons why optimized anaemia care belongs at the centre of holistic disease management – it is the no. 1 strategy to achieve full value.

Sincerely
The Uniferon Team

