Improve communication - improve remuneration!

Farm facts

Name: Cameron Naughton
Location: Devizes, Wiltshire
Farm size & enterprise: 750 sow outdoors finishing in straw yards

Benefits

- More uniform groups of pigs moving through the system
- Staff know the number, size and condition of pigs at each site
- Grower accommodation can be prepared in advance of pigs arriving
- Improved uniformity of finished pigs leading to improved financial returns

Background

This unit is a split site and historically communication between sites has been poor. Pigs were transferred from the weaner accommodation regardless of condition, health or size meaning that the pigs were difficult to sort on arrival at the grower site.

Key to success

- The managers discuss the condition of pigs and the space availability prior to transfer
- Grower accommodation is prepared in advance of pigs arriving
- Pigs are grouped by size prior to transport
- Animals not performing to target are kept at the weaner site until they are of an appropriate size to be moved to the grower accommodation

> **Before, we used to see a significant check in growth just after transfer from the weaner accommodation. This has now been minimised. The performance and uniformity of these pigs is much improved in the grower and finisher houses.**
>
> ***Cameron Naughton, farm manager***

The system

- Good communication between the two managers is crucial
- The grower and weaner site managers spent time looking at each other's units to gain an understanding of the two systems
- Both site managers are aware of the condition of the pigs at the weaner site and of the space available at the grower site, the transfer is then co-ordinated and runs smoothly
- Penning according to size and condition has resulted in minimal competition between the animals and growth checks after movement are also minimal
- Pigs are kept in stable groups throughout the system

Since taking time to understand each other's systems, and working together, the whole team has seen benefits!

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