



Masterclass improves quality of stock tasks and reduces costs

Farm facts

Name: Jonathan Green
Location: Little Livermere, Suffolk
Farm size & enterprise: 1200 outdoor sows, offspring to 35 kg

Benefits

- Improves quality and consistency of on-farm tasks
- Better use of time and more structure to tasks
- Improves teamwork and confidence
- Improves productivity by removing wasteful activity
- Reduces costs

Background

Jonathan chose a Masterclass to improve teamwork, the organisational thinking of his staff and their working environment. All staff were involved from the outset.

The A.I. process was ultimately chosen as the focus area for the improvement activity. Masterclass uses 'Lean Thinking' techniques (developed by Toyota) to bring about improvements in work processes.

Lean thinking is now employed worldwide across many industries, more recently in UK meat processing and latterly on UK pig farms.

Key to success

- Start with an open mind!
- Involve everyone in the process, support and encourage the team
- Be willing to challenge all the fixed ideas ie current practice
- Be realistic in your expectations
- Keep the Masterclass relevant to work force
- Ensure that staff get some of the benefits eg improved maintenance, right equipment, ideas encouraged and listened to

Full details of Jonathan Green's Masterclass can be obtained from BPEX (this may take a couple of minutes to download). A DVD of the case study can be obtained from David Salvage, Leaning Forward: 01284 787712.

For more information on training opportunities or the new 'short-form' masterclass contact Tess Howe: 07779321078

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“The effectiveness of my A.I. service process is key to the success of my pig units. Masterclass helped my staff to improve the quality of the AI process and to double their own productivity. I've recommended Masterclass to colleagues and wouldn't hesitate to do so again.
Jonathan Green, producer”

The system

Having been introduced to some of the lean tools and techniques by means of a 'plug game', the team started by videoing the existing process and checking simple performance data to 'understand the current situation'. This gave them their starting point from which to measure the effects of their ideas and trials.



By understanding what added value to their work process and what was wasteful, the team were able to develop and trial improvement ideas.

Keeping good data records ensured that they could verify what worked and what needed further improvement. Progressively they developed and agreed the next 'current best practice'.

Sows served/operator/hour increased by 117%, saving 6.5 operator hours (with no loss of conception rates). It also saved over 1/4 mile operator walking.