Pig welfare in the UK

2013 NIAA Annual Conference

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General Manager
Where are all the pigs?

- 400,000 breeding sows in UK (Dec 2012)
- 4,221,000 pigs in total
- 10,900 pig premises
- 2,000 assured farms account for 92% production
- 35 companies account for 50% of breeding herd, 10 of which comprise 35%
Indoor Pig Production

Sows
- 48% straw based
- 10% part slatted
- 2% fully slatted
Indoor Pig Production

Finishers:
- 60% straw based
- 13% part solid/slatted
- 25% fully slatted
Outdoor Pig Production

• 41% of UK breeding sows are permanently housed outdoors
Outdoor Pig Production

- Radial System
- Most popular layout UK wide
Outdoor pig production

Weaners & Finishers
21% weaners (7-30kg)
2% finishers
Farm Assurance

Red Tractor Assurance for Farms
Pigs Scheme

Soil Association

LEAF
Linking Environment And Farming

national pig association

NFU
UK breeding herd – Dec 2012

- 1991: 772
- 1992: 802
- 1993: 798
- 1994: 772
- 1995: 798
- 1996: 769
- 1997: 772
- 1998: 772
- 1999: 772
- 2000: 547
- 2001: 547
- 2002: 547
- 2003: 547
- 2004: 449
- 2005: 449
- 2006: 449
- 2007: 449
- 2008: 449
- 2009: 409
- 2010: 409
- 2011: 409
- 2012: 400
Pig Welfare Directive

- Partial stall ban came into force on 1st Jan 2013
- 18 Member States said they would be compliant only 10 were
- EU Commission has started legal proceedings
Challenges as we see them

- Producers must do it properly!
- Risk of rewarding non-compliance
- Traceability of pigs and product
- Managing the market
- Having the right resource
- Learning from the egg sector
- Getting buy-in from retailers
However! The Directive has other provisions

- Slat and slot width
  - Especially finishers on concrete slats
- Minimum pen lengths
- Un-obstructed floor area
- Manipulable materials
- Sufficient fibre
Other welfare considerations
Working with welfare groups

- Open dialogue
- Looking for areas we can work with them
- British Pig Health and Welfare Council
- Will not compromise producer position
- AHW Strategy – targets for tail docking and biting
Real Welfare outcomes

- Animal based measures
- Looking at the pig not the surroundings
- 5 outcome assessments
- Large industry pilot trials on finishers and sows
- Started rolling out in farm assurance from April
- Part of quarterly vet visit
- Finishers only to start
Industry tails working group

• Routine tail docking is prohibited in the EU but there is still an issue
• Is there an optimal tail length?
• Evidence says pig shape is as important as tail length
• Tail length depends on system and specific farm conditions
Manipulable materials group

- Manipulable materials must be provided at all times
- Challenging in fully slatted systems and farrowing crates
- Industry guidance developed – Defra approved
- Plenty of on farm innovation going on!
Profitability…

Estimated Net Margins £/head
Source: AHDB/BPEX

Provisional Forecast
Volatile feed cost – 65% COP

Estimated total costs and DAPP p/kg

Source: AHDB/BPEX
Additional challenges!

- Animal rights groups exposés
- Attacks on ‘mega farms’ and antibiotic use
- Eat less meat to save environment
- Eating meat causes cancer
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Any questions?

Pig Butchering Guide

- PARTS THAT ARE DELICIOUS
- PARTS THAT ARE NOT DELICIOUS

http://warehouse.carlh.com

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