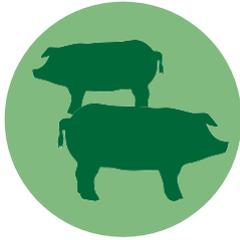




Pigs

Increased Weaning Performance & Reduction of Carbon Footprint

David Hardy



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Key outcomes of feed advice

- Increased number of piglets weaned
- Increased weight of weaned piglets
- Reduced time to finishing and consequent reduction in carbon footprint

Background and area of expertise

David Hardy, business manager at Provimi and FAR member advises pig producers in Yorkshire on feeding regimes. Each day David makes two to three visits in his area, which is mainly in the East of the county, sharing his knowledge on piglet creep feeding.

David has worked for Provimi for four years and has seen several concepts come to market to address productivity along with sustainability and improved welfare. He believes one key to success is having enthusiastic forward-thinking producers willing to try new techniques.

Give an example of how your feed advice has made a measurable difference

It is well documented that modern genotype sows are becoming more prolific, but these extra piglets born alive still struggle as sow's milk production does not necessarily increase at the same rate to ensure healthy piglets which grow well. In the past, smaller piglets have struggled and therefore weaned at lighter weights than their litter mates.

Published figures show that an extra 300g weight at weaning will take one day off the time to slaughter, and heavier, healthier piglets make the change more easily to creep feed.

David visited a producer who was seeing increased litter size and the associated problems this brings, so he recommended RescueCup® feeders.

Rescue cups are part of the rescue system designed by Provimi to provide supplementary milk in the farrowing crate. This milk provides piglets with a vital source of protein and energy as the formulation precisely matches the requirements of young piglet metabolism. The system allowed the producer to increase the number of piglets weaned by 0.5 piglet/sow/year and increase the average weaning weight by 390g.

Increased output and less time to finishing meant the changes also reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

What difference does FAR make to you and to your customers?

David firmly believes that being a FAR member gives producers confidence that the advice they receive is to a high standard, and that the people giving this advice are well qualified. He also sees it as a benefit that in an industry where customer confidence in finished goods produced on farm is paramount, the FAR scheme recognises experience and qualifications used in this process.