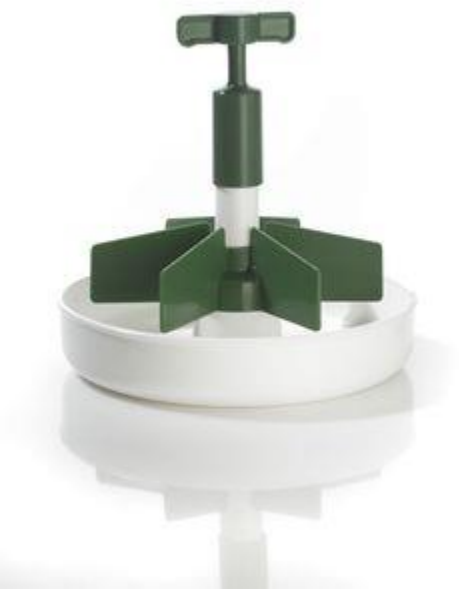
Reducing Feed Wastage

WEDNESDAY, 28 DECEMBER 2016 BY GILBERT VANDENHEUVEL



Dec 28, 16

By Gilbert VandenHeuvel

Reducing Feed Wastage

If pigs prices are up or down, if corn / soybean prices are up or down, it's always a good idea to look at your feed delivery process to remove any wastage.

One or two small reductions in your feed wastage can result in significant dollars in your pocket.

Any of us would bend-over to pick up a $5 bill, imagine finding that $5 bill every day simply by bending over to adjust a few self feeders.

A quality New Year's resolution would be to print this list and implement a few of them during the upcoming cold months and notice how your feed bill stretches a little further.

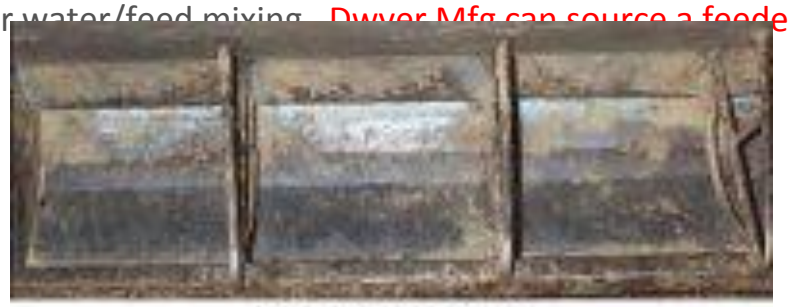
Check list on whole farm feed wastage areas:

- Spillage at bin during filling. Make sure your blow pipe is secure and without holes. Do what you have to do to keep fines to a minimum. Spilled feed attracts rodents.

- Spillage and moisture in storage and unloading systems. A little silicon goes a long way to stop moisture getting in. If it's beyond repair, contact us for a stainless steel flex and solid auger options that will serve you for many years.

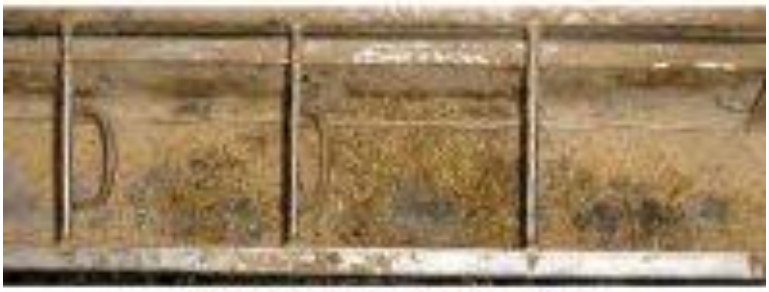
- Self Feeder:

- Use a well designed self feeder that is easily adjusted and allows for proper water/food mixing. Dwyer Mfg can source a feeder to fit your needs.



Too little feed

Feeder running correctly



Feeder over running

- Insure there are enough feeding spaces for the pigs to eat with limited competition.
- Even distribution of feed along the feeder.Ulysse Nardin Replica
- Position of feeder in the pen so

        - The feeder is closer to the sleeping area, not the dunging area. Manure in the feeder will always reduce intake and increase wastage.

        - it can be easily inspected from the passageway.

- Locate the drinker so it can be reached but not played with and flood out the feeder pan.

- A covered feeder is best to minimize dust in the room, reduce moisture and rodents from spoiling the feed. Include a see through area so feed can still be inspected. Dwyer Mfg is a good source of PVC board.

- Keep the feeder well maintained so it can be adjusted and no holes or cracks leak feed out.

- Have feed available when the pigs enter the barn. A detail that helps reduce lag in consumption that happens when pigs are moved.

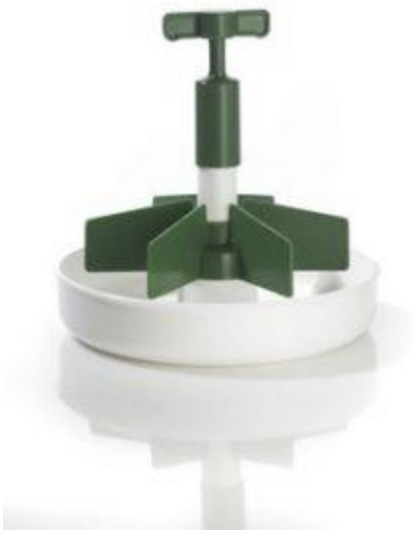
- Clean out your feeders thoroughly between batches. Design your system so the feeder can be flipped upside down to really clean it out.

- Don't over-fill the feeders, especially when pigs first enter the barn. Pigs will waste stale feed to find fresher.

- Grind feed ingredients properly. An average of 700 microns has been documented to be best. Dwyer can do a particle test for you and provide you with a quality stainless hammer mill.

- Using multi-phase rations will give your pigs the correct nutrition as their needs change. Every breed and farm can be unique, so conduct some tests to see what works best at your place. Dwyer Mfg can source or build you an affordable pig and feed weighing system.

- Use some creep feed during the piglet's last stage in the farrowing room. It will ready their gut for solid food in the nursery barn.



- Conduct your own trials to find out how to fine-tune this to your system. Dwyer Mfg has plastic and stainless creep feeders or piglet rescue decks.Audemars Piguet Replica Watches

- Carefully feed a farrowing sow to meet her needs during lactation and during the first week back in the breeding barn. Uneaten feed is a direct waste that turns moldy and attracts flies.

- Having a "hospital" or recovery pen is a great idea but make sure the feeder is designed properly for the sick pigs that will be using it. Keep the feed fresh and accessible. Dwyer can custom build a Stainless trough feeder for any size pig.

- Keep rodents and birds out of the barn as best you can. Screen naturally ventilated barns and put an anti-rodent program in place. It's best to make it someone's regular job or it'll never get done. Put poison in short pieces of 2 or 3 inch pipe along the walls where rodents travel. OMAFRA's fact sheet on rodents CLICK HERE

- Non-pregnant sows: It is essential that all sows 6 weeks post-mating are actually pregnant. A sow which is discovered not to be pregnant in week 16 of 'gestation' has just consumed 175 kg (2.5x7x10) of feed since mating. On

many farms, this can be as many as 7% of sows. On a 250-sow unit, this is accounts for 3 tonnes of sow feed a year.

- Cull sows: Once the decision to cull a sow is made, ensure that she is culled as soon as possible. Cull sows are eating 2.5 kg a day.

- Feeding finishing pigs prior to slaughter: To feed a pig immediately prior to slaughter, wastes 2.5 kg per pig sold. Limit transport shrinkage by providing lots of water leading up to shipping.

- Overweight finishing pigs: Finishing pigs must be weighed and sold into the slaughterhouse matrix. Outside the box, the pig becomes extremely expensive. Not only do they not earn the extra feed they have consumed, but they are going to result in a penalty at the slaughterhouse, reducing their return. Dwyer Mfg can supply weighing systems that mark and sort pigs that meet the weight settings.

- Review culling of runt pigs: Pigs which are born small and/or are weaned as a runt, should have their survivability carefully reviewed. Small, weak born piglets have poor FCR rate and increased mortality rate. The feed cost of these animals needs careful review.

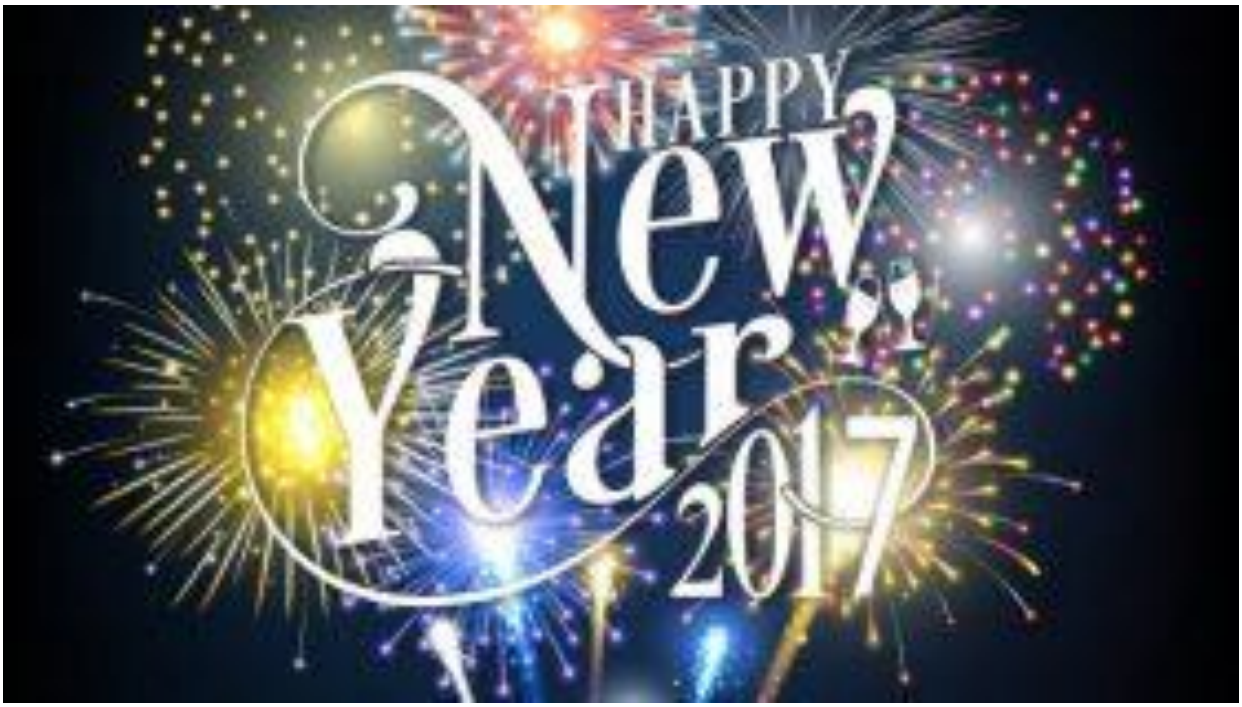
- Air temperature and comfort: Ensure that you keep the pigs within their thermo-comfort zone. If the pigs are housed too cold, feed will be consumed to help keep the pig warm.

Age (weeks)	Gain (g/day)	FCR idealized	Consumption (g/day)	Actual feed usage feed wastage (%)		
				2	10	15
4	215	1	215	219	237	247
6	395	1.2	474	483	521	545
8	630	1.4	882	900	970	1014
10	660	1.6	1056	1077	1162	1214
12	715	1.8	1287	1313	1416	1480
14	800	2.4	1920	1958	2112	2208
16	965	2.6	2509	2559	2760	2885
18	1000	2.9	2900	2958	3190	3335
20	1100	3	3300	3366	3630	3795
22	1100	3.2	3520	3590	3872	4048
Adult		4	3000	3060	3300	3450
With a unit farrowing		10	sows per	1	weekly batch	
6.5 tonnes per sow per year with an average price of $ 375 per tonne farrow to finish at 74 kg dwt			Per kg deadweight	$0.03	$0.16	$0.24
			Per pig sold	$2.34	$11.68	$17.52
			Per year	$11,543	$57,715	$86,572

Note: this report is in Australian dollars. Currently $1 CND = $1.03 Australian

Thanks to The Pig Journal UK. Pig Veterinary Society for base of this blog.

http://www.thepigsite.com/pigjournal/articles/2169/management-practices-to-reduce-expensive-feed-wastage/


HAPPY
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