

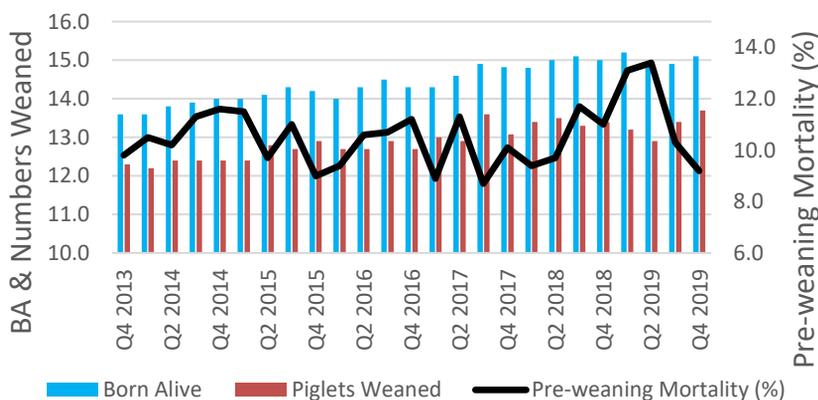
Bishopton Breeding Herd Averages

Analysis from the production data collected every quarter from each indoor breeding farm has shown that born alive has steadily increased from 13.6 piglets/litter in Q4 2018 to **13.9 piglets/litter** in Q4 2019. Pre-weaning mortality has remained relatively constant during early 2019 to increase later on in the year, whilst average weaned has increased slightly from 12.0 piglets/litter in Q4 2018 to **12.3 piglets/litter** in Q4 2019.

We have also calculated the top 10% and the top 1/3 production figures – figures for born alive and weaned per litter are also still continuing to steadily increase which is excellent. The figures from quarter 4 of 2019 are:

Quarter 4, 2019	Top 10%	Top 1/3
Born alive/litter	15.1	14.7
Weaned/litter	13.7	13.1
Pre-weaning Mortality	9.2%	11.0%

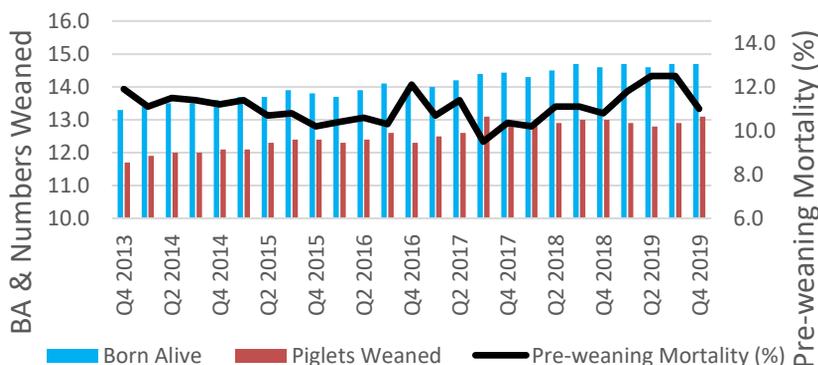
Top 10% Figures



Both of the graphs show that the number of piglets born alive has remained fairly constant recently.

Number of piglets weaned has fluctuated slightly within the top 10% of farms, although this has remained more constant within the top 1/3 of farms.

Top 1/3 Figures



Within the last 6 months pre-weaning mortality has decreased.

Please contact your vet for help in setting realistic production figures for your herd.

Update on the Welfare Codes

The revised welfare codes came into force on the 1st March 2020. Whilst we wait for further clarification on a number of areas, below are a few points to note:

Tail Docking

Farms must document evidence of any tail biting and measures taken to manage this. This will then be reviewed quarterly at the vet visit and incorporated into the VHP (Veterinary Health Plan). If tail docking is advised, all interventions and measures taken to remove the need for this should be documented.

Environmental Enrichment

Combinations of enrichment can be used to fulfil the 4 ideal criteria (manipulable, edible, investigable, chewable) and there must be “sufficient” quantity provided. Further details are still being clarified in respect to these. In farrowing houses, both nesting material and environmental enrichment should be provided. Whilst there is an exemption for use of nesting material if it affects the slurry system, provision of environmental enrichment is compulsory.

Pig Handling

In light of recent media discussions, the original law has been clarified to state that it is not acceptable to strike or kick pigs.

Environmental Measurements

This is a complicated area where some future measuring will be required – the finer details are still to be agreed and further updates will follow.

Farrowing Crates

There is the following statement included in the new Code “*The aim is for farrowing crates to no longer be necessary and for any new system to protect the welfare of the sow, as well as her piglets*”. Please speak to your vet about any new or renovated farrowing accommodation you are looking at providing.

We will expand on these areas in detail in future issues of this newsletter...

Current Clinical Trends – What are we seeing out there?...

We are currently seeing a slight increase in respiratory disease within weaners and growers. The very variable temperatures that we have been experiencing recently, both day to night and day to day, are likely to be involved with this.



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Adjusting ventilation systems accordingly is important to make sure there is as little variation in temperature possible whilst maintaining air flow, especially when we are not present. The on-going variable weather, including wind coming from different directions to usual, can cause flare ups of infections on farm that may not usually cause too many clinical issues.

Please do contact your vet with any concerns that you may have.

Feedback

Please let us know if there is anything that you would like including, or more information on, in a future newsletter.

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