

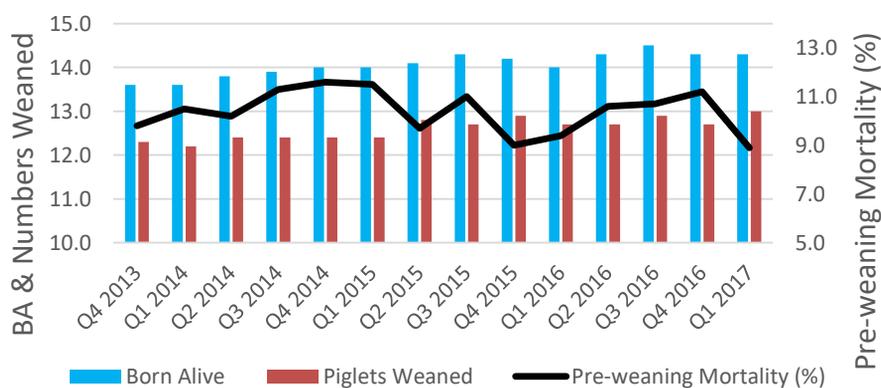
Bishopton Breeding Herd Averages

Analysis from the production data collected from each breeding farm we visit has shown that there has been a slight increase in quarter 1 of this year in the average born alive to **13.2 piglets/litter**. Over the difficult winter period, when there has been plenty of clinical viral challenge across the whole of the UK this year, it is pleasing to see that weaning figures have been pretty constant being **11.7 piglets/litter** both this quarter and in Q3 2016. The average pre-weaning mortality has remained fairly constant at **11.1%**.

We have also calculated the top 10% and the top 1/3 production figures for each quarter – these figures are continuing to increase which is excellent. The figures from quarter 1 of 2017 are:

Quarter 1, 2017	Top 10%	Top 1/3
Born alive/litter	14.3	14.0
Weaned/litter	13.0	12.5
Pre-weaning Mortality	8.9%	10.7%

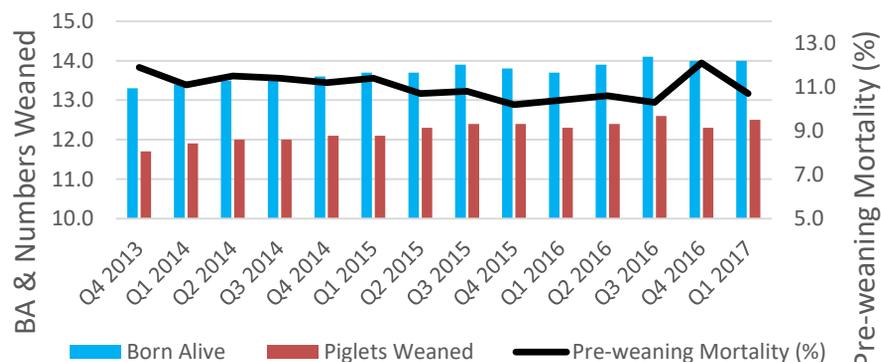
Top 10% Figures



Both of the graphs show that the number of piglets born alive and weaned per litter are continuing on an overall increasing trend.

Within the top 10%, pre-weaning mortality is more variable but has recently decreased significantly. Pre-weaning mortality has also recently decreased in the top 1/3 of farms, following a spike during Q4 last year.

Top 1/3 Figures



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

Blue-Green Algae Bloom Alert

The APHA (Animal Plant Health Agency) have recently released an alert on behalf of the Environment Agency about potentially toxic blue-green algal blooms. This alert was released for the East of England but other parts of the UK are likely to be affected.

The blue-green algal blooms are caused by a cyanobacterium which releases toxins. If ingested, these toxins cause liver damage, and exposure to the toxins has been linked to fatalities of livestock, wildlife and pets.

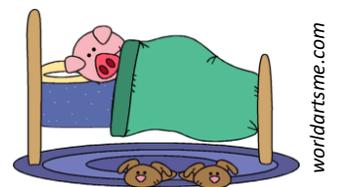
This bacterium does occur naturally in water. In warmer weather however, numbers can increase rapidly and are often seen as a blue-green algal film on top of water. Please do note though that not all cyanobacterial blooms are visible to the naked eye and the toxins produced can persist for long periods of time, sometimes months, after the blooms disappear. It is advised that if the water is cloudy, discoloured, or has small globules suspended in it, all contact with the water should be avoided.

Authorities will sample and test some water bodies such as reservoirs and recreational waters for the presence of algae and toxins, however not all ponds or water reservoirs are tested on both public land or on farmland.

Although your pigs may not have direct contact with water reservoirs that may be affected, we wanted to make our clients aware of this alert for other livestock that may be on farm, as well as pets or working dogs, so that you can manage the risks accordingly.

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

As we have some warmer days please can we remind all our clients to check their water flow rates throughout different areas on farm. Pigs drink approx. 1 litre of water per 10kg bodyweight, and lactating sows will drink double this rate, and more in warmer weather.



Please check there is enough access to fresh clean water 24 hours a day and water flow rates are adequate. If a pig cannot drink enough water, feed intake will decrease resulting in slower growth rates in growing pigs, and a reduction in milk production by lactating sows.

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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