

### Bishopton Breeding Herd Averages

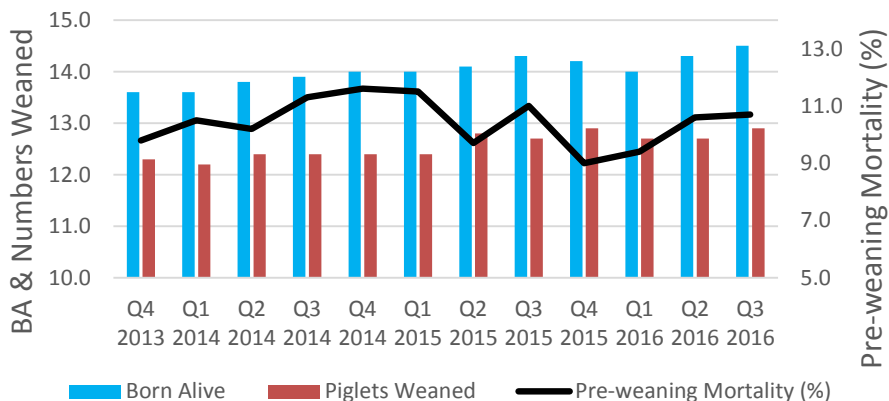
For the last 3 years, production data has been collected from each breeding farm we visit to calculate the 'Bishopton Average Performance Figures'.

The latest analysis of these figures has shown an overall gradual increase in the average born alive to **13.1 piglets/litter** and piglets weaned to **11.7 piglets/litter**. The average pre-weaning mortality has remained fairly constant, only increasing slightly to **11.1%**.

We have also calculated the top 10% and the top 1/3 production figures each quarter – these figures are continuing to increase which is excellent. The figures from quarter 3 of 2016 are:

Quarter 3, 2016	Top 10%	Top 1/3
Born alive/litter	14.5	14.1
Weaned/litter	12.9	12.6
Pre-weaning Mortality	10.7	10.3

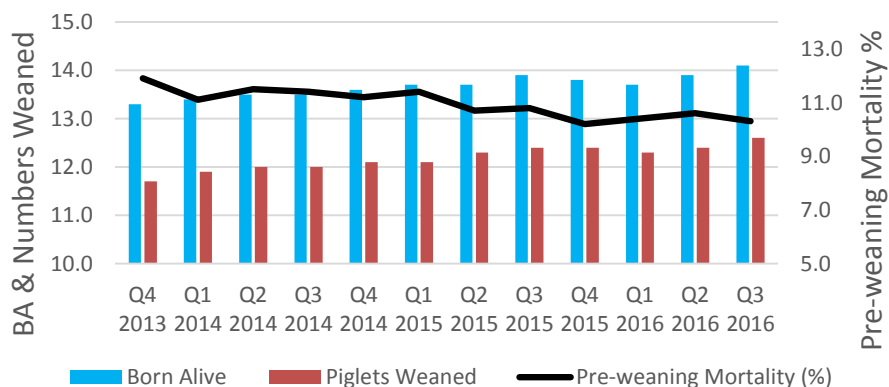
#### Top 10% Figures



Both of the graphs show that the number of piglets born alive and weaned per litter are now back on an increasing trend, following a slight plateau around the end of 2015 to early 2016.

Pre-weaning mortality is decreasing once again, although the slight recent increase in pre-weaning mortality in the top 10% of farms is likely to be due to ongoing viral issues which are still affecting a number of our clients' farms.

#### Top 1/3 Figures



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

## Proposed Revised Red Tractor Standards - For Oct 2017

Red Tractor have just released their proposed revised standards that, if accepted, will come into force next year on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. Currently they are available to view, please [click here](#) to be see them, while they are still in the consultation phase. These standards will then be finalised early next year.

Please can we encourage all our clients to have a look at these proposed standards as soon as possible and provide feedback on the changes to the National Pig Association (NPA). Any changes are written in red and the NPA will be producing an industry response on these changes back to Red Tractor. Some of the changes will affect only some clients, however other changes, particularly to antibiotic collation records, will affect all of our clients who are Red Tractor assured.

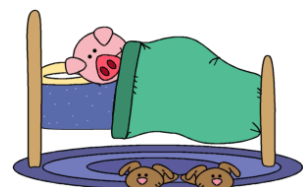
Some of the changes include:

- Ear tagging or ear tattooing must be used to identify breeding animals. Ear notching would only be permitted as a last resort where pig colouring prevents tattooing
- A drinker within a wet/dry feeding system would no longer be considered a separate water source. Within wet feeding systems one separate water drinker or bowl would need to be provided per 30 pigs
- From 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017, a collation of total amount of antibiotics used would need to be provided through the eMB (electronic medicine book) system showing at least 6 months of data (so dating back to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017). This would include all injectable, water and in-feed antibiotics used. Then, going forwards, this must be updated every 3 months and reviewed at least annually with your vet.
- The use of class 3 antibiotics, as classified by the Pig Veterinary Society (please [click here](#) to read our Aug 2016 newsletter on the classification system), must be justified in the Vet Health Plan by your vet each time these medicines are prescribed.

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

Please keep monitoring the temperature and ventilation of your buildings. Significant temperature changes are stressful to pigs and inadequate ventilation will result in an increase in pathogens in the environment. At the moment we are seeing respiratory issues that can be attributed to ventilation changes.

In naturally ventilated buildings, temperatures need to be monitored and altered accordingly for the pigs throughout the day – do not forget overnight when cold air and draughts at pig level can occur while no-one is around and lead to potential disease challenges.



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## 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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