

Teagasc Pig Development Department 2018



Overview



- Pig production is ranking third in Gross Agricultural Output (6% GAO) after milk and beef including around 280 commercial farms adding up to 150,000 sows.
- Teagasc provides a Knowledge Transfer (advisory), Research and Education/Training service to the farming sector.
- Teagasc/IFA Pig Joint Programme in place since 2013 to develop and monitor an agreed programme of research, advice and education.
- The focus of the PDD is to improve profitability, increase sow productivity and grow the national sow herd, while operating to the highest standards of pig welfare and to produce quality assured pig meat while adopting best practice to protect the environment.

Vision



Teagasc PDD should provide farmers and other stakeholders in the Irish pig industry with the support and knowledge they need to become leaders in pig production and ensure the future sustainability of the sector

Teagasc should coordinate and lead the efforts to bring the Irish pig industry together to be more competitive at international level

Ultimately the goal should be for Ireland not to follow other countries' example but to anticipate future challenges and be the example to follow

Main objectives

Within the context of the Irish pig sector:



- To improve economic sustainability with especial focus on nutrition optimization
- To help achieve the highest standards of health and welfare to produce pork that meets the requirements of the consumer
- To help reduce the environmental impact
- To promote data capture, integration and benchmarking for more targeted actions
- To increase the technical knowledge of the workforce
- To promote coordination among the different stakeholders

The PDD integrates both:

KT and EDUCATION



Ciaran Carroll
Advisor
Head of Knowledge Transfer

RESEARCH



Edgar Garcia Manzanilla
Researcher
Head of Pig Development Department

The team

- 6 Pig Specialists
- 5 researchers
- 4 technicians
- 4 Farm staff
- 16 Post-graduate students
- Placement students



Pig Research, Advisory, Education & Training Programme 2016-2020

Outlines key initiatives for research, advisory and education services over the next four years



Advisory



- Herd productive performance data recording using the ePM/PigSys system (includes 70% of the Irish pig herd)
- Discussion groups (7 groups, 30% of the Irish pig herd)
- Monthly newsletter and pig and feed price monitor
- Annual Research Dissemination Day
- Annual Pig Conference & workshops
- Advisory on operational data (nutrition, management...)

Education

QQI Level 5

- Completed course 2016 - 2018
- New course to start September 2019

QQI Level 6 Pig - Pig managers course

- Beginning September 2018
- Due for completion August 2019

Education continued....

- Development of career factsheets
- Promotional days:
 - Agricultural college career days
 - Agricultural college entrance exams
 - Farm visits with Agricultural college
 - Agri Careers Fair RDS
- DigiPig: instructional/informative video clips/webinars
- Publishing of Pig Management Manual

Main Research Areas

Nutrition

Diet formulation and feeding programs

Feeding practices and systems

Use of additives

Sow profitability

Gilt development

Management of large litters

Sustainability

Alternative uses for pig manure

On-farm anaerobic co-digestion

Teagasc Pig Production Model

Data interoperability and benchmarking

Health and Welfare

Respiratory disease

Use of abattoir information

Biosecurity

Management of tail biting

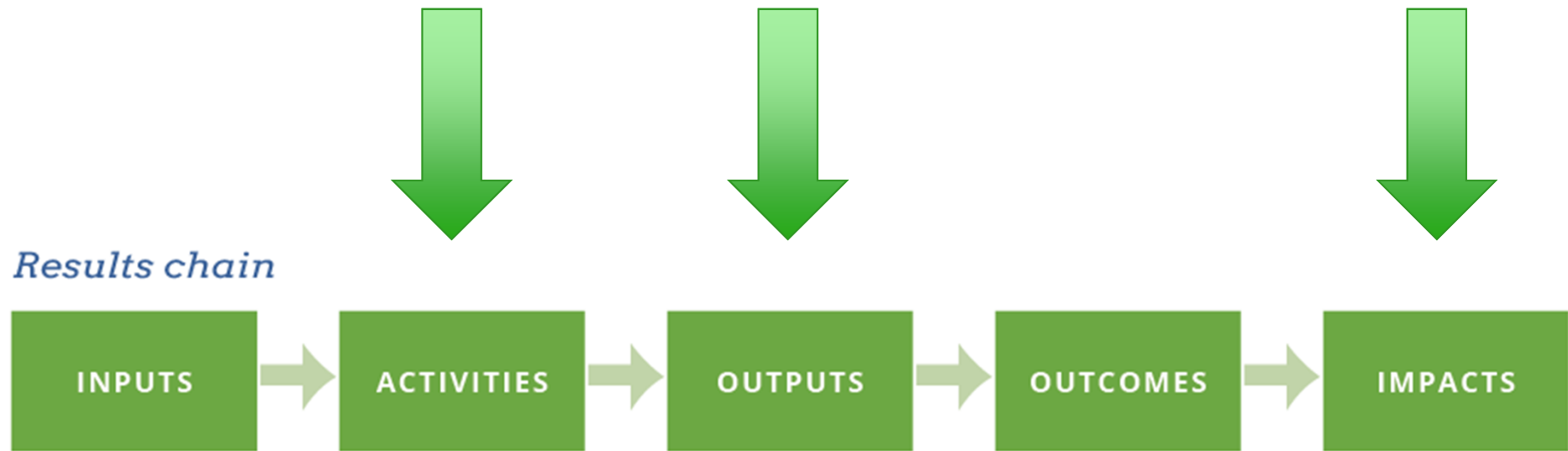
ZnO / Antibiotic use reduction

Teagasc Pig Research Facility



200 sows, farrow-to-finish, dry and wet feeding, loose sow housing, feed evaluation unit, additive testing, SPF, individual intake recording, digestibility, welfare, electronic identification, sow feeding stations, flexible pens, on-site milling

Results chain



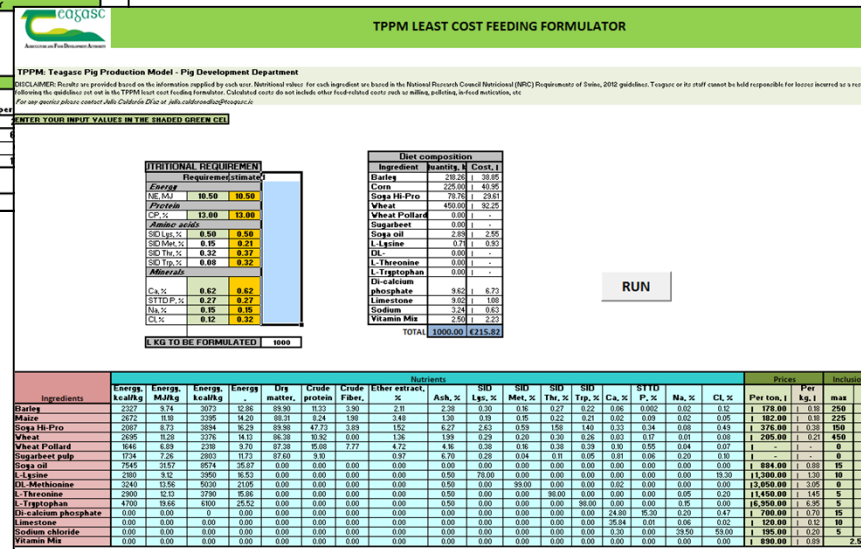
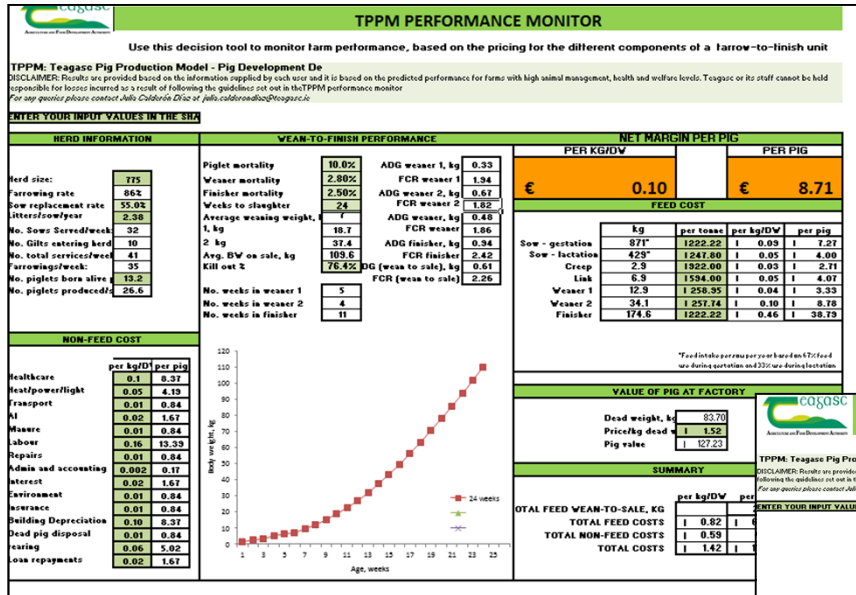
Cost of production seminars 2018



Due to the bad economic situation that farmers are facing with low pig prices and high feed prices Teagasc has organized a series of activities to help farmers minimize production costs and improve efficiency of production. One of the impacts of this activities has been the immediate adoption of corn as a cheaper ingredient in pig diets.

Teagasc pig production model and least-cost diet formulator

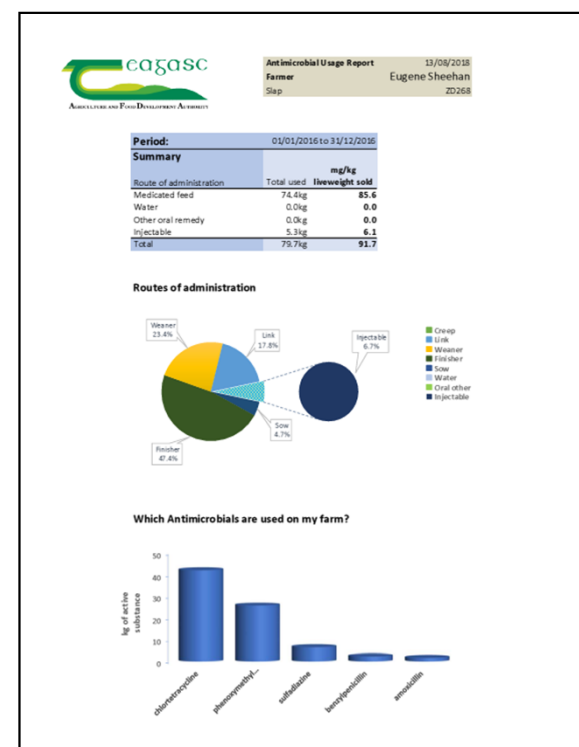
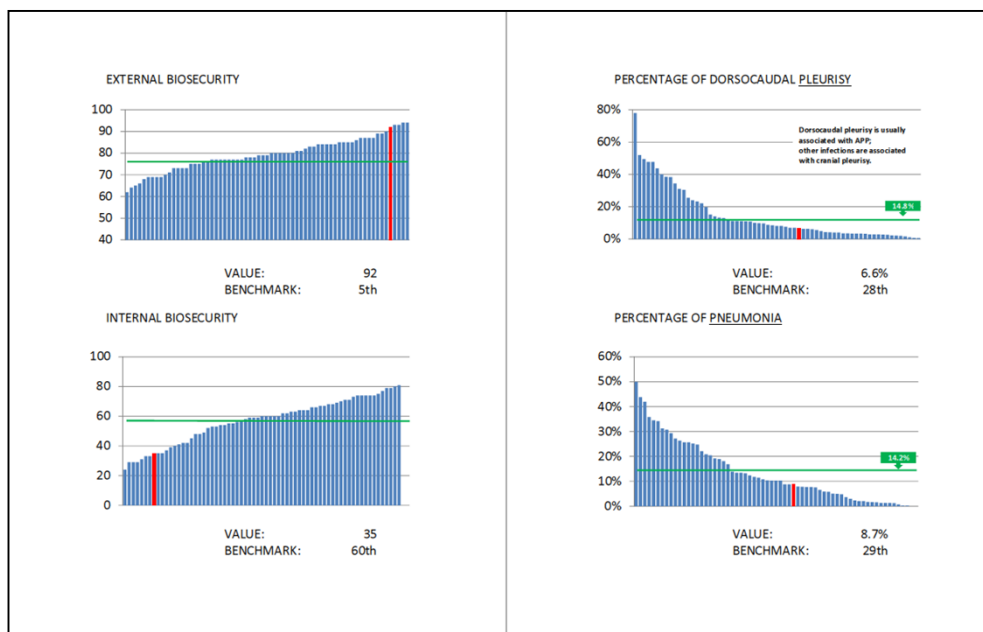
An stochastic budgetary model created with the data from Irish pig farms for research and advisory use.



Combined with least-cost formulators and performance optimization tools for the farmer

#benchmarkyourfarm & AMU reports

Benchmarking on productive performance, AMU, biosecurity, abattoir lesions and other operational data delivered to 30% of the pig herd



Pilot and roll out of biosecurity, AMU and tail biting assessments in collaboration with DAFM and AHI

BIOCHECK.UGENT

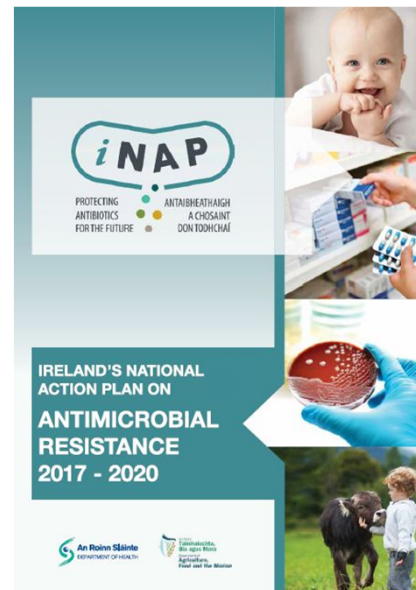
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ID: 27221984122/v2_o/R
Entry date: 2016-10-03 18:29:57
Identification: BQ1Teagasc

PIG

Nr	Description	Score	Country average	Global average
<i>External biosecurity</i>				
A	Purchase of animals and semen	100 %	99 %	89 %
B	Transport of animals, removal of manure and dead animals	96 %	81 %	71 %
C	Feed, water and equipment supply	80 %	55 %	50 %
D	Personnel and visitors	100 %	74 %	69 %
E	Vermin and bird control	80 %	71 %	67 %
F	Environment and region	80 %	84 %	60 %
Subtotal External biosecurity:		92 %	79 %	71 %
<i>Internal biosecurity</i>				
A	Disease management	100 %	80 %	67 %
B	Farrowing and suckling period	36 %	54 %	56 %
C	Nursery unit	29 %	64 %	66 %
D	Fattening unit	79 %	73 %	67 %
E	Measures between compartments and the use of equipment	79 %	49 %	49 %
F	Cleaning and disinfection	63 %	45 %	57 %
Subtotal Internal biosecurity:		65 %	57 %	58 %
Total:		79 %	68 %	65 %

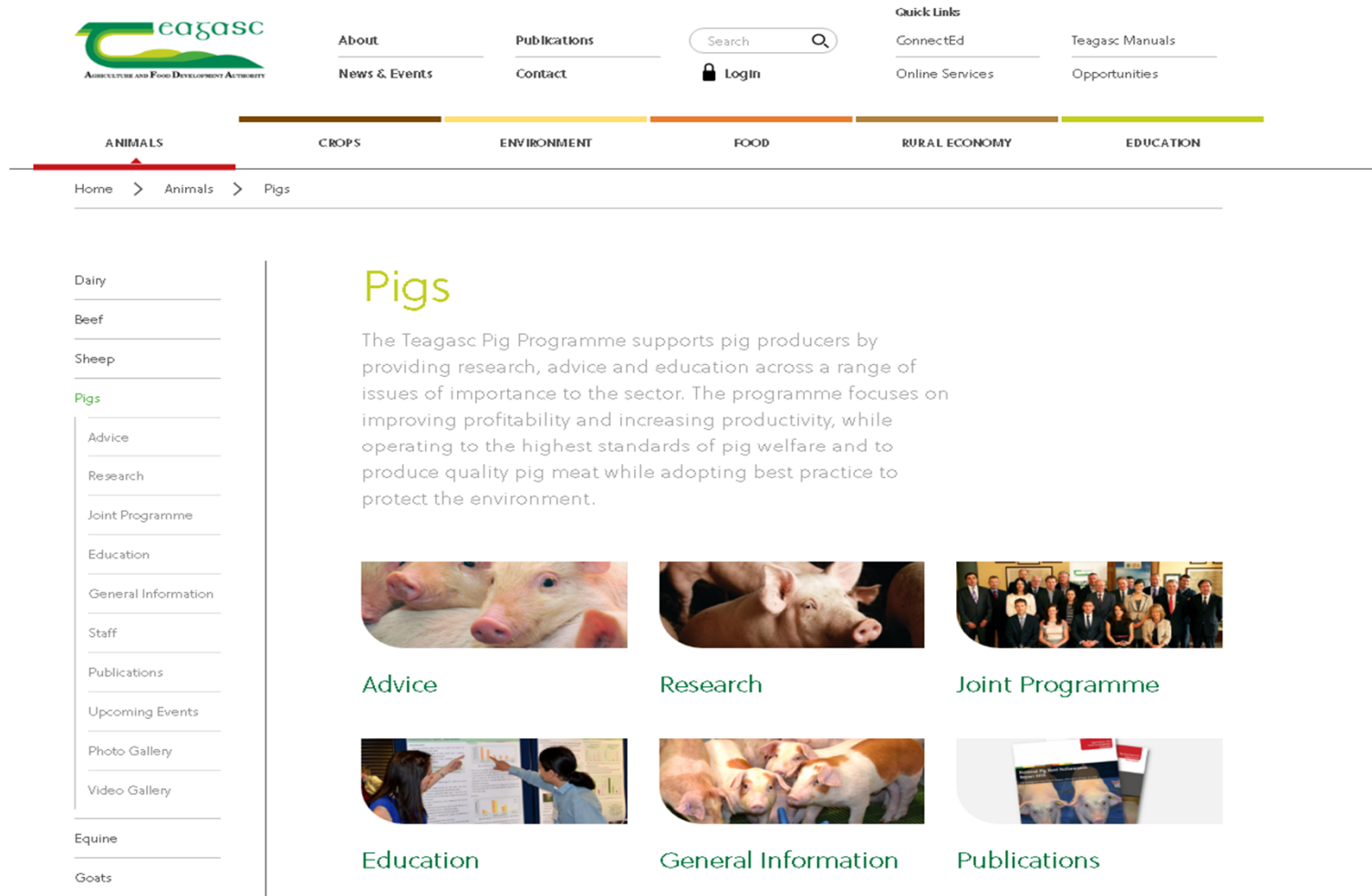
N/A = Not applicable



An Roinn Talmhaíochta,
Bia agus Mara
Department of Agriculture,
Food and the Marine

The use of a biosecurity risk assessment tool was promoted by DAFM, piloted by Teagasc and rolled out and maintained by AHI through their TASAH scheme. A good example of coordination and collaboration. Similar models are being applied for AMU monitoring and tail biting risk assessment.

Website www.teagasc.ie/pigs



The screenshot shows the Teagasc website interface for the Pigs section. At the top left is the Teagasc logo (Agriculture and Food Development Authority). The main navigation bar includes links for About, News & Events, Publications, Contact, a search box, Login, Quick Links, ConnectEd, Online Services, Teagasc Manuals, and Opportunities. A horizontal menu below the navigation bar lists categories: ANIMALS (highlighted), CROPS, ENVIRONMENT, FOOD, RURAL ECONOMY, and EDUCATION. The breadcrumb trail reads: Home > Animals > Pigs. On the left is a vertical sidebar menu with links for Dairy, Beef, Sheep, Pigs (highlighted), Advice, Research, Joint Programme, Education, General Information, Staff, Publications, Upcoming Events, Photo Gallery, Video Gallery, Equine, and Goats. The main content area features a large heading 'Pigs' followed by a paragraph: 'The Teagasc Pig Programme supports pig producers by providing research, advice and education across a range of issues of importance to the sector. The programme focuses on improving profitability and increasing productivity, while operating to the highest standards of pig welfare and to produce quality pig meat while adopting best practice to protect the environment.' Below this text are six image-based tiles: 'Advice' (pigs), 'Research' (pigs), 'Joint Programme' (group photo), 'Education' (people at a presentation), 'General Information' (pigs), and 'Publications' (book cover).

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter : [@TeagascPig](https://twitter.com/TeagascPig)



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The Teagasc Pig Development Department provides research, advice and education across a range of issues of importance to the sector in Ireland.

 [Cork, Ireland](#)

 teagasc.ie/animals/pigs/

 Joined September 2016

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