



Group Demonstration Award - Increasing Profitability through Modelling and Optimisation

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Consistent Pork

Frey B.

This Group Demonstration Project was designed to re-acquaint participants with ePiggery and AusPig as decision-support tools, including understanding the differences and knowing which tool is most appropriate for key piggery management decisions. The project was comprised of 2 one-day workshops with case studies, plus an individual project on a management or financial issue of interest to each participating business using ePiggery, conducted on-farm in between workshops.

Nine businesses and fourteen individuals participated. The intention was to enhance understanding of the interrelationships between piggery physical and financial performance through modeling and benchmarking within and between participating farms. Participants had the opportunity to become familiar with the concepts of modeling and optimization as decision-making tools and to create a structured opportunity with to use these tools with expert resources

Projects undertaken by participants included:

- Exploring the value and feasibility of increasing weaning age
- Product evaluation of NuPro and Paylean, including step-up program options
- Determining cost of production and return on investment in facility upgrade
- Evaluating different marketing strategies to optimize price received
- Managing lightweight pigs and optimizing their value

This Group Demonstration Project promoted the adoption of useful technical innovations including ePiggery® and AusPig, delivered information of value regarding their relevance and provided participants with some potential solutions for improving herd management, performance and profitability.

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