

This issue marks a turning point in our collective interpretation of the marketplace outlook. That is, the near-term is profitable and our industry is cautiously embracing a renewed faith in the future. Acknowledging the many challenges that still lay ahead of us (exchange rates, US sow population not declining, COOL, etc) the focus of this newsletter remains "what can we do to improve productivity and profitability in our operation?"

Today's Topic – Reducing Feed Wastage

5% of the feed made likely is never eaten by the pig, resulting in easily \$3 to \$5 per pig extra cost. There are factors from system and feeder design to physiological factors limiting voluntary intake that all contribute to these losses.

The starting point can be - where are we placing limitations to feed intake? A Checklist to improve voluntary feed intake can be found at <http://www.prairieswine.com/a-checklist-of-nutritional-environmental-and-management-strategies-for-voluntary-feed-intake/>

The way pigs eat has a great deal to do with wastage. Our experience with well-maintained commercial feeders is 2.5% minimum feed wastage <http://www.prairieswine.com/the-way-pigs-eat/>

Realistically 5% feed wastage or more is likely when you consider the impact of the total feed handling system This article from the UK looks at all the points where this wastage can occur. <http://www.prairieswine.com/reduce-feed-waste/>

Lastly to make a difference tomorrow look at individual feeder settings to reduce wastage. Our research (in nursery feeders) confirms that by having 40% of the pan covered with feed you optimize feed intake and minimize waste. <http://www.prairieswine.com/the-impact-of-feeder-adjustment-and-group-sizedensity-on-weanling-pig-performance/>

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