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**

Moorepark Pig Research Facility

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…)

Teagasc Presentation Footer
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
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

INPUTS → ACTIVITIES → OUTPUTS → OUTCOMES → IMPACTS
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
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.
Pigs

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.
Twitter

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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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