

Constraints on Selling Heavier Pigs

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Trends in carcass weights

Year	Average Weight (kg)
1999	68.4
2005	74
2009	78.4

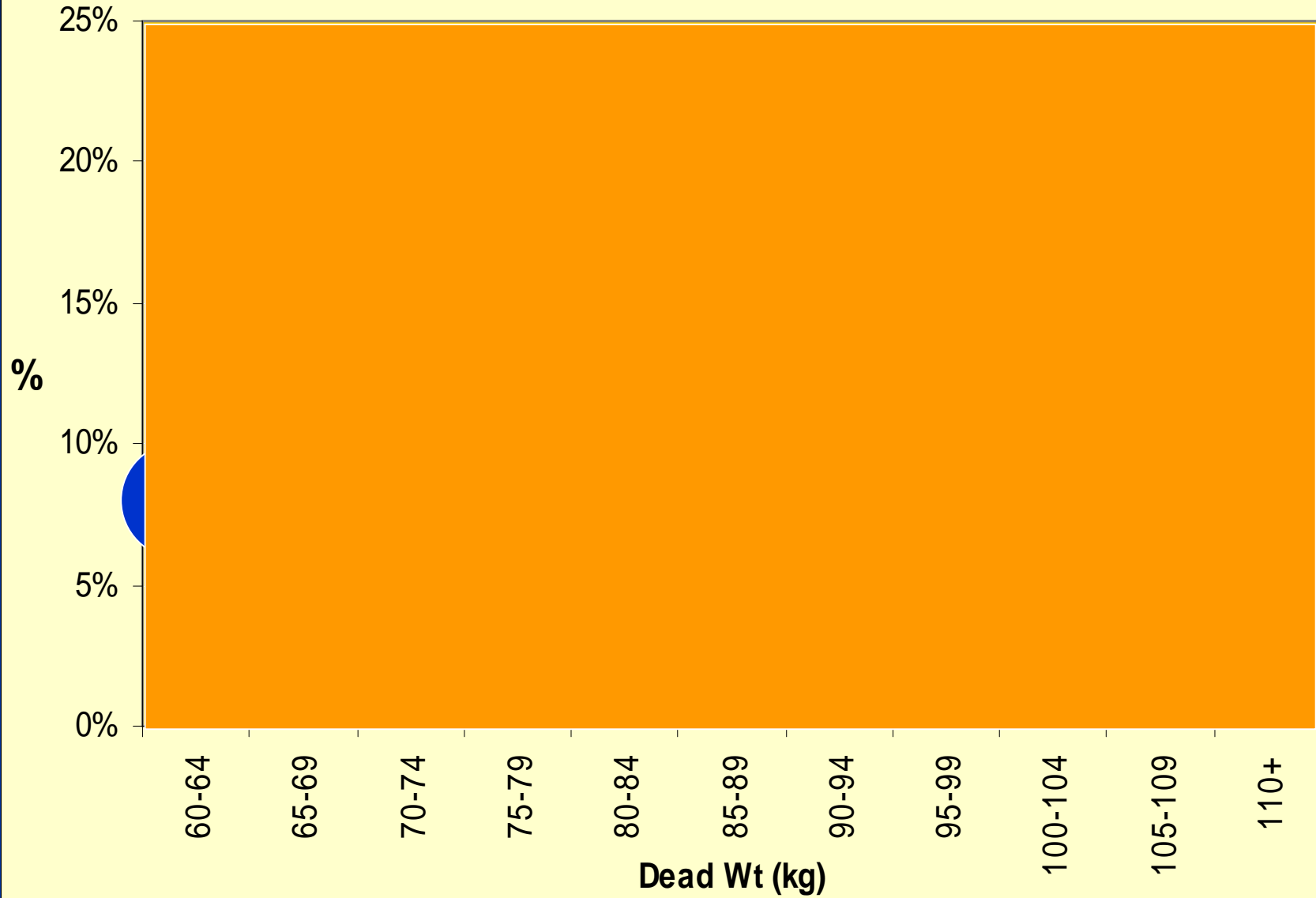
What's your ideal weight range?

- Variation on Min-Max weight limits between slaughter plants - customer preference
- Ensure you fall within these bands for all carcasses not just average
- Carcass outside bands are penalised
 - Deduction per kilo for total carcass weight
 - No payment above specified weights
- Aim - **Get paid for every kilo !**

Selecting Pigs for Sale

	Minimum	Maximum
Carcase weight kg	55	
Maximum		

Dead Weight Variation



Constraints on Selling Heavier Pigs

FCE

Boar
Taint

Processor
Limits

Stocking
Rate



Feed per Pig kg : PigSys 2009



Higher Wt = More Feed

Finisher 189 kg

Weaner 42 kg

Link 7 kg

Creep 3 kg

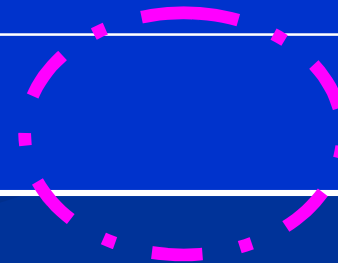
Sow 52 kg

**Efficient use of finisher feed
is critical !!**



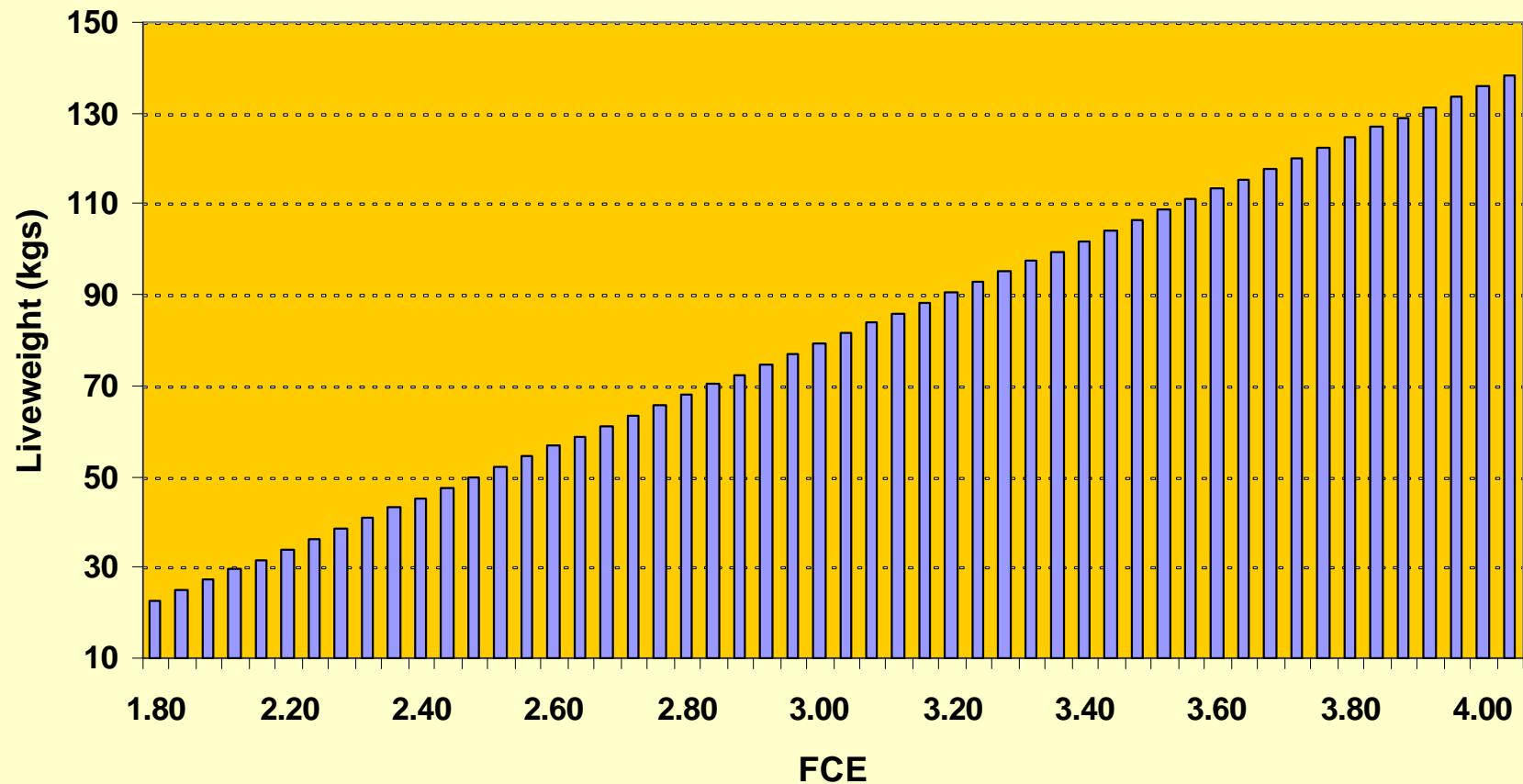
Financial Impact of FCE

Start Weight kg	36.5
Finish Weight kg	100.8
Weight Gain kg	
Effect +0.1 FCE: Extra Feed / pig kg	
Finisher Feed per tonne €	
Effect +0.1 FCE: Extra Feed Cost / pig €	

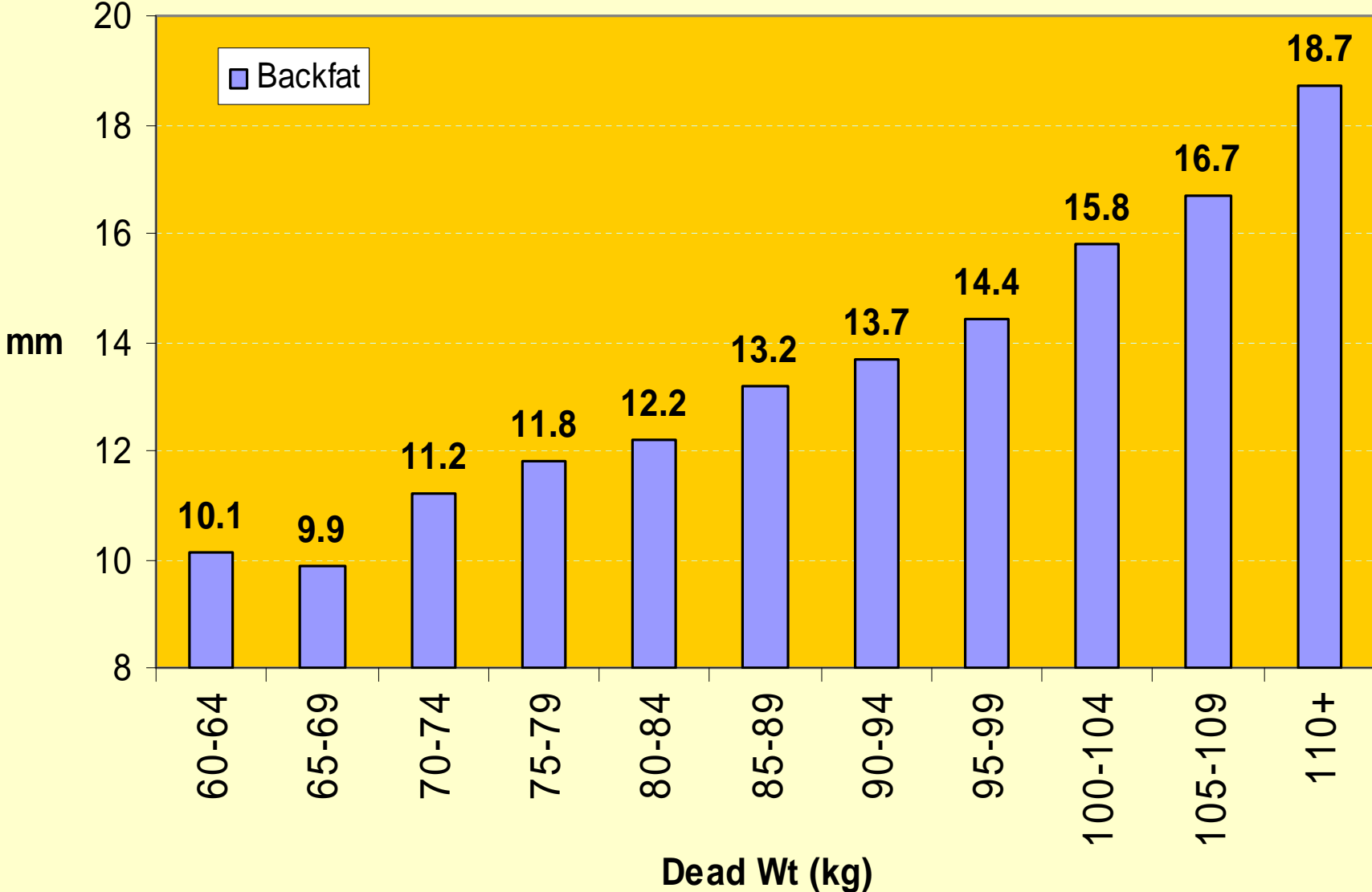


US National Swine & Nutritional Guide

Liveweight & FCE



Deadweight & Backfat



Weight Range, FCE & Cost

Weight Range (kg)	Feed Conversion	Feed Intake Kg	Feed Cost per pig (€)
36 to 100			

Boar & Gilt Nutrition

- Boars have a better FCE than gilts
- From 50 kg+ nutritional requirements for gilts is estimated 10% less than boars (English, 1996)
- Over supply of nutrients is costly and deteriorates ADG & FCE further (Gill, 1988)

Mixed pens

- Currently Mixed pens = Average 104 liveweight at slaughter

Could you split sex ?

- Boars = 109 kgs

- Gilts = 99 kgs



Average 104 kgs liveweight

Better FCE

Finisher Performance 2009

	Average	
Start Weight kg	36.1	
Sale Wt. live kg	104	
Daily Feed Intake g	226	
Daily gain g	828	
Feed Conversion	2.77	

500 Sow Unit
=
€38,000

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Boar Taint

- Unpleasant odour released at cooking.
- Increases with larger pigs.
- More related to age than weight.
- Risk with tighter weight range at processing plant.

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Space Allowance

- Every 3% space decrease = 1% feed intake decrease
- If insufficient space for heavier pigs then don't try it !!
- Floor area guidelines as follows:

Exit Weight kg	m ²	Ft ²
60	0.55	6
100	0.75	8
109	0.85	9

Points to Ponder !!

- What is my FCE ?
- At what slaughter weight does my backfat significantly increase?
- What is my ideal slaughter weight with present space available?
- Can I increase weight further within processor limit?
- Should I consider split sexing & split feeding?

Thanks for your attention !!

