



FINISHING

A review of slaughter weight decisions

Many producers have increased slaughter weights in recent years and the economics of doing this are generally in favour, even with high feed costs and pig price below the overall cost of production, as demonstrated in the following table.

Calculation of margin over feed (£/pig) per 5 kg increase in carcass weight at various pig and feed prices

Feed price (£/tonne)		140	150	160	170	180	190	200	210	220	230	240	
Pig price (p/kg DW)	Kg Deadweight												
	From	To											
105	65	70	2.39	2.19	1.99	1.78	1.58	1.38	1.17	0.97	0.76	0.56	0.36
	70	75	2.30	2.09	1.88	1.67	1.46	1.25	1.04	0.83	0.62	0.41	0.20
	75	80	2.21	1.99	1.78	1.56	1.34	1.13	0.91	0.69	0.47	0.26	0.04
	80	85	2.12	1.89	1.67	1.45	1.22	1.00	0.78	0.55	0.33	0.11	(0.12)
	85	90	2.03	1.80	1.57	1.34	1.11	0.88	0.64	0.41	0.18	(0.05)	(0.28)
	90	95	1.93	1.70	1.46	1.22	0.99	0.75	0.51	0.28	0.04	(0.20)	(0.43)
	95	100	1.84	1.60	1.36	1.11	0.87	0.62	0.38	0.14	(0.11)	(0.35)	(0.59)
115	65	70	2.89	2.69	2.49	2.28	2.08	1.88	1.67	1.47	1.26	1.06	0.86
	70	75	2.80	2.59	2.38	2.17	1.96	1.75	1.54	1.33	1.12	0.91	0.70
	75	80	2.71	2.49	2.28	2.06	1.84	1.63	1.41	1.19	0.97	0.76	0.54
	80	85	2.62	2.39	2.17	1.95	1.72	1.50	1.28	1.05	0.83	0.61	0.38
	85	90	2.53	2.30	2.07	1.84	1.61	1.38	1.14	0.91	0.68	0.45	0.22
	90	95	2.43	2.20	1.96	1.72	1.49	1.25	1.01	0.78	0.54	0.30	0.07
	95	100	2.34	2.10	1.86	1.61	1.37	1.13	0.88	0.64	0.39	0.15	(0.09)
125	65	70	3.39	3.19	2.99	2.78	2.58	2.38	2.17	1.97	1.76	1.56	1.36
	70	75	3.30	3.09	2.88	2.67	2.46	2.25	2.04	1.83	1.62	1.41	1.20
	75	80	3.21	2.99	2.78	2.56	2.34	2.13	1.91	1.69	1.47	1.26	1.04
	80	85	3.12	2.89	2.67	2.45	2.22	2.00	1.78	1.55	1.33	1.11	0.88
	85	90	3.03	2.80	2.57	2.34	2.11	1.88	1.64	1.41	1.18	0.95	0.72
	90	95	2.93	2.70	2.46	2.22	1.99	1.75	1.51	1.28	1.04	0.80	0.57
	95	100	2.84	2.60	2.36	2.11	1.87	1.63	1.38	1.14	0.89	0.65	0.41
135	65	70	3.89	3.69	3.49	3.28	3.08	2.88	2.67	2.47	2.26	2.06	1.86
	70	75	3.80	3.59	3.38	3.17	2.96	2.75	2.54	2.33	2.12	1.91	1.70
	75	80	3.71	3.49	3.28	3.06	2.84	2.63	2.41	2.19	1.97	1.76	1.54
	80	85	3.62	3.39	3.17	2.95	2.72	2.50	2.28	2.05	1.83	1.61	1.38
	85	90	3.53	3.30	3.07	2.84	2.61	2.38	2.14	1.91	1.68	1.45	1.22
	90	95	3.43	3.20	2.96	2.72	2.49	2.25	2.01	1.78	1.54	1.30	1.07
	95	100	3.34	3.10	2.86	2.61	2.37	2.13	1.88	1.64	1.39	1.15	0.91
145	65	70	4.39	4.19	3.99	3.78	3.58	3.38	3.17	2.97	2.76	2.56	2.36
	70	75	4.30	4.09	3.88	3.67	3.46	3.25	3.04	2.83	2.62	2.41	2.20
	75	80	4.21	3.99	3.78	3.56	3.34	3.13	2.91	2.69	2.47	2.26	2.04
	80	85	4.12	3.89	3.67	3.45	3.22	3.00	2.78	2.55	2.33	2.11	1.88
	85	90	4.03	3.80	3.57	3.34	3.11	2.88	2.64	2.41	2.18	1.95	1.72
	90	95	3.93	3.70	3.46	3.22	2.99	2.75	2.51	2.28	2.04	1.80	1.57
	95	100	3.84	3.60	3.36	3.11	2.87	2.63	2.38	2.14	1.89	1.65	1.41

Assumptions used in the above calculations: 5 kg DW @ 76% K.O. = 6.58 kg LW = 7 days @ 940 gms

FCR: 65 - 70 @ 3.10, then increases in 0.1 increments per 5kg weight band to reach 3.70 from 95 - 100

N.B. These figures are for an assessment of short-term considerations only and do not take into account possible changes in fixed costs that might apply for longer term changes. Further advice and use of a detailed "What-If?" model incorporating calculations based on grading profile and contract specification is recommended before making significant policy changes.

When looking at this as a policy change for an on-going unit then clearly other considerations come into play such as available accommodation, but looking at in reverse, ie. is there any benefit in reducing slaughter weights when the feed price/pig price relationship is poor? - the answer is still that the extra weight is cost effective, unless of course the business needs to benefit from the short-term cash flow increase from extra sales and reduced feed consumption.

As with so many decisions of this nature, timing is critical, and predictions of future feed costs and pig prices will need to be assessed. On a rising pig market it may be prudent to maintain sale weights in both on-going and de-stocking situations, always providing of course that cash-flow does not determine otherwise.

In conclusion, a thorough assessment of all available information is needed to arrive at the correct decision appropriate to individual circumstances, and AHDB recommend the use of a comprehensive "What-If?" and/or cashflow model through an experienced consultant to help in this process.

This factsheet has been produced by AHDB Pork in collaboration with Nick White (Pig Advisory Services).

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