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Evidence-based decision making



- If you do not measure it how do you know where you are? How will you work out where you going and then how will you know when you have arrived?
- Do not be afraid to accept proven facts and act on them
- Recording is fun. Once you have identified a problem and found an answer and monitored the result which shows you have solved that problem—that will give you a great sense of achievement

- There are four aspects of the pig production process:
 - Female and male **genetics** – talk to your breeding company
 - **Nutrition** – talk to your nutritionist
 - **Health** – talk to your vet
 - **Management processes and protocols** – they are the responsibility of the manager/owner. This includes everything that is not covered by the first three aspects, including how the first three relate to each other and their routine implementation

Sources of evidence



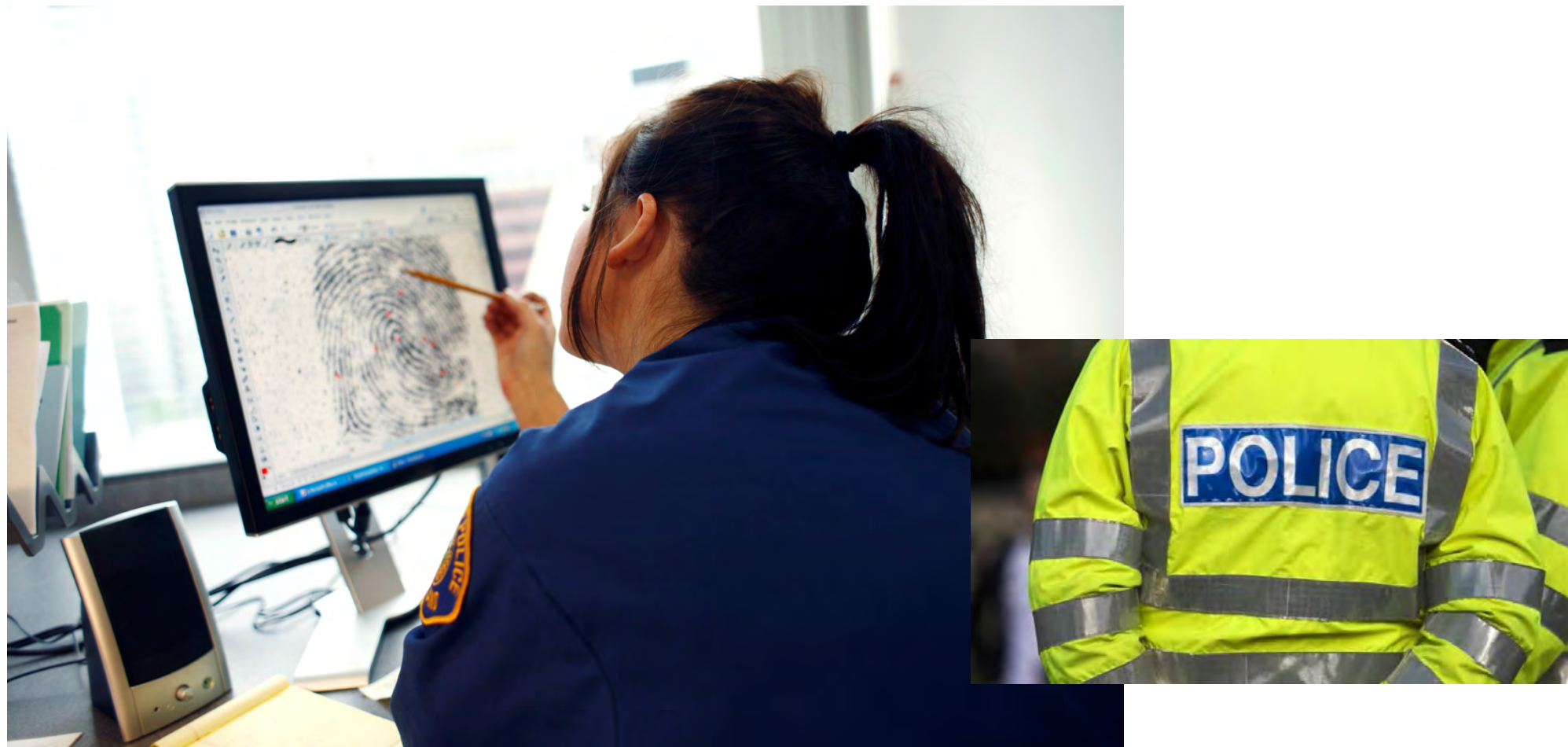
- **Scientific**
- O level biology and chemistry—not degree level
- Vet
- AHDB Pork knowledge transfer team
- Nutritionist
- Other farmers, employees and family members
- Internet
- Magazines

Record keeping



- What do you need to record? **MUST BE RELEVANT**
 - Farrowing
 - Service
 - Weaning
 - Incoming gilts. Date of birth, breeding company tag and arrival date
 - Food deliveries
 - Weaning weights
 - Store pig weights
 - Finishing live weights
 - Mortality
 - Lots of other things if you would like to add more but keep it relevant
- Entering data
 - Self
 - Secretary
 - Spouse/family member
 - Bureau option

Data analysis and use



- Self
 - Vet
 - Consultant
 - Employees
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- You will be recording events that you do not realise you are. The clever bit is the way the program pulls that information out to present it for analysis
 - Diary all changes you make in the herd so you can refer back to check for improvements that occur over time
 - Analysis will identify problem areas
 - This will enable you to design solutions
 - Then monitor results. Not all will be successful! You learn a lot from failure!
 - Then you build on that knowledge. Learn a bit more about the science and then move on again in small incremental steps
 - Never be afraid to question and challenge your own protocols and processes
 - Do this and it will give you the fun of seeing production success

- Current issues for me to record/improve
 - Pre-weaning mortality
 - Using chopped straw
 - Change lactation feeding pattern
 - Farrowing ark design
 - Looking for ways to even out birth weight
 - Rearing pigs
 - Improve FCR
 - Restore uniformity of growth
 - Reduce anti-microbial usage

Future of recording



- The ability to use large data sets
- Water usage
- Food usage
- Temperature, air quality in finishing yards/rearing areas
- We have individual sow data and, with progression to individual pig finishing data too, the gain will be a fantastic improvement in performance
The possibility of disease prediction, reduction in FCR, lower mortality, individual pig treatment rather than the whole group and the possibility of maximising the finishing pig contract specification
- Measurement should lead to the constant questioning and appraisal of your production systems and protocols. This in turn will lead to better and more productive protocols

Future challenges

- Keep pressure on your system to reduce the cost of production across all areas
- The recording program must be able to self-check. Does this entry look correct? Flag up data outside the norm
- Give flexibility in analysis to look for weak areas
- Give the ability to easily analyse different groups
- Make it easy to un-pick a faulty data entry
- Automatic electronic entry. This is OK but be very aware of mistakes corrupting the whole data set
- Be able to interact with automatic devices measuring production parameters