

Improving air quality in pig buildings

In a recent study, we have been investigating the impact of using electrostatic particle ionisation (EPI) equipment on air quality in pig buildings, following claims that EPI air treatment could be effective in reducing pathogens.

Ventilation, temperature, relative humidity, dust, atmospheric and settle gram negative bacteria and ammonia were measured across 10 weeks of the finishing period in two fully slatted rooms on a unit representative of commercial UK production.

The study demonstrated that EPI had a significant impact on air quality in modern, slatted pig buildings, most notably, 'respirable' dust and gram negative bacteria (eg *E. coli*); in turn, it is likely that this has contributed to a significant reduction in EP-like lesions. The treatment did not appear to reduce ammonia levels, however, more work is needed to determine whether it was being held in the room by dust.



Pick up a poster

AHDB Pork has unveiled its new-look pork cuts poster, which is available to all high street butchers, farm shops and delis.

The A1-size poster's contemporary design shows customers the versatility and range of pork cuts available and will help

butchers advise on which pork cut works best on a wide variety of tasty dishes.

For more information on how to receive your copy of the poster email: comms@ahdb.org.uk

Five Scholars Secured for the Pig Industry

The success of the pig industry scholarship at Harper Adams University has continued into the scheme's 4th year. This year's annual pig industry scholarship celebration dinner witnessed the introduction of the five new scholars currently on placement and their sponsoring companies. The group celebrated their success and received both encouragement and a warm welcome to the industry from Meryl Ward, AHDB Pork Chairman.

The five new 2017 scholars (pictured) were awarded their scholarship certificates and are looking forward to starting their placements with their sponsoring companies in the autumn. The scholarship scheme has gone from strength to strength and is proud to have awarded over 20 scholarships to date.

Sam Bowsher, skills development coordinator said, "Everyone involved in the scheme is very proud to be part of such an important initiative for our industry. Securing new entrants for the future is important for our diverse and professional industry."

Scholars receive a bursary of £4,500 and complete a 12 month placement period with their sponsoring companies.



To find out more about recruiting top quality students into your business, contact Sam Bowsher on 024 7647 8801 samantha.bowsher@ahdb.org.uk or visit <http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/skills-training/pig-industry-scholarship>



EUPiG kicks off in Belgium

The EUPiG Innovation steering group met for their first team meeting and farm visit. The group agreed that top priority in the next month is for the group to gather examples of best practice being demonstrated in each of the 13 countries involved in the project.

Here's where you come in... Are you innovative and forward thinking in your approach to producing or processing pigs? Have you created a way of working or implemented an idea that is driving efficiencies in your business? Do you want support from some of the leading minds in pig production and a chance to be featured at PIGS2022 conference in June?

AHDB is on the hunt for 24 examples, from the UK, that fit into the following categories: health management, precision production,

animal welfare and meat quality.

We are calling for UK producers to get involved and show the rest of Europe how innovative and forward thinking we are. If you have something you would like to share, contact Dr Charlotte Evans, Technical Senior Manager in the first instance with the following:

- Name
- Location
- Type of farm or company
- The challenge that you needed to overcome
- Short description of what you have done
- Contact details

Dr Charlotte Evans :
Charlotte.evans@ahdb.org.uk

EUPiG aims to improve the connection between producers and the latest science, husbandry methods and technologies from within their industry via fellow producers, academics and advisors connected through thematic and regional platforms. It is funded by the European Commission's research and development program, 'Horizon 2020'.

The next four years' tools will be created and practical guidance provided to all parts of the industry. Innovative best practice, combined with scientific knowledge, will be identified and shared via a comprehensive website, explaining in detail the project objectives and how to get involved.



Gilts Get Going



Our regional gilt meetings are underway, but you still have time to register for a few of them, including the meeting in the East on 21 March, which is being held at a NEW venue (All Saints Hotel, Fornham St Genevieve, Bury St Edmunds IP28 6JQ).

To accompany these events, we have four factsheets full of gilt-related information, including isolation, acclimatisation and integration, selection and the service to farrowing period. These will be available at all of the events, and can be downloaded from our website

For details of the events, visit
<http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/events/>
 or call 024 7647 8793

Exports set to break £300m

2016 saw a growing presence of UK pork across a range of international markets, and the sector, along with AHDB's support and leadership, continues to work to broaden the portfolio of markets and maximise global opportunities.

Trade data to give us the full-year result for 2016 UK pork exports, is keenly awaited. However, year-to-date data for the first 11 months of the year indicate 2016 as having been a bonus year for export markets, with the volume of pork exported by the end of November increasing by 11%.

Value was also boosted by the shipment of higher-value cuts and the depreciation of sterling. To the end of November, the total pork export value was up 27.8%, to £229.6m, split equally between chilled and frozen. Offal volumes were up 36.2%, to 70,891

tonnes, with the value up a massive 73.2%, to £58.5m. This means that pork and pig offal exports alone should break the £300m mark this year.

Although shipments were higher within the EU, the real success has been the rise of UK pig meat to markets further afield. Pork exports to markets outside the EU were 35% higher during the first 11 months of the year, while the increase in offal to third-country markets edged slightly higher, at 38% year on year. When combining pork and pig meat offal, non-EU exports totalled 126,000 tonnes and accounted for 48% of UK shipments.

Access to markets has been key to these successes; pork shipments to Greater China, for example, grew by more than a third and now account for 25% of UK pork exports. AHDB has actively supported exporters in developing this important market, and will continue to

do so in 2017. Leading exporters will join the AHDB Exports stand in Shanghai in May, at China's principal meat show, where higher-value cuts will be showcased to the trade to help seek new business opportunities, while enhancing existing relationships within the supply chain.

Our high-welfare credentials have helped sell pork across the Atlantic, with shipments to the USA having increased by 43%. The all-important foodservice sector has been one of the drivers behind this increase, and AHDB will participate in the National Restaurant Show for the first time in 2017. Demand for UK pork from Australia resulted in a fourfold increase in exports to the end of November last year, and the Philippines, where AHDB led an export mission, saw growth of 125% and was the fourth largest destination for UK pig meat offal exports during this period. ➤