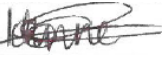




Name:	Anne Huting		
Project title:	Reduce variability and improve the efficiency of pig production systems.		
Institute:	Newcastle University		
Start date:	October 2014	Finish date:	October 2017
Lay summary of project (<i>in your own words</i>)			
<p>Project: This project intends to find intervention strategies that reduce weight variability within pig herds and by doing so to improve the efficiency of UK production systems. The project will develop strategies that will enable lightweight pigs to catch up with their heavier weight counterparts. These management strategies should be economically profitable. In more detail, we aim to find a specific management strategy that allow small pigs to catch up in growth during different stages of production consequently reducing body weight (BW) variation at slaughter.</p> <p>The problem with small pigs is that they have a poorer gain to feed ratio, need longer time to reach market weight, and have a fatter carcass form their better performing counterparts. Small pigs may also represent a welfare issue. All small pigs, not only the ones that were small at birth, contribute to the increased BW variability. As a result pig flow is compromised impairing the efficiency of exploiting farm facilities and causing alterations in total feed consumption. The latter, has both financial and environmental consequences and is worsened at slaughter due to slaughter penalties.</p> <p>We will use two management strategies: the first one would be to group separately pigs at different time points (e.g. birth, weaning) so that they will be given the opportunity to grow in the absence of competition from the heavy pigs. The second strategy would be to feed small pigs with specialist feeds suited for their needs.</p>			
<p>Potential benefit to industry: The main beneficiaries of the research would be pig farmers who would benefit from the application of cost-effective treatments that aim to reduce the variability in pig live weight on farm and improve the production efficiency of their operations.</p>			
A bit about yourself (<i>one paragraph</i>)			
I'm Dutch and completed my MSc in Animal Science in 2014 at the Wageningen University with the specialisation Animal Nutrition.			
What you hope to get out of your PhD			
I have chosen to pursue my research degree as I like to be involved in research that contributes to the optimization of production performance of pigs. This project appeals to my interests as it has a practical goal and extends my knowledge on pig husbandry and nutrition.			
A photograph of your work			



Declaration: I hereby give permission for my photo and the information provided to be used by BPEX in any publication, printed or electronic, for the purpose of informing stakeholders about my work.

Signature: 

Date: 26-01-2015.....