Evaluation of a carcase cooling container

Summary of initial findings March to July 2015

Carcase cooling containers have been installed on two farms as part of AHDB Pork's series of field trials. Initial results from both trial farms show that the containers are keeping the contents of the dead bin at a steady temperature of between 2-7°C, even when external temperatures have reached 30°C. This was the case even when the bin was opened to add carcases or to empty it.

Electricity use was in the region of 500kwh for the quarter, which equates to approximately £20 per month to run.

Comments from farm staff include:

- "The container is very easy to use and has reduced the odour and number of flies over that side of the farm."
- "Don't take it away – even if it takes £20 a month to run, it is worth it."
- "We think the cooling container is fantastic. As far as creating the best possible environment for the village then it is a winner because the smell is virtually nothing and it looks neat, tidy and professional."

Comment from the collector:

"An absolutely marvellous idea – there was no smell and no flies – let's hope everyone gets one!"

Background

On-farm cooling of fallen stock prior to collection and rendering may potentially provide significant economic, environmental and biosecurity benefits to the UK pig industry, according to the report 'Feasibility of Carcase Cooling in the UK' (HAU September 2014).

The aim of the 14-month trial is to evaluate the operation and performance of cooling containers for the on-farm storage of dead pigs (fallen stock) in England. This is for the purposes of potentially achieving improved biosecurity, on-farm management and carcase quality for improved marketable yield of products derived from rendered material following storage.

Further details, including a video and photo story of how the containers work, can be found here: http://pork.ahdb.org.uk/environment-buildings/fallen-stock/