

Analysis of productivity on selected DanBred farms 2024

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Main conclusion

Productivity on sow farms using DanBred genetics increased to 36.3 pigs weaned/sow/year from 2023 to 2024 according to the weighted average. This is an increase of 0.7 pigs weaned/sow/year compared with the 2024 National Average Productivity Index. Piglet mortality dropped by 0.9 percentage points to 21.4%. Overall, productivity KPIs for weaned pigs and finishers were roughly identical with the KPIs in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index.

Abstract

This analysis revealed progress in productivity on DanBred sow farms as pigs weaned/sow/year increased from 35.4 in 2023 to 36.3 in 2024 [2] according to the weighted average, which is 0.7 more than the 35.6 as found in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. The weighted average for piglet mortality was 21.4% which is a 0.9 percentage points drop compared with 2023 [2]. Productivity KPIs for weaner and finisher farms were roughly identical with those of the farms included in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. Reference-daily gain median for finisher farms increased by 12 g to 1,049 compared with 2023 [2].

The average of top 5 sow farms using DanBred genetics weaned 43.2 pigs/sow/year and had a piglet mortality of 16.8%. Top 5 weaner and finisher farms achieved a reference-daily gain of 624 g and 1,203 g, respectively. However, due to the low number of weaner and finisher farms included, KPI estimates are subject to some uncertainty. Nevertheless, analyses revealed high levels of productivity among the top 5 farms.

Background

The data material used for this analysis is identical to the data material used for the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1], which includes an extensive amount of anonymous data and non-DanBred farms. Consequently, some DanBred farms are not represented in this analysis as they could not be positively identified as DanBred farms. This report therefore presents the overall productivity level and the production level of the highest performing sow farms, weaner farms and finisher farms that were confirmed using DanBred genetics. The aim thus is to present productivity status and trends for DanBred farms in 2024.

Materials and methods

The data material used is based on the data used in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1] and on lists of DanBred farms obtained from DanBred P/S. Data is based on the subset of the farms that were positively identified as DanBred farms in 2024. Some of the farms included in the original data material were anonymized and could therefore not be confirmed as DanBred farms.

The top 5 sow farms were selected according to pigs weaned/sow/year and the top 5 weaner farms and finisher farms were selected according to daily gain. Furthermore, for a farm to be included among the top 5, values must be available for all variables.

Data validation and calculation of KPI are based on the method used in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. Medians are the best method for describing average productivity KPI in cases where only few farms are represented as very high or very low KPIs on individual farms may heavily impact the average KPIs. Consequently, KPIs are shown as medians when fewer than 150 farms are represented and as weighted average according to herd size when more than 150 farms are represented in the data material. As the number of farms included varies from previous years, some KPIs are determined using different methods than previously. The tables in appendix 1 offer an outline of KPIs that can be compared with previous editions of the analysis. Average KPIs for the top 5 farms are calculated as a simple average with no weighting of herd size or production scope.

Results and discussion

The 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1] comprised data from 716 sow farms, 422 weaner farms and 1,111 finisher farms, and of these 273 sow farms (38.1%), 126 weaner farms (29.9%) and 76 finisher farms (6.8%) were confirmed DanBred farms. This is largely identical to the 2023 analysis.

The data material thus comprised very few weaner farms and finisher farms and a fairly low number of sow farms compared with the estimated DanBred market share. This is attributed partly to the fact that the data material also included anonymized farms and partly to the fact that it is far more difficult to establish the genetics used on an annual basis on weaner farms and finisher farms.

Productivity - sows

Table 1 shows the productivity of sow farms as weighted average for all sow farms as well as the top 5 of selected sow farms. Results show that the top 5 farms weaned 6.9 more pigs per sow/year than the average.

Pigs weaned/sow/year increased by 0.9 pig compared with 2023 [2] according to the weighted average. The productivity was 0.7 pig weaned/sow/year higher than the 35.6 found in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. According to the weighted average, piglet mortality dropped by 0.9 percentage points to 21.4% in 2024 compared with 2023 [2]. Pigs weaned/sow/year averaged 43.2 on the top 5 farms which is a 1.1 improvement compared with 2023. A comparison of the top 5 farms with the weighted average reveals that the total piglet mortality is 4.6 percentage points lower on these farms.

Table 1. Production level, all DanBred sow farms included in the data material and average of top 5 sow farms selected according to pigs weaned/sow/year.

	All farms (weighted average)	Top 5 Average
General data		
Farms included	273	5
Farms with feed records	240	5
KPI		
Sows/year, head ¹	974	755
Feed units, sow/year ²	1,528	1,486
Litter results		
First parity litters, %	24.3	21.9
Liveborn/litter, head	18.8	20.1
Stillborn/litter, head	1.8	2.0
Weaned/litter, head	16.1	18.3
Lactation period, days	31	28
Weaning weight, kg	6.1	5.6
Pre-weaning mortality, %	14.0	8.7
Total piglet mortality, %	21.4	16.8
Reproduction		
Non-productive days/litter	14.1	9.4
Weaning to first service, days	6.2	5.5
Return rate, %	4.9	4.3
Farrowing rate	88.0	90.6
Pigs weaned/sow/year, head	36.3	43.2
Litters/sow/year	2.25	2.36

¹ Simple average.

² Only including farms in the interval 1,000-2,000 feed units.

Productivity – weaned pigs

Daily gain, feed conversion and mortality for DanBred weaner farms were largely identical to the comparable KPIs in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. Due to the low number of farms included in the data material, it is not possible to make definite conclusions on small increases/drops in KPI. Reference-daily gain on selected top 5 farms was 155 g higher than the average of all farms (table 2).

Table 2. Production level, all DanBred weaner farms included in the data material and average of top 5 farms selected according to daily gain.

	All farms Median	Top 5 Average
General data		
Farms included	126	5
Farms with feed records	117	5
KPI		
Pigs produced/year, head	29,278	40,722
Daily gain, g	451	638
Reference-daily gain (7-30 kg), g ¹	469	624
Feed conversion ratio/kg gain, feed units	1.73	1.62
Reference-FCR (7-30 kg), feed units/kg gain ¹	1.75	1.60
Mortality, %	3.8	2.7
Other data		
Start weight, kg	5.9	7.5
Weight/sold pig, kg	30.4	31.4

¹ Reference-FCR and reference-daily gain adjust the averages shown to standard weight interval 7-30 kg, thereby allowing for comparison between years. For more information, see previous editions [4].

Productivity – finishers

Analyses of productivity on DanBred finisher farms revealed a reference-daily gain of 1,049 g (median of all farms), which is 12 g higher than in 2023 [2].

Overall, productivity on DanBred finisher farms was largely identical to the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1] for feed intake, feed conversion ratio, reference-feed conversion ratio and mortality. The top 5 finisher farms reached an average 1,203 g in reference-daily gain and a reference-feed conversion ratio of 2.62 feed units/kg gain. Note that KPI estimates for previous years are subject to some uncertainty due to the low number of farms included.

Table 3. Production level, all DanBred finisher farms included in the data material and average top 5 farms selected according to daily gain.

	All farms Median	Top 5 Average
General data		
Farms included	76	5
Farms with feed records	60	5
KPI		
Pigs produced/year, head	5,733	4,065
Daily gain, g	1,065	1,201
Reference-daily gain (30-115 kg), g ¹	1,049	1,203
Daily feed intake/pig, feed units	2.77	3.19
Feed conversion ratio/kg gain, feed units	2.66	2.66
Reference-FCR (30-115 kg), feed units/kg gain ¹	2.60	2.62
Other data		
Start weight, kg	31.2	30.7
Carcass weight, kg (average.)	90.0	90.8
Gain/produced pig, kg	87.5	88.2
Lean meat percentage (average)	59.4	59.3
Rejected, %	0.2	0.4
Mortality, %	3.4	4.3

¹ Reference-FCR and reference-daily gain adjust the averages shown to standard weight interval 30-115 kg, thereby allowing for comparison between years. For more information, see previous editions [4].

Conclusion

This report presents the estimates of productivity on sow farms, weaner farms and finisher farms identified as DanBred farms.

In the weighted average, DanBred sow farms produced 36.3 pigs/sow/year, which is 0.7 more than 35.6 as found in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. According to the weighted average, piglet mortality was 24.1%, which is 0.3 percentage points lower than the level found in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1].

Productivity on weaner farms and finisher farms using DanBred genetics was largely identical to the level found in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]. However, KPIs are subject to a degree of uncertainty due to the low number of farms confirmed as DanBred farms in the analysis.

The average of top 5 sow farms weaned 43.2 pigs/sow/year; the top 5 weaner and finisher farms achieved a reference-daily gain of 624 g and 1,203 g, respectively. Reference-FCR for the top 5

DanBred finisher farms was 2.62 feed units/kg gain in the 30-115 kg period vs 2.60 feed units/kg gain for the median, which is a difference of 0.02 feed units/kg gain.

References

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- [4] Sloth, N. M. & Bertelsen, E. (2007): Rapport over P-rapporternes resultater oktober 2007. Notat nr. 0745, Dansk Svineproduktion.

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Appendix 1

Appendix 1 presents KPIs (all medians) for the period 2018-2024 calculated according to the same method for each year thereby allowing for inter-year comparison. Tables 4,5 and 6 show the development for sows, weaned pigs and finishers, respectively.

Table 4. Production level, DanBred sow farms, 2018-2024 [2]. All KPIs are calculated as medians.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Farms included	273	269	278	321	304	221	152
Farms with feed records	240	241	242	286	277	203	142
KPI							
Sows/year, head ¹	807	773	731	718	720	762	747
Feed units/sow/year ²	1,551	1,525	1,511	1,516	1,527	1,509	1,524
Litter results							
First parity litters, %	23.1	22.8	22.4	22.7	21.9	21.6	22.6
Liveborn/litter, head	18.9	18.5	18.3	18.0	18.0	17.7	17.4
Stillborn/litter, head	1.8	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	2.0	1.8
Weaned/litter, head	16.2	15.8	15.4	15.3	15.2	15.0	15.0
Lactation period, days	31	31	31	31	31	30	31
Weaning weight, kg	6.0	6.0	6.1	6.1	6.2	6.2	6.4
Pre-weaning mortality, %	13.8	14.5	15.5	15.6	15.3	14.9	14.1
Total piglet mortality, %	21.3	22.5	23.5	23.5	23.2	23.5	22.4
Reproduction							
Non-productive days/litter	13.5	13.8	14.4	14.2	13.4	13.0	12.8
Weaning to first service, days	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	5.7	5.7	5.6
Return rate, %	4.6	5.0	5.1	5.2	5.4	5.0	4.8
Farrowing rate	88.1	87.8	87.8	87.9	87.8	89.1	89.2
Weaned/sow/year, head	36.2	35.3	34.3	34.3	34.2	33.9	33.8
Litters/sow/year	2.25	2.24	2.23	2.24	2.25	2.27	2.27

¹ Simple average.

² Only including farms in the interval 1,000-2,000 feed units.

Table 5. Production level, DanBred weaner farms, 2018-2024 [2]. All KPIs are calculated as medians.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Farms included	126	130	134	163	160	112	88
Farms with feed records	117	119	118	153	144	97	82
KPI							
Pigs produced/year, head	29,279	23,784	23,432	20,402	19,567	19,529	18,807
Daily gain, g	451	453	451	458	454	449	451
Reference-daily gain (7-30 kg), g ¹	469	460	460	469	460	460	460
Feed conversion ratio/kg gain, feed units	1.73	1.75	1.79	1.80	1.80	1.83	1.87
Reference-FCR (7-30 kg), feed units/kg gain ¹	1.75	1.76	1.78	1.80	1.79	1.84	1.86
Mortality, %	3.8	3.5	4.0	3.6	3.5	3.2	3.1
Other data							
Start weight, kg	5.9	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.4
Weight/sold pig, kg	30.4	30.3	31.0	31.4	30.8	30.7	30.9
Production value (PV)/pig, DKK ²	76	75	73	74	71	68	66
Index (PV/pig) ²	117	114	111	113	108	104	100
PV/place unit/year, DKK ²	479	475	445	455	444	429	412
Index (PV/place unit/year) ²	116	115	108	110	108	104	100

¹ Reference-FCR and reference-daily gain adjust the averages shown to standard weight interval 7-30 kg, thereby allowing for comparison between years. For more information, see previous editions [4].

² The production values shown in this table are based on the medians achieved in productivity. The same price assumptions were used for all years (see Materials and Methods in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]).

Table 6. Production level, DanBred finisher farms, 2018-2024 [2]. All KPIs are calculated as medians.

Year	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Farms included	76	86	84	73	62	61	35
Farms with feed records	60	64	66	62	48	53	28
KPI							
Pigs produced/year, head	5,733	5,706	6,891	7,994	6,461	9,091	8,292
Daily gain, g	1,065	1,033	1,038	1,021	1,007	974	945
Reference-daily gain (30-115 kg), g ¹	1,049	1,037	1,024	1,012	1,012	966	934
Daily feed intake/pig, feed units	2.77	2.74	2.75	2.77	2.75	2.66	2.62
Feed conversion ratio/kg gain, feed units	2.66	2.65	2.69	2.71	2.67	2.72	2.73
Reference-FCR (30-115 kg), feed units/kg gain ¹	2.60	2.65	2.66	2.68	2.63	2.71	2.73
Other data							
Start weight, kg	31.2	31.3	31.3	31.8	32.6	31.8	31.0
Carcass weight, kg (average)	90.0	88.3	87.9	89.7	90.1	86.9	85.6
Gain/produced pig, kg	87.5	84.6	84.3	86.4	87.0	82.2	79.3
Measured Lean meat percentage (average)	59.4	60.5	62.4	62.0	61.6	61.4	61.1
Corrected lean meat % ²	59.4	59.4	59.5	59.1	58.7	58.5	58.2
Rejected, %	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.2
Mortality, %	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.8	3.6	3.7	3.4
Production value (PV) / pig, DKK ³	170	161	154	152	158	131	123
Index (PV/pigs) ³	138	131	125	124	129	107	100
PV/place unit/year, DKK ³	710	673	649	618	636	530	488
Index (PV/place unit/year) ³	146	138	133	127	130	109	100

¹ Reference-FCR and reference-daily gain adjust the averages shown to standard weight interval 30-115 kg, thereby allowing for comparison between years. For more information, see previous editions [4].

² A correction has been made to the formula for determining lean meat % in 2023 and in the years before. The corrected lean meat % is used for calculating production values (see the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]).

³ The production values shown in this table are based on the medians achieved in productivity. The same price assumptions were used for all years (see Materials and Methods in the 2024 National Average Productivity Index [1]).