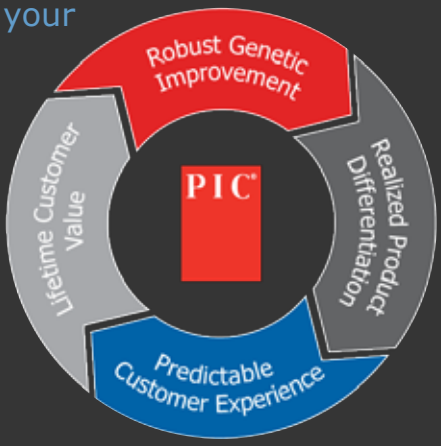
PIC Newsletter - December 2015

Dear Reader,

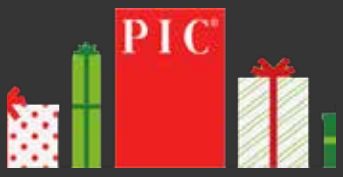
As you prepare for your Christmas festivities, we are pleased to deliver our second PIC UK newsletter. Thank you for your feedback regarding the first newsletter, as we strive to deliver relevant and timely information to implement in your production system.



In our last newsletter, we focused upon Robust Genetic Improvement, the first of four critical pieces in the PIC Flywheel. This month we are focusing upon gilt development and management, which is aligned with a Predictable Customer Experience.

We look forward to seeing you at the Road Show meetings in February.

All at PIC hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas!



Yours

John Jeckel
Commercial Director PIC UK

General Management of the PIC Gilt

Getting Gilt Managment right from the start is one of the most important factors in enabling producers to optimise whole herd production performance, sow lifetime performance and cost of production.

The goal of this newsletter is to provide a quick update on those PIC gilt management strategies which are the most useful in achieving optimised sow farm performance, both from biological and a financial point of view - and will ensure your PIC Gilts are set-up to deliver high lifetime performance.

Parity 1 (P1) Targets

It is not uncommon to see systems that still don't have a solid and productive gilt programme or systems that fail to accomplish what it is expected.

Gilt performance and lifetime productivity are the expression of a sound synergy between health practices, feeding/nutrition, genetics, environment and production principles/management.

The PIC vision on Parity 1 (P1) performance targets is shown in **Table 1a and 1b**.

Table 1a: Targets of a Successful Gilt Management Programme

Trait / Key Performance Indicator	PIC Target
Litter Size P1[1]	15.5 total born 14.5 born alive 13.5 weaned
Farrowing Rate P1	> 93 %
Wean-to-Service Interval after first weaning	< 6 d
Breed back after first weaning	> 90 %

[1]87 % weaned of total born
6 % Stillborn and Mummies
7 % Pre Weaning Mortality

Table 1b: Targets of a Successful Gilt Management Programme

Robustness & Consistency Traits	PIC Target
P1 to P0 Ratio	> 95 %
P3 to P0 Ratio	> 75 %
P6 to P0 Ratio	> 50 %
Annual sow mortality[1]	< 5 %
P2 dip	Absent or considered irrelevant

[1]*In absence of clinical disease, high sow mortality is an indirect indicator of poor gilt management*

Gilt Eligibility

Recognizing that P1 performance is the expression of a multi-factorial set of variables and inputs, it is important for producers to consider the points below:-

1. To isolate every incoming batch of gilts for 4 weeks.
2. Acclimatise for another 4 weeks minimum.
3. Understand the effect of feeding strategies and the value of maximised feed intake in some critical phases of the female reproductive cycle.
4. Full feed all the way up to the first breeding, using properly balanced diets to age/weight requirements.
5. Restricted feed in gestation to control body weight gain to 45–50 kg net on their first gestation.

6. Full feed from after farrowing to maximise milk production and control body weight loss.
7. Trilogy of body weight, age and average daily gain from birth to breeding (life-time). See Table 2.

Table 2: Trilogy of body weight, age and average daily gain

Characteristic	PIC Target
Body Weight	135–150 kg
Body Weight Gain[1]	640–730 g/day avoid having gilts with less than 600 g/day and above 800 g/day
Age	200–210 days of age 2nd heat

[1]*birth to breeding*

One of the most common mistakes producers tend to make is to breed gilts beyond the 150 kg mark. These heavier gilts usually tend to have higher rate of removal and higher lactation catabolism. Thus, they typically have longer wean to service interval, and are more likely to experience a Parity 2 performance dip. For every 10% more weight carried by the gilt, than the target weight, litter size in P2 tend to be down by 0.3 piglets total born versus P1 results. It is of the utmost importance breed gilts within the recommended age and body weight range. Failure to do so increases production costs significantly.

Example: It costs approximately £52 **more** to serve 1 gilt 20 kg heavier (30 extra days of feed and housing).

So What About Outdoor Production?

The physiology of the pig is the same whether animals are housed indoor or outdoor. Providing caretakers adjust feed curves and environmental management the performance potential outdoors is equal to that of indoor production. On of the main challenges in outdoor productions is keeping the animals within their thermal comfort zone. When below that zone, animals will divert more nutrients to maintain their body temperature and less for production (growth, gestation, lactation). When above their thermal comfort zone, heat stress can lead to lower feed intake, aborts, returns, and farrowing outside the hut.

This information were provided by Sanne Baden, Technical Service PIC UK

Save The Date

PIC UK Roadshows 2016: „Genetics That Work"

At PIC we know that we need to do more than deliver superior genetics. That's why we offer technical service, supply and health solutions to help create robust, productive animals. PIC provides all the support needed to get the most value out of every pig.

At PIC's Roadshows, February 22th to 25th you will get an update on PIC Genetics, the latest news on nutrition and more about improving reproduction results.

Locations

Inverurie, Feb 22nd	
York, Feb 23rd	
Diss, Feb 24th	
Wincanton, Feb 25th	

Scan the above QR-Code to register or visit PIC UK at www.pic.com

Our speakers are:

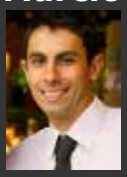
> ***Jürgen Kramer***

Commercial Director PIC Europe
will provide an update on PIC Europe and the UK.

> ***Dr. Craig Lewis***

Genetic Service Manager PIC Europe,
aims to provide an update on genetic improvement that results in best economic return to the UK commercial pig producer.

> ***Marcio Goncalves***



Technical Service, Nutrition specialist
will discuss the question "Why should we feed the Camborough® different to other females?"

> ***Dr. Michael Kleve-Feld***

Reproduction Services Manager PIC
leads PIC's initiatives in reproductive management in North America and Europe. Michael will give you an update on quality management in AI studs, efficient use of AI on farms and best practice reproduction techniques.

> ***Dr. Uislei Orlando***

Global Nutrition Director
will provide an update on how to optimise wean to finish nutrition and focus on improving performances including common failures.

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