

PIC® Nutrition Update

NUTRITION UPDATE

SEASONAL DIET FORMULATION FOR PIC PIGS

In Focus

Supply and demand theory works well in pig production

Nutrition strategies need to focus on increased weight gain in the months prior to increasing prices

PIC provides an Excel-tool which identifies the dates to update diets

It seems that the supply and demand theory works pretty well in pig production. Historically, as pig supply reduces in summer months, pig prices increase. This may vary across the globe as different regions might be affected differently by the changes in temperature and humidity across the different seasons of the year. However, at the end of the day, there will still be some changes in supply as the year goes by (Figure 1).

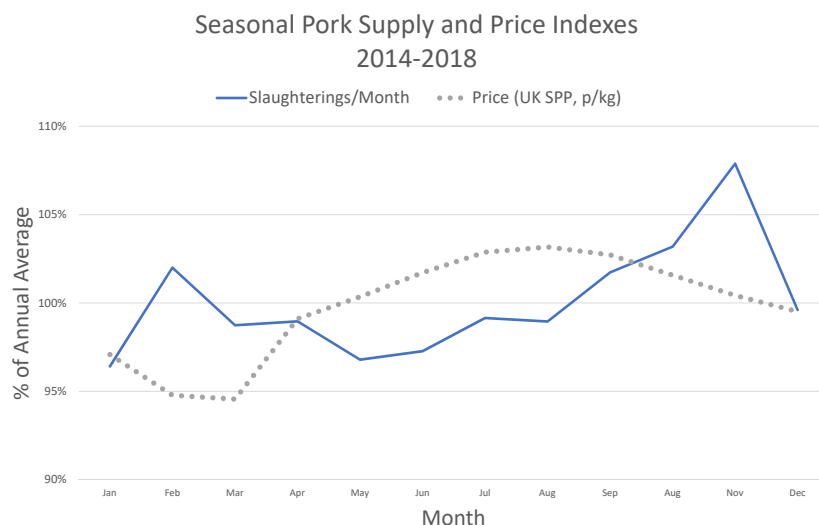


Figure 1: Seasonal pig supply and price indexes from 2014 to 2018, AHDB Pork

The above graph showcases the reduction in pig supply, which is likely linked to suppressed farrowing rates from seasonal infertility from summer matings and fall farrowings; increased disease outbreaks during winter and reduced growth due to lower feed intake during warmer months.

In order to make the most out of the increased pig price during summer months, the nutritionist and production team need to focus on strategies to increase weight gain in the months prior to summer.

Some of the strategies that can be applied are listed below. The application of each strategy will depend on the current level already used in the production system and specific pricing scenarios available.

Common strategies include:

- Increased energy levels
- Increased Lysine and other amino acids levels, such as tryptophan and valine

- Increased copper levels (max levels outlined by the local governing body)

PIC has developed an Excel-based tool (Figure 2) to aid nutritionists and producers with a calendar identifying dates to update each diet in order to get the most out of the high pig price during the summer months (Figure 3).

Specifically, this tool assists nutritionists to calculate when the growth promoting intervention should be implemented, and when it should cease for each weight range/phase. As you can see in Figure 2:

- You enter in the “best window” cell the time period in which you want the increased weights
- Select the pigs gender

Seasonal Diet Formulation Tool for PIC® Pigs

Best window to market pigs

01.03.2018

01.06.2018

Start

Stop

Production system

Gender

Low constraints

Barrows + Gilts

Phase	Body weight, kg		Intervention	
	Initial	Final	Start	End
1	6,4	7,8	Don't change	Don't change
2	7,8	12,2	Don't change	Don't change
3	12	20	Don't change	Don't change
4	20	25	Don't change	Don't change
5	25	50	06.11.17	06.02.18
6	50	64	04.12.17	06.03.18
7	64	84	17.12.17	19.03.18
8	84	107	05.01.18	07.04.18
9	107	132	27.01.18	29.04.18

If system is fixed time, consider as the final weight the expected weight after accounting for the dietary changes for summer months.

Fill colored cells

Go to Calendar

Figure 2: Seasonal diet formulation tool

- Enter the weight range of each diet
- Select your present level of gain / performance from the systems constraint tab

This tool calculates the implementation/start date and ending date for the inclusion of the growth increasing intervention.

The start and ending date by phase is displayed in two ways. One display is the colour-coded blocks on the calendar, the other is the start and finish columns where start and finish dates of the intervention are shown by phase (Figure 3). **You can find the Seasonal Diet Formulation Tool at [If you have any questions or comments, please contact your PIC Account Manager or the PIC Nutrition Team for additional information or support at any time.](http://www.pic.com: Go to “Nutrition calculators” at “Resources” (www.pic.com/resources/calculators/).</p>
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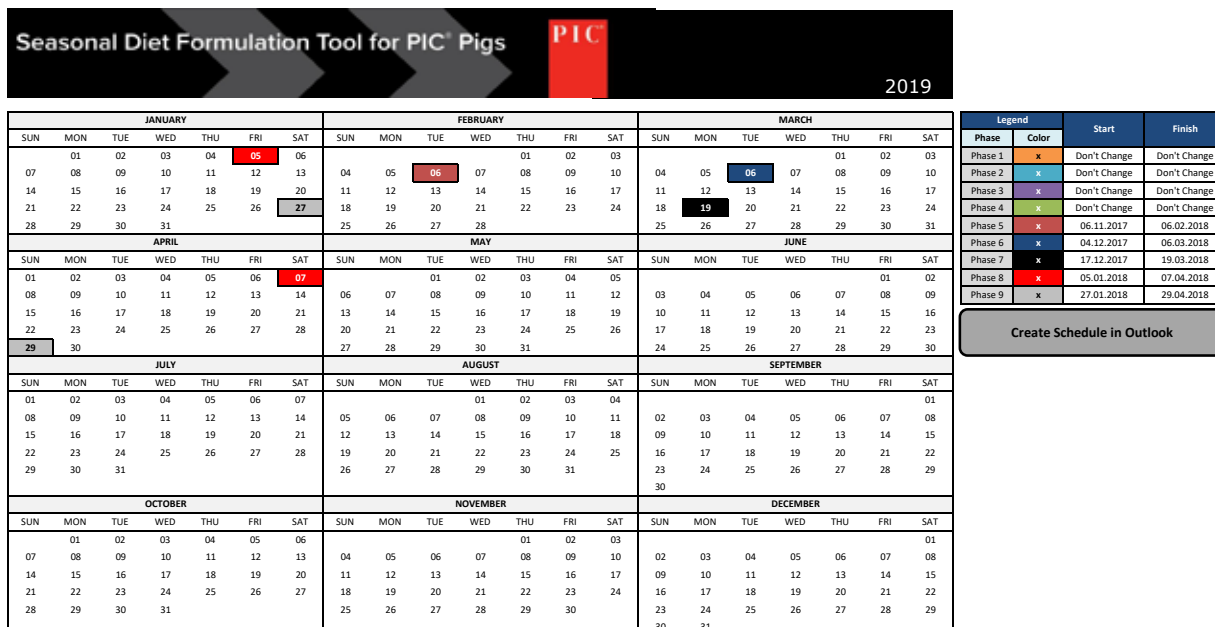


Figure 3: Calendar with dates for expected diet changes