

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

- [1] Lund Hyttel H. (2025): Landsgennemsnit for produktivitet i produktionen af grise i 2024. Notat nr. 2505, SEGES Innovation.
- [2] Lund Hyttel H. (2024): Brancheanalyse for produktivitet i udsnit af DanBred-besætninger 2023. Notat nr. 2410, SEGES Innovation.
- [3] Hansen, C. (2021): Brancheanalyse for produktivitet i udsnit af DanBred-besætninger 2019. Notat nr. 2105, SEGES Svineproduktion.
- [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]).