



Pig farming in Norway; a  
cooperation that actually works

EPP, Stavanger, 2017

Harald Bøhnsdalen, Farmer & Owner



# Family Farm since 1886



Multiplication contract with  
Norsvin and Nortura since  
1988



Member of Norsvin breeding  
council for 20 years

Represents the multipliers in  
price and condition  
negotiations

Married to Guri. In total, 5  
children

# Production

- 140 landrace sows
- Produce parent gilts; TN70
- 3 weeks batch system, 20 sows/batch
- Sell 10 gilts/sow/year
- Sell 1.000 piglets at 28 kg
- Finish 1.600 slaughter pigs/year
- Norwegian conventional health, i.e. high European health
- Almost only liquid feeding
- Premix & soya
- Waist milk from dairy plant
- Bi-products from industry
- 125 ha with oats, wheat, barley and rape seed
- Have a son that is very interested in taking over the farm

# Production results (last 12 months)

## • Sows

- Purebred landrace. High P1 percentage
- 29.0 PSY
- No nurse sows!
- 12.7 weaned per litter
- 33 days lactation. Weaning weight 10.5 kg
- 2.3 litters/year
- Age at first farrowing 340 days

## • Slaughter pigs

- TN70, non selected gilts & boars:
- 30 – 125 kg live weight. Improvac on boars
- 1.120 g/day
- 61,5 meat%
- Mortality <1%
- 2.35 FCR

### Medication

Penicillin (penovet) for individual treatments for lameness

Improvac

Vaccination; E-coli, Parvo, Eco-Porc shiga (edema)

Painkiller and oxytocin (at ~5% of the farrowings)

# Breeding



Pure Norsvin Landrace

Breed target every 3 week: 22

Farrow target: 20

On average, 2 doses per mating

Weaning to breeding: 5,2 days

Non-productive days: 10

# Loose housing since 1989



# Bedded gestation pens



Pure Norsvin Landrace

Group size; 15

Gilts are separated from older sows until after P1

The 10 last week of gestation



# Gilts in own pens



Pure Norsvin Landrace

Group size: 7

Buy replacement gilts from one Norsvin nucleus herd. Same nucleus herd the last 25 years

Age: ~6 months

Age first insemination: 225 days  
Weight first insemination: 160 kg

# Loose farrowing since 2000



Official demand. Public/consumer driven.

On my farm, loose housing since 1989, but from 2000 very limited possibilities to fixate.

We had to change the breeding goal. Maternal ability included. More intense and detailed protocols as breeder to record mortality, behavior and piglet growth

- Major change in breeding goal in 2001, 2004 and 2010 as data improved.
- The response today in the animal is incredible

# Regulations on pig farming in Norway, key points



All pigs must have rooting material

All gilts, sows and boars must have roughage available

Sows must have nesting material available prior to farrowing

All pigs must have resting area with solid floor, deep straw or similar, where all the pigs in the pen can lay at the same time

# Regulations on pig farming in Norway, key points



Fixation of pigs is prohibited

Except: especially unsettled sows from farrowing time and for a maximum length of 7 days, at insemination/ vetr. treatments and at feeding

Minimum size of farrowing pen:

6m<sup>2</sup> (min. 1,8 m<sup>2</sup> width)

Minimum free area for fatteners:

85 - 110kg: 0,8 m<sup>2</sup>

> 110 kg: 1,0 m<sup>2</sup>

The use of antibiotics as a growth promotor is prohibited, and has never been used





# Finishing



TN70, maternal bi-products  
A few gilts & all boars (Improvac)

Intact tails. Never been allowed or  
practiced to cut tails in Norway

30 – 125 kg live weight  
Liquid feeding 3 times/day  
One diet through the entire period!  
Sawdust + straw

# Two-climate boxes





# Feed, temperature, water, activity





**BONDENS SJØLBESTEMMELSESTRETT**  
**The farmers right to make decisions**



**VITENSKAPENS LANDEVINNINGER**  
**Progress in Science**

**FRAMGANG FOR DE MANGE**  
**Progress for all**

As a farmer, I take active part as an owner in my companies.



My colleagues and I own the genetic company, the feed company, slaughtering and processing and also the most recognized meat brand.

Not letting go of the value chain is important to me as a farmer. We can easier stay close to the consumer and make added value products using our production story, high health, animal welfare, local connection etc.

