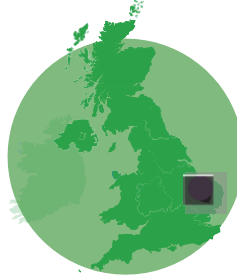




Pigs

Boosting Sow Output & Improving Sustainability

Alan Ford & Sian Nichols



Alan Ford and Sian Nichols

Key outcomes of feed advice

- Increased yields
- Reduced weaning to service intervals
- Reduced carbon footprint

Background and area of expertise

Independent feed adviser Alan Ford and Trouw Nutrition expert Dr. Sian Nichols – both Feed Adviser Register members – work together to provide advice to pig producers. While Sian provides knowledge transfer from the latest research and development from around the world, Alan provides hands-on advice on a wide range of subjects as well as feed.

Alan believes having enthusiastic producers who are willing to try new techniques is one of the keys to success.

Give an example of how your feed advice has made a measurable difference

Sian and Alan worked with a 240 sow breeding and finishing unit over a three-year period. At the beginning of the period, the unit produced around 22 pigs/sow/annum. By the end of the period this had risen to 29.92 pigs/sow/annum.

The work was undertaken in conjunction with the producer to increase yield while improving welfare and sustainability. Activities included the practical application of research on farm; introduction of new products to the diet; reduced weaning to service intervals; better vitamin levels including folic acids; and a new vaccination regime.

What difference does FAR make to you and to your customers?

Both Alan and Sian believe that the benefit of FAR for producers is assurance that the advice they are receiving is to a specific standard, and the people they are dealing with are qualified. For the nutritionists or advisers, it gives recognition to qualified individuals who have gained experience and qualifications in that field, where previously there was no benchmark.