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A new benchmarking system developed for Japanese swine farms

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Introduction

Benchmarking system has been used in some farms in Japan using softwares such as PigCHAMP and others. Due to the cost of the software and difficulties in handling detailed data, the number of farms that utilize their benchmarking data were limited. Therefore, a new benchmarking system, which is easy for many farmers to participate in, with lower costs, were developed.

Materials and Methods

Annual data (Excel form) in 2010 were obtained from 54 farms that were clients of Summit Veterinary Service and Value Farm Consulting, two major pig consulting companies in Japan. Data included were financial performances (such as total income and total feed costs), average female pig inventory, total number of litters, pig born alive, pig weaned and others. From these data, epidemiological parameters stated in results were calculated and compared with those reported previously in Japan and US[1].

Results and Discussion

Average crude interests per sow (defined as (total income – total feed cost) / average female pig inventory) was $4,189/sow with range of $1,016-$6,850. Mean farrowing percentage (87.3%), number of litters per mated female per year (2.35), and marketed pigs per sow (21.5) were slightly higher than those reported in Japan and US[1]. Average preweaning mortality risk (7.7%) was much lower than those reported previously[1]. Average pig weaned per litter (9.9) was close to those reported previously[1]. Farmers were informed of their ranking of different parameters for their future improvement. The results from this study were obtained from the specific population, therefore, may not reflect the general population of all Japanese swine farms. Therefore, we plan to expand sample size by contacting other consulting veterinarians (n=30) who belong to Japanese Association of Swine Veterinarians and establish large bidirectional network systems (Pig INFO) between producers and data analysts. Data will be obtained more frequently such as bimonthly bases, which enable rapid analysis of the farm conditions, resulting in providing timely and appropriate advises to farmers.

References

1. Koketsu Y. et al., 2010. Benchmarking in Animal Agriculture: Concept and application. *J. Vet. Epidemiol.* 14:105-117.