

Customer Profile

As part of its goal to deliver effective products to its customers, Mankato, Minnesota-based Hubbard Feeds, Inc. conducts trials in a number of commercial hog barns. "We are very dedicated to research," says Hubbard Feeds scientist Dr. Leann Johnston. "We perform 30 to 40 nutrition trials every year. Lately there has been a lot of focus on ways to reduce feed costs and increase feed efficiency."

Hubbard Feeds, Inc. Mankato, MN

To handle the volume of research, Hubbard partnered with Feedlogic in the equipping of a number of barns. The latest FEED-Pro system was installed at Pinpoint 1 research barn in Nicollet, Minn. The 1,000-head grow-finish barn is owned by Compart's Boar Store, one of Hubbard's commercial research partners. "This is a very handy tool that provides more accuracy and flexibility, and better research data," says Rachel Howdyshell, Hubbard Feeds' swine research coordinator.

The FEEDPro unit travels on a ceiling-mounted rail, automatically filling individual feeders in the barn's 48 pens. Each feeder can receive a different diet. The rail

unit's two hoppers can be programmed to blend and distribute two separate base formulas in varying ratios. "It gives us a lot of flexibility in designing diets," Howdyshell says.

The weight and time of each feed delivery is automatically recorded, leaving little room for human error and data is automatically transmitted over a wireless network to the barn's computer. Researchers can get instant reports on feed intake by pen for any time period.

Feedlogic saves labor and boosts accuracy, according to Hubbard's Johnston. Previously, the feed for pigs in experimental trials had to be weighed and recorded by hand. "Any time you do that, you have a chance for error," she says. The new technology allows Hubbard to test six separate diets at the same time, doubling Pinpoint 1's research capacity.

For example, a recent feeding trial evaluated six inclusion rates of Hubbard's OptiPak® Efficiency during the final two finishing phases. Before the Feedlogic FEEDPro system was installed, it wasn't practical to test more than three diets per trial at Pinpoint 1, Howdyshell says. The additional data means Hubbard can get new recommendations out to producers quicker.



"The blending capability of the unit was especially attractive in that it allowed Hubbard to fine tune the diets we provide to our producers. These features were a driving force behind our decision to install the second unit in an existing finisher on the same site."

- Donald McGinness, Site Manager, Hubbard



"[FEEDPro] is a very handy tool that provides more accuracy and flexibility, and better research data."
- Rachel Howdyshell, Swine Research Coordinator

The finisher FEEDPro system is the second to be installed at the Pinpoint site. Another FEEDPro was installed in a nursery on the site in 2005. Site manager Donald McGinness was already impressed with the Feedlogic system before the latest system was installed. "After several turns in the nursery, we were impressed by the accuracy, flexibility, and labor saving advantages the system offered," he said. "Feedlogic installed their equipment in less than 3 days and we were able to fill the barn on schedule. Aside from some minor adjustment issues, the new install has been trouble free. When issues do arise, the customer service department at Feedlogic is staffed with knowledgeable people who are committed to resolving the problem in a timely manner. Overall, I give the company and its personnel high marks."

FEEDPro™
BY FEEDLOGIC

1717-16th St. NE, Floor 2
Willmar, MN 56201

Ph (320) 222-3000
Fax (320) 222-3001

info@feedlogic.com
www.feedlogic.com