

Technology for swine

By Betsy Freese
Livestock Editor

Remote-control feeding system on trial

Four robotic feed systems and communications networks have been installed in hog finishing barns in Minnesota. Kansas State University will be conducting the feed trials with Feedlogic Systems. The technology will allow Kansas State to feed specific diets to individual feeders and monitor feed intake in real time from remote locations. Researchers will watch the systems operate live.

Software provides users with a virtual barn view customized to the pen layout and feed bin contents of each barn. Users can obtain instant reports on feed intake by pen over specified time periods. Diets can be changed by simply clicking on-screen icons.

Labor savings

"Feedlogic's technology will allow us to complete feed trials more accurately and more cost effectively," says Mike Tokach, swine nutrition specialist for Kansas State. He tested one of Feedlogic's systems for six months and was impressed with the weighing accuracy and overall performance. "With this level of automation in the barns, we will realize savings in labor costs and be able to conduct more trials in a shorter period of time."

Feedlogic Systems president Drew Ryder says the technology has application in commercial hog operations, where consistency and flexibility in managing nutrition is a growing need.

"There's tremendous potential for these types of feed systems in the hog

industry," says Ryder. "Industry research has shown that feed conversion will vary from one farm to the next, even with consistent genetics, housing, and diets.

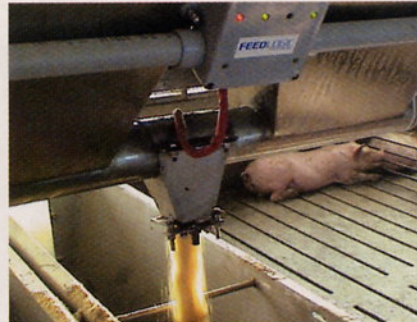
"With rapid access to feed intake data and pen-specific diet control, producers will have greater ability to manipulate diets to suit actual nutritional needs," says Ryder.

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**-Drew Ryder
Feedlogic Systems**



The Feedlogic self-propelled feed delivery unit travels on a rail and dispenses feed automatically.



The weight and time of each delivery is recorded and transmitted via a wireless network to a computer.