



PSY vs. *PSY

By Darwin Kohler, DVM

The other day a producer asked me what factors go into calculating Pigs Weaned per Sow per Year (PSY). I told him it is LSY x Pigs weaned (Total born – PWM). He then asked how those factors are weighted. I said LSY is 50% and Total born and PWM are about equal; or about 25% each of the total. I was curious why he asked.

He stated how Number born and PSY had been important production parameters in the past. However, everyone soon realized that more pigs did not equal more profit. Some of the pigs were small at birth and required a lot of effort to save. They also saw poorer finishing performance in these pigs.

I told him how that scenario is exactly what we found from Babcock Genetics' research on number born vs. individual birth weight and overall profitability. We coined the term *PSY (Profit per Sow per Year) vs. PSY (Pigs per Sow per Year).

From this research it is clear that as litter size goes up, there are more small pigs and lower overall piglet average birth weights. These smaller pigs have higher mortality, lower ADG, poorer feed conversion and percent lean.

We wondered if litter size will reach a level of 'Diminishing Returns' or end point like percent lean and back fat have. With live hog weights getting close to 300# and a carcass worth over \$200, keeping the pigs alive and growing fast are key elements just as percent lean and back fat were in the 90's. ADG and mortality have become huge drivers of profitability. *PSY will replace PSY as a key measure of profit on today's farrow to finish operation.

Stop counting pigs and start counting dollars today!