

## **Season 7, Episode 1: Comparison of Pork Production in Brazil vs US and How Pig Producers Can Manage Risk at Every Stage of Production**



**Dr. Anne De Lara**, executive manager in live pig production at JBS in Brazil, and **Dr. Matthew Turner**, head of operations at JBS Life Pork, compare pork production techniques and what they can pull from each other to improve challenges they both have surrounding piglet survivability. On the business side of production, **Brady Reicks** of Reicks View Farms, discusses risk management and practical ways producers can approach business and marketing with confidence.

### **Background**

In this episode, the discussion starts with labor, climate, and ventilation challenges and how they differ between Brazil and The United States. Both Dr. Anne De Lara and Dr. Matthew Turner highlight the common goal of raising healthy pigs and how there is much to learn from each other. Shortly after, Brady Reicks reflects on 15 years of trading agricultural commodities and how those experiences impacted his perspective on risk management on the family farm.

### **Comparing Pork Production in The United States Vs Brazil**

When comparing production systems between countries, there are more similarities than differences. A major difference between the two is labor. Brazil has two times the amount of labor compared to the US due to it being cheaper. Cheaper labor means more people per pig which is desirable for setting pigs up for success. Due to differences in climate, Brazil has advantages due to the year-round spring and fall weather which is the time of year when pigs in the US are performing the highest. Lastly, a goal that both countries strive to improve is day one care of piglets as the pig-to-wean numbers aren't satisfactory to producers as of now. A solution is to change the way we feed weaned pigs by feeding gruel in quick succession, six times a day and monitoring in fifteen-minute intervals.

### **How Producers Can Manage Risk and Protect Margin**

Risk management is avoiding disaster in the simplest of terms, but, understanding the end goal of your operation and the steps your team will take to mitigate risk along the way. While getting defensive is a common occurrence, using tools such as YouTube videos, local livestock vet, and mentors will help your operation reach your production goals. Fifty percent of your time should be allocated to risk management. A margin in terms of pork production is how much money a company can make and how they can get there. This can change from the ebbs and flows of the market, for example pork is cheaper than beef and with the projection that there will be less meat consumed as years go by. The question is how can producers take advantage of the market when there are limiting factors like disease and tariffs?

### **Key Takeaways**

Figuring out how to increase the sow to market ratio is a goal of both Brazil and the US. Day one care for piglets is the focus of ensuring piglet survivability, with an emphasis on focusing on back-end piglets. Observing how space affects growth on nursery pigs and how frequent feeding under specific timing is crucial for meeting transition weights.

The key to being confident in making decisions for your pork operation is to understand what your end goal is. With a goal in mind, it makes it easier to figure out what tools you need to succeed. Monitoring the market and factors in production is also a must as these aspects will influence your margin and financial projection

**To listen to this full podcast please visit:** <https://globalagnetwork.com/pigx/podcast/season-7-episode-1-managing-risk-and-seeing-opportunities-in-u-s-pork-production>

