

Season 1, Episode 1: PigX The Launch!

Dr. Chris Hostetler, National Pork Board, Valerie Duttlinger, Summit SmartFarms, Dr. Jason Ross, Iowa State University, Tim Kurt, Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research, and Dr. Joel DeRouchey, Kansas State University, discuss how the five-year Improving Pig Survivability research began.

Where it began

Dr. Chris Hostetler and Valerie Duttlinger share how the project “An Integrated Approach to Improve Whole Herd Pig Survivability” began within the National Pork Board. In 2016, the [National Pork Board](#) Animal Science committee reviewed the NPB sponsored industry productivity analysis that began in 2010. The committee was unsatisfied with the 35% mortality rate, from all phases of production, within the report. Valerie Duttlinger advocated for how significant the issue is in the pork industry and ultimately the Animal Science and Animal Welfare committees joined forces to help fund the project.

Request for proposals

Dr. Jason Ross first learned of the project through the National Pork Board and [Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research \(FFAR\)](#). Previously, Dr. Ross had been working on another collaborative project within Iowa State University and the Iowa Pork Industry Center, which helped build strong industry network and foundation for the program proposal. The extension and outreach portion of the program remains a very important part of the project scope. The project proposal focused on improving pig survivability from pre-wean to market ready hogs.

The Connections

The National Pork Board teamed up with the Foundation for Food and Agriculture Research to fund a 5-year \$2M project. Tim Kurt explains why the FFAR decided to fund this project as it incorporates many pieces of food and agriculture including, environmental sustainability, producer profitability, and animal welfare. Overall, the project is aimed at benefitting the entire pork industry. Iowa State University, Kansas State University, and Purdue University will collaborate to complete the 5-year project, along with industry stakeholders and pork producers.

Why Pig Survivability

Dr. Joel DeRouchey explains the pork industry’s focus on survivability as “30 to 33% of the amount of piglets born never make it to market.” With 33% of the product not making it to market, and the trend unchanging, the industry is determined to find ways to lower that number through this research program. To find more information about the Improving Pig Livability project please visit:

<https://piglivability.org/> .

The PigX Podcast

The PigX Podcast has been created to present information discovered throughout the project as well as other relevant industry topics. PigX will highlight many relevant topics and provide take-home-messages that producers can apply to their own operations.

To Listen to this full podcast please visit: <https://globalaqqnetwork.com/pigx/podcast/episode-1-pigx-the-launch>

