The influence of individual birth weight on fattening performance in pigs

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Aim of study

To estimate the relationship between birth weight in piglets and slaughter pig performance.
Material & methods

Data from 13 nucleus herds, Nordic Genetics
Purebred Swedish Yorkshire piglets, 2011-2012
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Individual birth weight: 32 531 records
Field performance – age and backfat at 100 kg: 8 827 records

Analysed in SAS, Proc Mixed
Material & methods

Birth weight =
herd + parity + ym + live + sex + parity*live + 
+ total no born + litter + e

Backfat / Days at 100 kg =
herd + parity + sex + ym + parity*sex + birth weight +
+ total no born + litter + e
Birth weight

Birth weight, kg

Percent

Liveborn
Stillborn
Birth weight
Birth weight vs backfat thickness

![Graph showing the relationship between birth weight and backfat thickness. The graph indicates a decreasing trend as birth weight increases.]
Birth weight vs days to 100 kg
Conclusions

Piglets with high birth weight grew faster and were leaner at 100 kg

Confirms large litters – performance conflict

Large variation between farms