

DEFINING PROBLEMS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SMALLHOLDER PIG PRODUCTION IN THE PHILIPPINES

Lañada E.¹, Lee J-A.^{2,3}, More S.², Taveros A.¹, Cotiw-an B.³

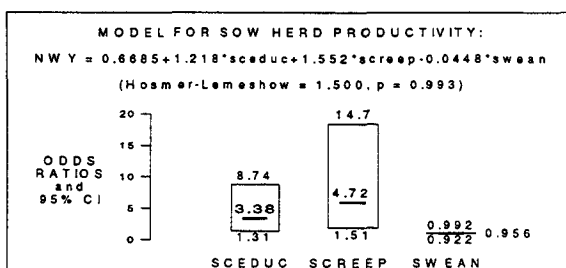
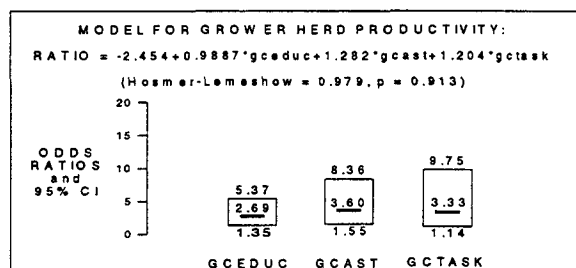
Du fait de la rareté des informations de base et d'une faible compréhension des problèmes et des opportunités intéressant les petits éleveurs porcins philippins pour améliorer le niveau moyen de productivité, une étude croisée portant sur la productivité porcine villageoise a été réalisée dans 2 sites des Philippines (une région tempérée de montagne dans le nord de Luzon, et une région tropicale des basses-terres de l'est de Visayas). Des entretiens personnels se sont tenus avec 397 éleveurs de porcs avec un recueil de données concernant 222 troupeaux de truies et 238 troupeaux engraisseurs sous leur responsabilité. Les innovations locales et les pratiques les plus efficaces pour maximiser la productivité des élevages de truies et de porcs charcutiers ont été identifiées par la combinaison de méthodes statistiques univariées et multivariées, appropriées aux différents types de données. Les résultats ont procuré une vision pertinente de ces innovations et de ces pratiques, et des recommandations sur leur adoption ont été proposées.

In contrast to the commercial pig industry, there is little baseline information on the level of health and productivity being achieved by smallholder pigs in the Philippines. There is also little understanding of the problems facing and opportunities available to smallholder pig raisers to improve current levels of productivity. This work is therefore aimed at obtaining baseline information on productivity of smallholder pigs, and identifying opportunities for smallholder pig production by recognizing factors associated with the most productive pig herds.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Three hundred ninety-seven pig raisers from two sites in the Philippines (a temperate highland region of north Luzon and a tropical lowland area in eastern Visayas) were interviewed, with data collected for 222 sow herds (mean 1.2, median 1, range 1-5) and 238 grower herds (mean 1.9, median 2, range 1-8). Herd-level measures of productivity for growers (RATIO = mean herd weight to age ratio) and sows (NWY = mean herd number of pigs weaned per sow per year) were collapsed into low and high categories, after identifying those pig herds with \leq , and $>$ median values at each site. The independent variables associated with these measures ($p < 0.2$) at one or both sites were included in combined sites analysis. Standard univariate statistics identified variables unconditionally associated ($p < 0.1$) with the herd-level productivity measures and these were included in stepwise logistic regression analyses.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION



The results indicate that education of caretakers (GCEDUC, SCEDUC) is a very important factor in producing highly productive growers and sows. This attribute is an overall indication of the technical capability of, and, to some extent, the attitude (GCTASK) of the caretaker to the pigs. Castrating piglets prior to weaning (GCAST) is also widely believed to be associated with pig productivity (Randa, 1994). Creep feeding (SCREEP) reduces preweaning mortality (Svendsen and Bille, 1980), which results in more piglets weaned. A short weaning age (SWEAN) would result in shorter interfarrowing intervals, thus producing more piglets weaned per sow per year.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Randa, S.Y., 1994. Performance of indigenous pigs of upland and lowland Irian Jaya. MSc (Animal Science) Thesis, Faculty of the Graduate School, University of the Philippines at Los Baños.
 Svendsen, J., Bille, N., 1980. Reducing preweaning mortality. In: Current Therapy in Theriogenology. D.A. Morrow (ed). W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia. pp 1090-1096.

¹ Department of Animal Science and Veterinary Medicine, Visayas State College of Agriculture, Baybay 6521-A, Leyte, Philippines
² Department of Farm Animal Medicine and Production, University of Queensland, Brisbane 4072, Queensland, Australia
³ College of Veterinary Medicine, Benguet State University, La Trinidad 2601, Benguet, Philippines