

Profit in slaughterhouses of the use of vaccinated pigs – part two

by Antonio Rouco Yáñez, Professor of Agricultural Economics, Department of Animal Production, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine., University of Murcia, Spain.

In this, the second of two articles, we investigate the same cuts that have differences in price, as well as comparisons for differences in cuts and price.

● Comparison for the same cut and differences in the price.

We consider the cuts and yields to be equal in all cases, and the income differential will be given by the differences in the price of the castrated/vaccinated animals with regard to hams and bellies.

In this case, as can be found in Table 1, the difference that exists between entires, vaccinated and castrated animals must be seen.

The profit per pig will be:

● Entire males: $175.06 - 123.4 = €51.66/\text{pig}$.

● Vaccinated males and castrated males: $176.58 - 123.4 = €53.18/\text{pig}$.

There is a differential of €1.52 for vaccinated pigs compared to entires pigs.

● Comparison for differences in the cut and in the price.

Table 3 gives a summary of the income obtained per pig, with a positive differential found for the set of cuts studied favourable to the vaccinated males of: €5.77 compared to the entire pigs and €0.38 compared to the physically castrated ones.

Table 1. Summary of income by pig when the income differential is given only by the difference in the price of cuts. Prices based on an average of quotes for various cuts at the Barcelona Meat Market in 2011.

Cuts	Entires (kg/€)		Castrated (kg/€)		Vaccinated (kg/€)	
	Yield	Income	Yield	Income	Yield	Income
Ham	22.75	58.24	22.75	59.38	22.75	59.38
Shoulder	13.22	21.55	13.22	21.55	13.22	21.55
Loin	16.12	56.74	16.12	56.74	16.12	56.74
Belly	7.58	14.02	7.58	14.40	7.58	14.40
Head	8.79	24.51	8.79	24.51	8.79	24.51
Totals		175.06		176.58		176.58

Slaughterhouse	Entires (€)	Vaccinated and castrated (€)
Medium (650 pigs/hour)	113,789	114,777

Table 2. Income from a medium sized slaughterhouse when the income differential is given only by the difference in the price of cuts.

Cuts	Entires (kg/€)		Castrated (kg/€)		Vaccinated (kg/€)	
	Yield	Income	Yield	Income	Yield	Income
Ham	22.75	58.24	23.00	60.03	23.57	61.52
Shoulder	13.22	21.55	12.57	20.48	12.57	20.48
Loin	16.12	56.74	17.52	61.66	17.20	60.55
Belly	7.58	14.02	8.06	15.31	8.06	15.31
Head	8.79	24.51	8.23	22.97	8.23	22.91
Totals		175.06		180.45		180.83

Table 3. Summary of income by pig when the income differential is given by the difference in the cuts and their prices. Prices based on an average of quotes for various cuts at the Barcelona Meat Market in 2011.

Slaughterhouse	Entires (€)	Castrated (€)	Vaccinated (€)
Medium (650 pigs/hour)	113,789	117,292.5	117,539.5

Table 4. Income from a medium sized slaughterhouse when the income differential is given by the difference in the cuts and their prices.

The profit per pig will be:

● Entire males: $175.06 - 123.4 = €51.66/\text{pig}$.

● Physically castrated males: $180.45 - 123.4 = €57.05/\text{pig}$.

● Vaccinated males: $180.83 - 123.4 = €57.43/\text{pig}$.

There is a differential of €0.38 favourable to vaccinated pigs when compared to physically castrated pigs and €5.77 favourable to vaccinated pigs when compared to entire pigs.

Conclusion

In the slaughterhouse five cuts were studied, which account for some 75% of pig cutting:

● Vaccination and castration are the alternatives to be taken into consideration to obtain better yields and higher profits in the slaughter.

● From the economic point of view, vaccination with Improvac becomes the best alternative to physical castration because of the positive profit differentials obtained per pig.

These are given by the better prices at the commercial level that are obtained in the vaccinated/castrated animals and the better yields in lean meat in the ham for the vaccinated compared to the physically castrated animals.

The higher levels of lean meat and the reduction in fat covering the cuts in the vaccinated males compared to the castrated ones give them the price differential that makes them the ideal choice to turn into profit the costs of slaughter and cutting in the slaughterhouse. ■