

# Thai success story in pork production

In a recent issue of International Pig Topics we featured the breeding operation at The VPF Company Ltd, which is one of Thailand's more progressive pork producers.

For this article we visited the commercial operation of the Group to see where the progeny of that breeding operation goes. The fresh pork from these animals is destined for the finished products manufactured by V&P Freshfoods.



**The VPF complex and feed mill.**

The operation is based near Chingmai in northern Thailand and at the breeder level the company achieves 26 pigs weaned per sow per year. The business started in 1973 with four sows and a boar. That breeder division now produces some 13,000 animals a month that are destined for the commercial operation.

Pigs arriving from the breeding operation go into one of 17 nursery houses that utilise evaporative cooling systems to maintain a suitable environment for the young pigs



These houses operate on an all-in, all-out basis and are 10 x 60 metres in size. Each holds some 1,400 pigs at a stocking rate of 0.25m<sup>2</sup> per pig housed. At any one time the nursery section holds some 18,000 animals.

From weaning to four weeks of age some 3kg of creep feed is consumed per pig, from five to six weeks of age 8kg is consumed and

Continued on page 17

**Nursery houses. Note the extraction fans for evaporative cooling.**





Continued from page 15 in the final stage in the nursery accommodation a further 15kg of feed is consumed – making a total of 26kg of feed consumed per pig in the nursery stage.

During this period the pigs are vaccinated against swine fever, Aujeszky's disease and foot and mouth disease at four, six and nine weeks of age.

During the nursery period typical mortality is 2% or less and an average daily liveweight gain of some 400g per day is achieved at an FCR of 1.40.



In this section mortality is usually under 5% and the pigs have an average daily liveweight gain of some 700 or so g per day at an FCR of 2.70.

The pigs receive feed from the company's own on site feed mill which covers some 19,200m<sup>2</sup>.

This mill is able to produce 30 tons of normal feed per hour plus 15 tons per hour on its antibiotic free line,

In addition, its premix line can turn out 10 tons per hour of premixes. The mill has four hammer presses and three pellet presses.

## Finishing operation

After the nursery stage the pigs are transferred to the finishing operation. Here again houses utilise the evaporative cooling system to maintain an ideal environment for the pigs and in total there are some 47 finishing houses.

Each of these is 12 x 126 metres and holds some 1,200 pigs at a stocking rate of one pig per m<sup>2</sup>. In total the finishing division holds some 47,000 pigs. Feed consumption is 50kg from 10-14 weeks, followed by 90kg from 15-20 weeks and a further 80kg from 21 weeks until kill at 25 weeks.



## Future exports

On achieving the desired weight the pigs are shipped to the nearby V&P Freshfoods Company Ltd's abattoir for killing and processing. This facility covers 24,000m<sup>2</sup>.

This facility received its export status in 2000 and is planning to export chilled carcasses and processed pork meats to Asia and Europe.

It operates to certified GMP and HACCP standards which reflect the company's desire to meet international standards so it can progress the export side of its business. ■

