

# Compassion in World Farming advances pig welfare in China

Compassion in World Farming recently held their second Good Pig Production Awards at an event in Westminster, London, in association with the International Cooperation Committee of Animal Welfare (ICCAW). Eight representatives of the 14 deserving winners from China were in London to be presented with their awards and to hear from experts in pig welfare and food industry leaders, including Sainsbury's and BQP.

China is currently the world's largest producer of pigs, rearing an astounding 726 million a year – more than half the world's pig population and five times more than that produced in the USA. Over 60% of the world's pork is con-

sumed in China and this level seems set to increase with the inevitable population growth. In order to meet this demand, there has been a major shift away from traditional small scale pig farms to large scale intensive production. Such scaling-up of production has been achieved by greater vertical integration in the supply chain and geographic concentration of production, along with the use of highly productive breeds, intensive systems (such as sow stalls, farrowing crates, high stocking densities, and barren pens), and intensive practices (such as tail docking, and teeth-clipping).

It is precisely these practices that Compassion and ICCAW are educating against through the Good Pig

Production Award, which recognises Chinese producers for implementing higher welfare standards within their pig production systems.

Ms Xi, Executive President of ICCAW, gave her comments on the Good Pig Production Award: "Before launching the Good Pig Production Award, not many people in China were aware of the Five Freedoms of animal welfare. Today industry experts, farm owners and even some consumers know more about pig welfare requirements such as no sow stalls, no teeth-clipping, no tail-docking, and the provision of appropriate bedding materials, all because of the Award. It is a remarkable change and demonstrates significant progress in China,

the world's largest producer of pigs. Moreover, it has resulted in a very positive effect on the global environment and sustainable agricultural development."

Many large Chinese pig producers are already recognising the benefits of higher welfare production with two 2014 winners demonstrating the successful implementation of previous commitments:

Sanmenxia Chuying Agri-husbandry Co Ltd has moved up from two Stars (for achieving basic requirements and committing to no tail docking) to three Stars this year, for stopping the practice of tail docking within one year, and additionally achieving no teeth clipping as a current practice

## Good Pig Production Award winners 2015

### ★★★★★ Winners

#### 1. Heilongjiang Dongnong Sanhua Pig Animal Husbandry & Food Co Ltd

Heilongjiang Dongnong Sanhua Pig Animal Husbandry & Food Co Ltd was awarded a 5 Star Good Pig Production Award for meeting all the criteria of the Award, benefitting over 5,620 pigs annually. The farm has developed a wonderful indoor free farrowing system and provides all pigs with straw and green material for rooting, nesting and bedding, and is a great example of providing higher welfare conditions for all its pigs.

#### 2. Laiwu Breeder Pig Farm Co Ltd

Laiwu Breeder Pig Farm Co Ltd was awarded a 5 Star Good Pig Production Award for meeting four of the five award criteria and committing to provide manipulable material to pigs at all stages in the production cycle. The farm breeds Laiwu and Lulai traditional black pigs on organic diets.

#### 3. Hainan Dingan Nabowan Animal Husbandry Co Ltd

Hainan Dingan Nabowan Animal Husbandry Co Ltd was awarded with a 5 Star rating. The farm operates a part indoor and part free range enterprise using a local Dingan black female crossed with a Berkshire male. They are committed to providing bedding and manipulable material to their indoor pigs to achieve the 5 Star rating.

#### 4. Yanbian Northeast Local Free-range Pig Development Co Ltd

Yanbian Northeast Local Free-range Pig Development Co Ltd – previously known as Wangqing County Dongbeimin Pig Farm Cooperative – has been awarded a 5 Star award. This cooperative enterprise keeps their



Representatives from the winning Chinese Pig Producers and members of staff from Compassion with Philip Lybery (CEO of Compassion fifth from left) and Madam Xi of ICCAW (eighth from left).

sows and finishing pigs free range in the forest, bringing the sows indoors to farrow. They are committed to providing their indoor sows and weaners with bedding and manipulable material to meet the 5 Star criteria.

### ★★★★★ Winners

#### 1. Haerbin Xincheng Yuquanshan Breeding Co Ltd

Haerbin Xincheng Yuquanshan Breeding Co Ltd received a 4 Star award for using group housing (including during the observation period) and free farrowing for their sows, and for not tail docking their meat pigs. They have committed to end teeth-clipping. They use a local Northeast Min female crossed with a male Duroc, and in total the farm has 6,400 sows and meat pigs. Many of the pens have solid floors and straw is available locally, so it is hoped the farm is able to provide bedding and manipulable material to their pigs in due course.

Beijing Taixinfumin Pig Production Co Ltd has improved its ranking from one Star (meeting basic requirements last year) to three Stars for its commitment on no teeth clipping or tail docking – whilst using western breeds which can be more challenging than using traditional Chinese breeds.

The scale of production in China is vast – some individual companies have aspirations of producing or processing more pigs than the entire UK pig population (13 million). Compassion therefore believes that now is the time to build relationships with China's pig producers to ensure that higher welfare production is at the forefront of their minds and to inform them of the criteria behind operating a successful higher welfare production system.

Compassion has worked with ICCAW and local experts in China to develop welfare codes (Farm Animal Welfare Requirements) for pigs, beef cattle and sheep, with the aim of encouraging best practice and improved farm animal welfare.

These have filled the gap for animal welfare standards in China and additional welfare codes for broilers and laying hens are currently being developed. Locally, ICCAW is working hard to set up supply chain connections between producers and retailers of higher welfare pig



**The Farm to Fork Panel – seated L to R: Sue Lockhart, Head of Agriculture, Sainsbury's, Sandra Edwards, Professor of Agriculture, Newcastle University, Howard Revell, Production Manager, BQP, Kate Parkes, Senior Scientific Officer, RSPCA, Vicky Scott and Kate Moore from DP Morgan and Mark Hayward, Partner, Dingley Dell Pork.**

meat. Recent success has been the signing up of online retailer Sfbest.

Dr Tracey Jones, Director of Food Business at Compassion in World Farming, summarises the work and aims of the two partners:

"Since 2013, our work in China has been intricately linked to our effective partnership with ICCAW and is largely centred on the Good Pig Production Award. The award aims to stop the use of sow stalls and to promote the development of higher welfare systems and practices for

both sows and meat pigs. To date, nearly one million pigs are set to benefit each year through our award winners' policies.

"While ICCAW works in China to promote the award to producers, administers award applications and oversees expert panel visits to farms for verification, we at Compassion offer expert technical advice and provide opportunities for the Chinese pig producers to visit farms in the UK and attend expert seminars to gain best prac-

tice knowledge. Through study tours they accumulate the latest science-based and practical knowledge on pig farming and higher animal welfare production to help cement their own beliefs and encourage them to spread the word in China.

"It is a huge job but the scale on which some of these farmers work means that if just one of them adopts and promotes higher welfare pig production it has an enormous impact." ■

## 2. Jiangxi Shuosheng Ecological Agriculture Science & Technology Co Ltd

Jiangxi Shuosheng Ecological Agriculture Science & Technology Co Ltd, is awarded with a 4 Star rating. They meet the criteria for no sow stalls or farrowing crates and do not practise tail docking or teeth clipping. Whilst they provide bedding material in winter, it is hoped they will find solutions for providing appropriate manipulable material to all pigs throughout the year.

## 3. Tongjiang Bashan Ecological Animal Husbandry Science and Technology Co Ltd

Tongjiang Bashan Ecological Animal Husbandry Science and Technology Co Ltd is a 4 Star winner for operating with indoor group housing and free farrowing systems for sows, and for not tail docking or teeth-clipping/grinding their piglets. Their meat pigs are finished in idyllic free-range conditions. This farm uses a more robust, traditional black breed of pig and produces 46 varieties of organic products.

## ★★★ Winners

### 1. Sanmenxia Chuying Agro-Pastoral Co Ltd

Sanmenxia Chuying Agro-Pastoral Co Ltd is a subsidiary of the Chuying Agro-Pastoral Group which sells approximately 1m pigs per annum. They were awarded a 2 Star Good Pig Production Award last year for their commitment to stop tail docking. This commitment has been successfully met and in 2015 they were recognised with a 3 Star Award for the additional commitment to stop teeth-clipping. The company has huge potential and ambition, and they aim to work with Compassion to progress to a 5 Star award.

### 2. Beijing Taixinfumin Pig Production Co Ltd

Beijing Taixinfumin Pig Production Co Ltd was awarded a 1 Star in 2014 and now increase their rating to a 3 Star Award for committing to no teeth clipping and no tail docking.

### 3. Handan Furun Ecological Animal Husbandry Co Ltd

Handan Furun Ecological Animal Husbandry Co Ltd has plans to achieve no tail docking and no teeth-clipping in five years, earning them a 3 Star award.

## ★★ Winners

### 1. Hainan Shengtai Agri-Husbandry Co Ltd

Hainan Shengtai Agri-Husbandry Co Ltd received a 2 Star award for group housing of sows in the gestation period and adopting a no teeth-clipping policy. The producer is keen to trial no tail docking, but needs to manage the provision of manipulable material in slatted pens in order to be successful. This current policy benefits 24,020 western breed pigs annually.

### 2. Changzhou Fenghua Animal Husbandry Co Ltd

Changzhou Fenghua Animal Husbandry Co Ltd are awarded a 2 Star rating for meeting the basic criteria and for not teeth-clipping their piglets. This is a breeding company for Western white breeds and is highly specialised.

## ★ Winners

### 1. Tianjing Hengtai Livestock Farming Co Ltd

Tianjing Hengtai Livestock Farming Co Ltd received 1 Star award for meeting the basic requirements of the GPPA, which include group housing of sows in the gestation period. Compassion in World Farming will continue to engage with this farm on the provision of manipulable material, especially for their sows as the pens have solid floors, and no tail docking of their piglets, which the farm are keen to trial. The farm has 5,000 breeding sows of a western breed.

### 2. Zhong Dao Animal Husbandry Co Ltd

Zhong Dao Animal Husbandry Co Ltd was awarded a 1 Star Good Pig Production Award for housing their sows in groups during the gestation period. This company has three high-tech farms, each with 800 sows, and they show a great desire to continue to improve their welfare standards in future and advance to a challenging 3 Star Award.