

CASE STUDY

How Dkyhuis Farms Leveraged PigFlow® to Elevate PSY by 2.2



PigFlow®
Swine Management: Simplified



Dear Reader,

The swine industry is struggling with increasing mortality rates, labor access, and cost and a significant change is needed if we want to survive and thrive in a world of rapidly changing expectations.

At SwineTech, we believe that the most impactful and versatile solution is through our people and an approach that focuses on empowering and augmenting human potential. We've recognized that despite having processes and technologies in place, there's often a missing link when it comes to guiding and measuring the actual execution and its impact on production. PigFlow uniquely solves this problem by engaging and guiding employees, offering real-time insights to enhance pig care and productivity.

Unlike traditional approaches, our emphasis is strongly rooted in healthcare principles given our responsibility for the well-being of living animals. This entails considering the human element, dealing with uncertainties, and meeting intricate expectations. Our flagship product, PigFlow, blends aspects of pork production, healthcare techniques, and manufacturing strategies to provide a one-of-a-kind solution for pork producers.

Our objective is to seamlessly infuse this valuable intersection into swine operations of all sizes. In this case study, you'll see how Dykhuis Farms successfully implemented PigFlow to improve operational efficiency, piglet health, and bottom-line results. We are excited because stories like this inspire us daily as we work to spread our vision.



Sincerely,
Matthew Rooda
CEO, SwineTech



Creating solutions with PigFlow

Dykhuis Farms, like many other pork producers, grappled with a myriad of challenges that were impacting its operational efficiency and productivity. The absence of a transparent system for day-to-day operations combined with staffing shortages presented significant hurdles. These challenges not only hindered the establishment of clear expectations but also made it tough to gauge performance outcomes accurately. This led to an inefficient allocation of time and an unfavorable increase in mortality rates.



Today, employees hold the solution **in the palms of their hands**.
With PigFlow, Dykhuis Farms weans more pigs without added labor.



Staffing shortage

THE SOLUTION

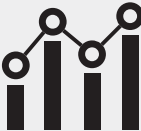
PigFlow brings transparency to daily operations enabling managers and their team to optimize their resources more effectively. Consequently, they're able to significantly boost the overall productivity.



Training and retention

THE SOLUTION

PigFlow helps trainers set clear expectations and helps employees learn quickly and feel engaged in the work.



Mortality rates

THE SOLUTION

PigFlow ties actions to results, as well as reinforces compliance to ensure quality of care.

Dykhuis Farms before PigFlow

Dykhuis Farms raises 18,000 sows on six sites in Michigan. They market 450,000 pigs per year in the Midwest, working with 20 farms in Michigan and Indiana to finish hogs. Gestating sows are housed in groups, and litters are split-suckled.

6
sites

18k
SOWS

150
employees

The Dykhuis team started using PigFlow in 2021. The same individuals held management positions before and after the implementation of PigFlow. The staff experienced the industry-standard rate of employee turnover before and after they began using PigFlow. The system is negative for porcine reproductive and respiratory syndrome (PRRS), porcine epidemic diarrhea virus (PED) and *Mycoplasma hyopneumoniae* (*M. hyo*).

The data in this analysis was collected in two time periods:

- A full year without PigFlow
- A full year using PigFlow

Data from a six-month transition period is not included in this analysis.



PigFlow's operational benefits



Set **clear expectations** while also tracking **compliance** and **completion**



Save time with **instant communication** and workflow **organization**



Find the perfect balance between **labor efficiency** and **high-quality care**

Measuring success with PigFlow

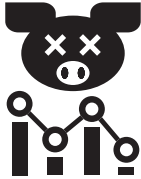
Dykhuis Farms uses PigFlow to turn wasted time into productivity. By executing protocols accurately and efficiently, the farm has uncovered available resources to improve sow and pig care and to show measurable improvement in the number of pigs weaned per year.

15% reduction in stillborns per litter

Since implementing PigFlow, Dykhuis Farms has observed a 15.9% reduction in stillborns compared to the same period before using the platform.

PigFlow is instrumental in this change because it reinforces the system's rigorous farrowing protocols. Through the platform, employees quickly identify which sows need immediate attention by spotlighting sows with a higher risk of stillborn pigs based on historical data and current conditions. By aligning closely with the farm's protocols, the system ensures prompt and effective interventions.

Managers can re-enforce correct actions because they can instantly assess the team's performance against quality care benchmarks. This not only boosts the number of live births but also refines labor distribution to ensure the team delivers the right attention at the right time.



Stillborns



	Before PigFlow	With PigFlow
Stillborns per litter (15.9% improvement)	1.03	0.88



Joe Dykhuis, president, Dykhuis Farms

“ With PigFlow we can now see actions that we’ve taken to provide care, as well as see many of the outcomes.

By comparing actions to results, we have seen performance improve on stillborns and pre-weaning mortality. ”

Reduction in pre-wean mortality

PigFlow is significantly reducing pre-wean mortality at Dykhuis Farms by enhancing compliant care during the farrowing and litter fostering phases. It achieves this by allowing managers to establish clear expectations, offering real-time insights, and implementing innovative streamlined workflows for all team members. Using up-to-the-second data, teams can proactively tackle issues proactively to prevent setbacks.

This data-driven transparency enables managers to set goals and ensures that employees are consistently held accountable for their roles. Additionally, this approach guarantees the best care for each pig, which aligns with the farm's commitment to animal welfare.

	Before PigFlow	With PigFlow
Percentage of piglets lost less than 2 days old	6.44%	4.64%
Pre-wean mortality	12.57%	11.05%



*Dr. Cara Haden,
Pipestone veterinarian
and director of welfare*

“**PigFlow helps employees care for the pigs better because it gives them more time to do so. Instead of being in an office entering information into a computer, they're in the barn with the app on their phone.**

PigFlow takes that time they would normally be somewhere else and puts them in the place where they can care for the pigs.”



Pre-wean mortality

12%
reduction

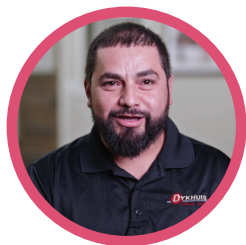
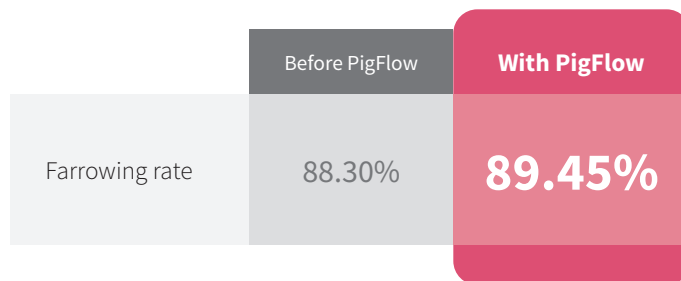


Improved farrowing rate

At Dykhuis Farms, PigFlow supports a 1.2% improvement in farrowing rates by optimizing employee tasks for precision and timeliness. For example, the platform accurately lists sows expected to be in heat, helping employees find sows quickly and provide the right care based on farm protocols.

Leadership at Dykhuis Farms capitalizes on PigFlow's real-time task monitoring, which gives them unparalleled oversight of ongoing operations. This visibility aids managers in efficiently reallocating resources from less urgent tasks to those of higher importance. It also introduces an era of transparency where work progress can be effectively tracked.

For the farm's workforce, this clarity translates into better time management, process compliance and pig care. Employees no longer need managerial guidance at every step. Instead, they're empowered to gauge task progress, identify areas needing attention and autonomously engage where necessary, ensuring a smoother workflow and greater overall productivity.



Zenaido Loyola, manager,
Dykhuis Farms

“**PigFlow taught me how to manage people differently than I used to because I know what people are doing.**

I can see when an individual finishes a task, and I can send a chat to ask them to help somewhere else. It makes us more efficient.”



Farrowing rate



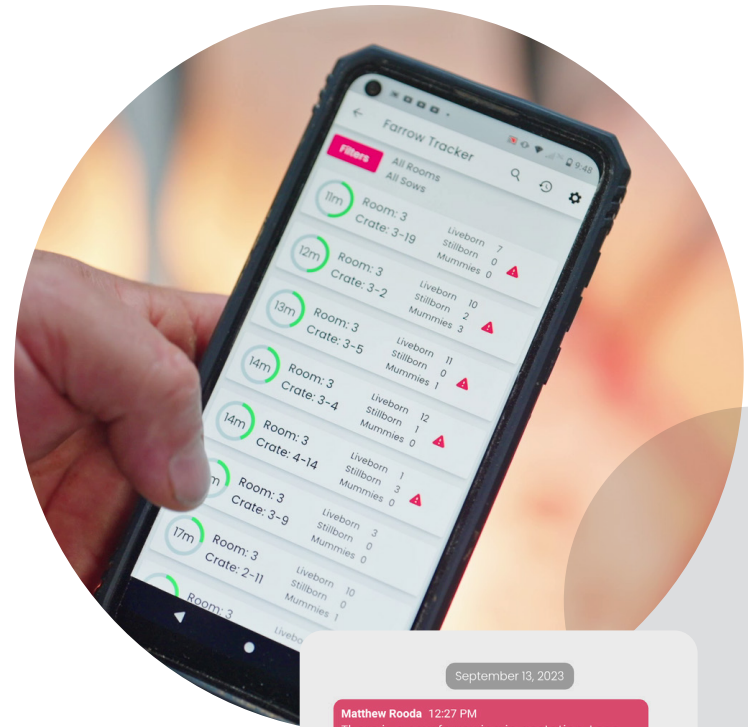
Time saved with instant communication

Transparent communication is revolutionizing how Dykhuis Farms operates by equipping team members with the vital information they need to perform their tasks efficiently and effectively. PigFlow is not intended to supersede people, but to empower them. It enhances the human element, acting as a force multiplier for employee skills, ushering in unprecedented levels of efficiency, and simplifying tasks. PigFlow ensures that the farm employee always remains in the driver's seat, ensuring actions align with on-ground realities. Redundant questions become obsolete, as team members are already armed with the information they need.

The platform facilitates real-time, multilingual communication across Dykhuis Farms. Whether two employees are collaborating across a large farrowing room or multiple teams are synchronizing between sites, communication is instantaneous and clear. Such capabilities extend beyond daily tasks, optimizing logistical processes such as supply deliveries or responses to disease outbreaks.

Customize and automate workflows

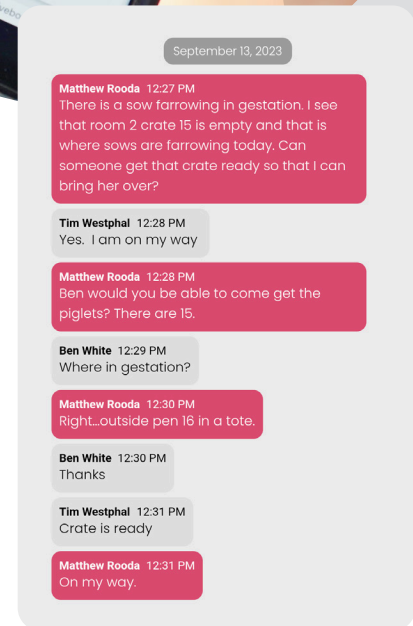
PigFlow equips managers with tools to clearly define goals, allowing employees to consistently meet and exceed expectations. This system is pivotal in ensuring compliance, as task progression is monitored, guaranteeing that protocols are accurately followed. Both managers and employees benefit from real-time performance metrics, fostering a culture of accountability and instilling a deeper sense of ownership in their roles. This data-driven approach allows for a continuous evaluation and refinement of protocols, directly benefiting the bottom line.



Joe Dykhuis, president,
Dykhuis Farms

“ The chat function has been a big solution for me. We used to waste hours with delivery people waiting for someone to get cell phone signal or respond to a message. ”

It used to be hard to get ahold of someone at one site when you were at a different location. Now, you can hit the chat and get everyone's attention. ”



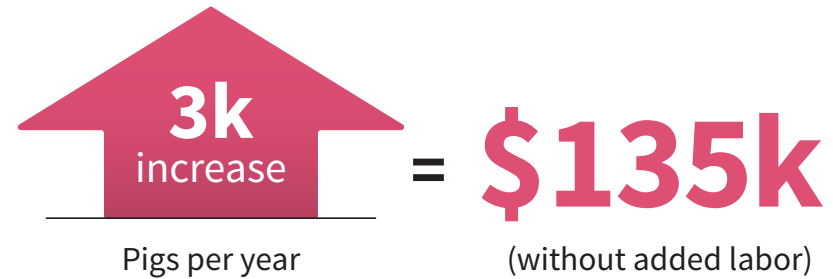
More pigs per sow per year

The culmination of more live-born pigs, fewer pigs lost before weaning and more productive days per sow is more pigs weaned at Dykhuis Farms. Using PigFlow helped the system increase pigs per sow per year (PSY) by 2.2 pigs and wean 3,000 more pigs annually without adding labor.

	Before PigFlow	With PigFlow
Annual PSY	29.43	31.65
Pigs weaned	24k	27k



Pigs per sow per year (PSY)



Joe Dykhuis, president,
Dykhuis Farms

“ If you want someone to climb a ladder, give them a ladder. Right? If you can give them the tool to do the job, it just makes their job so much easier. ”

Envision PigFlow in your system

At Dykhuis Farms, PigFlow is not just a software platform. It's a game-changer. By fostering team cohesion, streamlining processes, and enhancing pig care, it transforms operations from the ground up. Thanks to PigFlow, Dykhuis Farms has witnessed marked improvements in farrowing rates, live births, and weaned pigs. This translates to a substantial increase of **2.2 pigs per sow annually and 3,000 additional pigs weaned each year – all without expanding the workforce.**



Fred Kuhr,
production supervisor,
Dykhuis Farms

“PigFlow has helped us become more efficient and has improved our ability to provide timely care to each sow and her litter. In just 9 months, it has helped our farm go from a 28 PSY farm to a 32 PSY farm.”



How might PigFlow increase the potential of your operations?

Talk to your PigFlow representative or visit [swinetechnologies.com](https://www.swinetechnologies.com)



PigFlow[®]
Swine Management: Simplified



Watch the Dykhuis Farms testimonial



About SwineTech

SwineTech's vision and mission transcend ordinary boundaries. We strive to revolutionize pork production globally, ensuring each pig receives unparalleled, individualized care. PigFlow®, our premier point-of-care and workforce management platform, redefines the standard, infusing automation into daily workflows, emergent care, communication, administrative duties, and herd diagnostics. With PigFlow, we enable pork producers to unlock unprecedented efficiency, elevate employee engagement, and provide superior pig care.

SwineTech PigFlow® Case Study. 2023

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