



QUICK FACTS

Industry

Swine

Number of sows

120,000 females / 250 farms

Location

Illinois, USA

Web

www.hogvet.com

Carthage System provides management services to more than 250 family farmers managing a total of 120,000 sows.

The goal of the Carthage System is to optimize all phases of production and to help independent producers remain a vital part of the pork chain. Carthage System incorporates research through Carthage Innovative Swine Solutions, LLC to optimize performance.

They were using several different software programs for swine management, doing difficult cross-systems comparisons, which increased their cost due to maintaining multiple systems.

Also, database analysis capabilities were limited.

Key Challenges

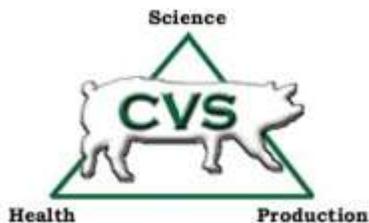
- Replace multiple software programs
- Data migration
- Satisfy new requirements
- Changes in the software

Why Porcitec?

- Database analysis capabilities
- Ability to easily customize reports
- Complete cross-system comparisons
- Drill into key productive drivers

Benefits

- Cost reduction through OCR system
- Maximized efficiency by eliminating multiple spreadsheets and databases
- Better customer service providing customized reports
- Expandable system open to modifications



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Sherri Biddenstadt, Record Bureau Manager

Business Situation

Dedicated to the science, health, production, and welfare of quality pigs, the Carthage System is one of the largest pork powerhouses in the US.

Professional Swine Management, LLC provides production management and project development to swine producers and is focused on managing all phases of production including breeding, gestation, farrowing, nursery, and finishing. PSM fully manages facilities for over 250 farm facilities and 120,000 sows located throughout the Midwest. Carthage System used several well-known software applications for swine management, acquired over the years from different vendors.

In 2013, Carthage System considered changing the software due to increasing requirements, the desire to integrate all systems, and to optimize the data collection process.

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comparisons and drill into many of the key production drivers”, Sherri Biddenstadt, Record Bureau Manager.

Solution

Carthage System began the process by converting one farm to Porcitech. A few months later and after many tests, they converted the remaining farms. Data migration was a challenge because of the different systems, codifications, and some custom data. During this period, fluent communication between the company and Agritech was important to achieve the success.

“We had a smooth transition. The staff at Agritech were very helpful, answering our questions quickly. We implemented OCR technology for data entry at the same time we transitioned over to Porcitech and we’ve been very happy with the results. Farm staff are now able to write their data on forms as they are doing their work so they don’t have to spend so much time in the office doing data entry” says Sherri Biddenstadt.

At the Carthage office, Porcitech is installed on a dedicated server

running Windows Server. It provides access to the network users in the office and also to remote users.

For data collection, Carthage System installed an Optical Character Recognition system (OCR) that feeds the Porcitech database. This system is managed onsite so Carthage does not have to depend on outside companies, taking full control of the data collection process. The technicians fill specific forms using a regular pen to record events, such as matings, farrowings, treatments, etc. These forms are then sent to the central office and using an optical scanner, they are digitalized. The events are incorporated into the Porcitech database using an automatic process, drastically reducing the time spent entering data into the system.

Each Carthage System customer has assigned privileges to access their farm data and specific folders where custom reports are placed that fit each farm's specific needs.



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Benefits

Automating Data Collection

Using the OCR system to automatize data collection has dramatically reduced the time dedicated to enter data into the system, minimizing the cost. Due to the high variability of skills of the barn employees, other options such as handhelds were not realistic. Using paper forms and automating the form reading has been a solution that works great for everyone.

Unifying Multiple Programs

Porcitec now manages all farms, fulfilling all requirements in one central location, and avoids having to deal with multiple different software programs and their associated databases which may use different formulas and terminology.

Better Customer Service

Now customers can get customized reports, adding value to the service provided by Carthage System. From sow cards to advanced performance analysis reports, reports can be fully

customized by completely changing the layout, font sizes, adding new columns or fields, new formulas, etc.

In addition, Porcitec includes a powerful database analysis system to create complex data queries.

Sherri Biddenstadt says “Customization of reports has been easy to complete and the database system analysis has been highly valuable. The ability to pull SQL Queries and make custom reports have been of great benefit to us. Also, the ability to filter or break down reports by a variety of variables allows us to drill down to the specific data we need.”

Independence and confidentiality

Carthage System controls the entire process, from data collection to report generation. All programs and applications are in their own installations, including the OCR system. They do not need to trust or depend on an external company to store and manage their data.

Continuous Evolution

Porcitec evolves continuously. It provides Carthage System a solid

technology partner. Porcitec is constantly adapted to user requirements.

Although most of the data collection is by OCR, vets can enter treatments at the barn level directly into a tablet using a barcode and the data is automatically synchronized by wireless.

Agritec Software offers solutions for desktop, handhelds, tablets and Web. They can work alone or combined. Users can run reports from their desktop, tablet, or a website, anywhere, 7/24.

Agritec releases several updated versions each year, incorporating user suggestions. Sherri Biddenstadt finally says “Requests for changes have been quickly completed and technical support has been excellent. Database system analysis has been highly valuable. We’re now able to drill down and get the data we’re really needing. We’re also able to track and analyze things we’ve not been able to look at before”