



QUICK FACTS

Industry
Swine
<hr/>
Number of sows
33,000 females / 101 farms
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Location
Gunma, Japan
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Web
www.gpf.co.jp



Global Pig Farms Inc. is the second largest pork producer in Japan. It is a swine producers’ cooperative with a large majority of the shares held by their member producers.

They are currently managing 33,000 females from 101 independent producers. GPF serves the needs of their members by providing breeding stock, feed, veterinary services, and sales of market pigs.

The technical services they provide include data processing for each farm, and a unique benchmarking system which includes data from outside users. They also provide technical support for producers who use Porcitech on their own farms.

Key Challenges

- Smooth data migration
- Simple communication between in-house software and Porcitech

Why Porcitech?

- Cost-effective
- Easy migration of data, including grow-finish data
- Smart data entry and report generation
- Flexibility with editing and modifying data to meet the needs of the bureau
- Easy access to the database for analysis purposes

Benefits

- Integration with own systems
- Efficient data entry with LAN capabilities
- Use of advanced technologies in combination with Porcitech
- Better access to remote potential and current customers
- Flexibilities for the bureau’s unique analysis
- Open database architecture

“The transition was much smoother than we initially anticipated. The support provided from Agritec was terrific and in a very timely manner. We experimented in the data conversion with a few sample farms’ data and compared the outputs with the ones with former software. We felt very comfortable with the technical support and the outputs, and eventually all the farms’ data were converted”

Izumi Ishida, GPF



“We feel that our relationship with Agritec is not simply as customer and supplier, but also a partner for further improvements. In fact we are learning new things from Porcitec and Agritec has adopted some of our suggestions and requests. We hope this relationship will continue in the future for the sake of mutual benefits.”

Izumi Ishida, GPF

Business Situation

GPF is a swine producers' cooperative. The data processing bureau has 4 full-time and 3 part-time staff members. It provides data entry, data analysis, software training, and technical support to its members and independent producers.

GPF previously had been using PigChamp DOS since 1996. They cooperated with the University of Minnesota to further refine and improve the software and they were the exclusive agent for the Japanese market.

“We searched for some time in an effort to upgrade DOS based software into a Windows based package, but failed to suffice our needs especially in the area of the grow-finish data management,” explains Ishida. “The former package had limited capabilities, due primarily to its closed database platform. Computer technologies have been advancing constantly, and computer packages should have the features needed to incorporate those improvements. We decided to adopt Porcitec because of those improvements, and smooth data exchanges with other based packages and internet technologies can be accomplished and appreciated.”

Solution

GPF switched to Porcitec in March 2012. Porcitec user interface and reports were translated to Japanese so users could easily jump into Porcitec. At first, a few test farms were converted and the data and outputs were compared to those obtained with the former software. Eventually all the farms' data were converted into Porcitec.

Benefits

Open architecture

Porcitec platform and open database architecture allows for smooth data exchange with other software, including GPF's own data representation using EXCEL and SQL. For example, GPF has its own in-house software to manage financial data which can now be incorporated with Porcitec production data.

“Due to its open database architecture, the communications with the other packages are much simpler and smoother, and we now have unlimited use of the production data.” says Ishida.

Another improvement has been in the batch reporting. Now they can run Porcitec reports from the

command line or from their own applications.

LAN capabilities

Porcitec's LAN capabilities allow multiple users to input data simultaneously, which has greatly improved bureau efficiency. Data backup has also been simplified considerably.

Excellent technical support

“Support from Agritec via email was helpful and prompt, usually within 24 hours. All technical difficulties encountered, for example, displaying 2 bit Japanese characters, were solved efficiently.” says Ishida.

Flexible software to meet all needs

Global Pig Farms serves 90 independent producers and 11 outside users from different corporations, each of them of different size and with different needs. They also have 7 in-house veterinary consultants serving their members. Because of Porcitec's power and flexibility, the software has met the needs of this varied group of users