



# PIPESTONE SYSTEM

## SHARING KNOWLEDGE AND IMPROVING DATA DELIVERY

### QUICK FACTS

**Industry**

Swine

**Number of sows**

200,000 females / 46 farms

**Location**

Minnesota, USA

**Web**

[www.pipevet.com](http://www.pipevet.com)

With 200,000 sows on 46 farms, the Pipestone System is one of the largest pork production companies in the US. Due to the scope of their operations, data management is an essential part of their business.

Pipestone employs 7 full time staff members to manage their production records.

From the beginning they used a MSDOS program, which has become obsolete and is no longer supported. With the old system, multiple users could not access the databases concurrently. The former system could not take advantage of Windows' rich user interface.

For these reasons, Pipestone chose to migrate to Porcitech. Data entry, reports, and formulas were familiar to the staff, which made the transition very smooth. Now Pipestone can design their own custom reports, share information from all farms via the Web, and have a solid foundation for future innovation.

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**Key Challenges**

- Replace a former software
- Use existing handhelds
- Satisfy new requirements

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**Why select Porcitech?**

- Smooth transition
- Established company in the US market
- Direct contact with developer
- Multi-platform: desktop, Web and handheld

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**Benefits**

- System open to modifications
- Rich user interface
- Multi-user support
- Broader access to information
- Timely reporting



“We are extremely happy with Porcitec and the customer service that they provide us. We have not found any limitations with the program”

Lois Fransen, Pipestone Veterinary Clinic/Pipestone System, Information Bureau Director

## Business Situation

The Pipestone System is one of the largest pork powerhouses in the US. It is comprised of approximately 200,000 sows on 46 farms. 15 of these farms enter data on handheld computers and 31 farms fax and e-mail data into the Pipestone bureau. Pipestone employs 7 full time staff members to manage sow production, gilt developer, and grow-finish records for these farms.

“When looking for a software program to replace our current system, we needed to find software that could reproduce many of the same reports that we were familiar with, as well as offer us more opportunities for report generation,” explains Lois Fransen, Information Bureau Director of Pipestone. “After comparing many software programs, we decided to move to Porcitec. Porcitec gave us the reports we were familiar with, as well as giving us opportunities to expand our reporting under a Windows based product. “

## Solution

Pipestone started by converting two farms to Porcitec. They entered data and ran reports simultaneously with their current DOS-based software to verify that the calculations were the same. “Porcitec technical support was very helpful through this period,” says Fransen. “After 6 months, we developed a plan with Agritec to convert all our farms in the system. The time frame for converting the farms was over a period of one month. This time frame allowed us to convert farms as we balanced them at the end of the year in 2010.”

Porcitec is installed on a dedicated server with 7 workstations in the Pipestone central office. Eight farms send data files from handhelds. In another office, Porcitec will be installed to work with 7 more farms using handhelds. Each handheld farm has the Porcitec program installed. Pipestone transfers the data files daily from the handheld farms to the central office so that they always have current data.

All data is transferred to the Web Dashboard system so that the farms, supervisors, and veterinarians can access their data at any time. Fransen says, “We especially like this feature. It is very popular with the barns. They do not have to call to look up a sow ID. They can go to the website and look her up anytime.”

“The program was very easy to install. If we had any issues, technical support at Porcitec was always there to help out. They can access our server remotely and see the problem if they need to. I have found no barriers due to the fact that Porcitec is in Europe and we are in Minnesota,” explains Fransen. “They have given us the best technical support that we could ask for. They have helped us modify reports, as well as design custom reports for us. It is always timely and accurate. We really like the fact that we can design reports in one location and send the report file to someone in another location and have the report already defined.”



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## Benefits

### Timely Reporting

The new solution has increased the speed at which people in the Pipestone system receive critical production data. Providing the right people with timely access to information has significantly improved efficiency. Fransen says, “The reports are excellent, and with the SQL database, custom reports can be easily created. Many reports that we had to export to Excel in order to run macros with the old system are now standard reports. The Web Dashboard is a feature that we could not do without. It allows farms to access their data without having to transfer large database files. “

### Minimal Training Requirements

One day of training was enough for the technicians to familiarize themselves with the new tool. Many users had experience with the former program, and since both systems use the same formulas as defined by the National Pork Board, the transition was very smooth. Migration of data is total, so there was no data loss.

Other features that Pipestone likes about the program include fast data entry via handhelds, spreadsheets and batch files. “We have found the speed to be as quick as data entry was in the former program.

### A Solid Foundation for Future Innovation

Porcitech is built under the latest technology and standards. These standards provide Porcitech with exceptional power, consistency, and future vision. Agritech releases several updated versions each year, incorporating user suggestions. This provides the user with an evolving solution that is constantly adapted to user requirements.

Fransen says, “We are extremely happy with Porcitech and the customer service that they provide us. We have not found any limitations with the program, and we continue to discover more reports that provide knowledge to our production staff and farms.”

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