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Using Daily Weigh Software to Plan Marketing of Animals and to Assist in Sorting Animals for Market

The Osborne Weight Watcher System, consisting of the Osborne Survey Scale and Daily Weigh software, is a powerful tool to help farms market animals within their desired target weight window. The system provides reports to aide in making predictions of pigs ready for market in the future based on their current weights and growth rates, view the actual number of pigs in selected weight ranges on a given day, and the ability to configure the scale and penning for market sorting. This technical note will describe how the reports provided in the Daily Weigh Software can be used to accomplish these tasks. The first step is to examine the scale data in the Daily Weigh software to determine the growth rate of the animal.
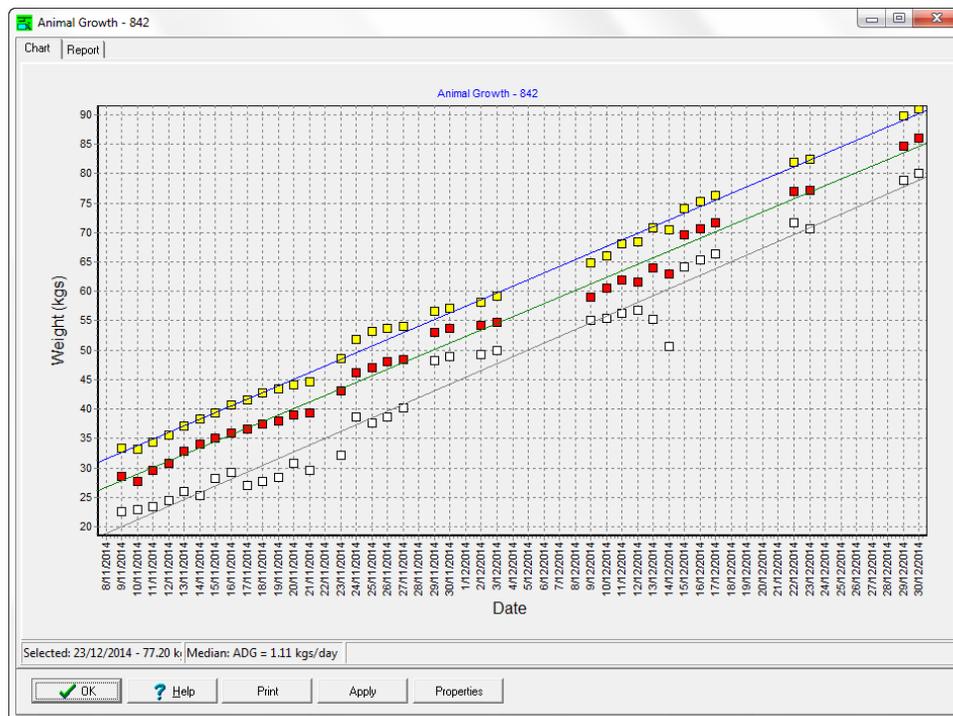
The Growth Chart Report for a scale is used to illustrate the animal growth data in that pen or room. Open the Growth Chart Report for a selected scale or location by right clicking on the scale or location, and then left clicking on the Growth Chart. When viewing the Growth Chart, a right click gives an option to calculate a Best Fit Line, a linear approximation of the animal growth for each data set shown.

Please observe in the above graph illustration, the data points were not transferred for each day. This is evident by the gaps in data points. Even though data gaps exist, the data is consistent and complete enough to provide accurate calculation of the best fit line. After displaying the best fit line, a left click on one of the median data points shows the Median ADG at the bottom of the report. In this case the ADG is 1.11 kg per day. Make note of ADG for use in the next reports.

Single Source
SWINE SOLUTIONS™

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One of the unique capabilities of the Weight Watcher System is providing a view into the future to help managers plan their marketing a month or more in advance. This is possible because of the collection of data by continuous weighing of all pigs each day in an automatic and natural way.

The Market Predictor Report can be used at any time, at least two weeks after the animal training has been completed, and the animals are using the scale in Weight Watcher Mode. Typically, these animals would be between 60 and 90 kg at this time, depending on their starting weight and rate of gain.

Open the Market Predictor Report for a selected scale or location by right clicking on the scale or location, and then left clicking on the Market Predictor. The desired Low and High Market Weights should be entered to define the target market weight range. Looking back to the Growth Chart Report, if the data points exist for each day, and with no gaps, the ADG can be determined automatically from the selected previous number of days' data. In the case of the Growth Chart Report shown, there are only data points for two of the past seven days, which is not enough to automatically determine the ADG for the Market Predictor Report. In this case we must enter a fixed ADG value. Enter the ADG value that you noted in the Growth Chart Report into the ADG blank, and click the Fixed ADG check box. Enter the starting and ending dates, and the number of days between each step to be shown in the table below.

To view animals ready by week, enter 7 for the step value. Typically the time period selected would cover 15 to 45 days, and the step could be between 1 and 7, depending on when marketings should occur. Click Apply after changing any of the setup values to update the report data.
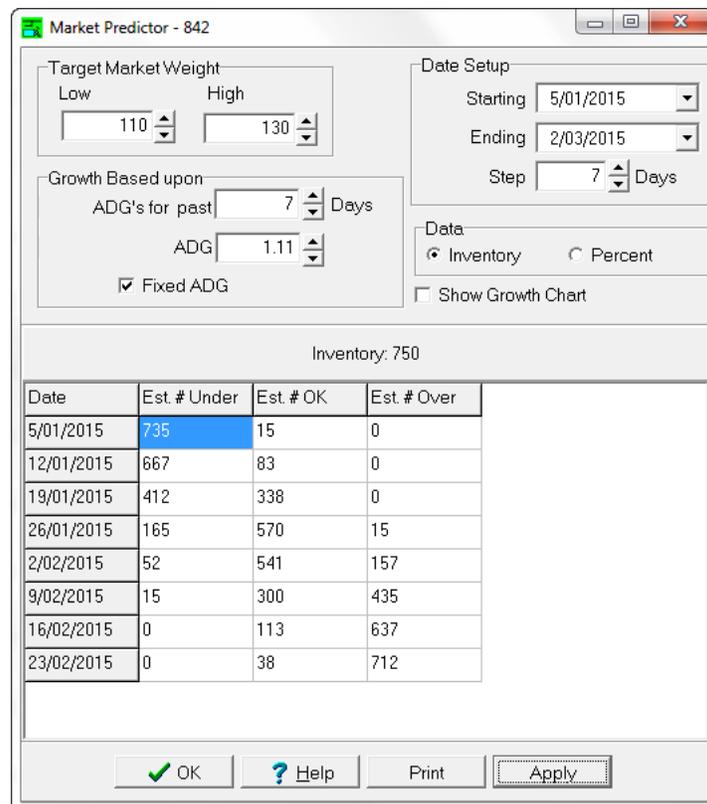
Market Predictor - 842

Target Market Weight
Low 110   High 130

Date Setup
Starting 5/01/2015
Ending 2/03/2015
Step 7 Days

Growth Based upon
ADG's for past 7 Days
ADG 1.11
☑ Fixed ADG

Data
⦿ Inventory   ○ Percent
☐ Show Growth Chart

Inventory: 750

Date	Est. # Under	Est. # OK	Est. # Over
5/01/2015	735	15	0
12/01/2015	667	83	0
19/01/2015	412	338	0
26/01/2015	165	570	15
2/02/2015	52	541	157
9/02/2015	15	300	435
16/02/2015	0	113	637
23/02/2015	0	38	712

✓ OK   ? Help   Print   Apply

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The Market Predictor Report Estimates the number of pigs that are in the Market Weight Range, underweight, or overweight. The data in the illustration shows that on 12 January, 83 pigs should be in the target market weight range. Pig weights are not predicted to be over the market weight range until the week of 26 January. Based on this, the manager could begin market sorting any time between these dates. If it was desired to market pigs twice from this pen, then a sort on 26 January and a final marketing on 9 February should result in 96% of pigs being marketed in the desired Market Weight Range. Further refinement to determine optimal market sorting dates could be determined by changing the Start and End Dates and the number of days in the Step value.

While the Market Predictor Report is a powerful tool for planning future marketing, when it comes time to sort animals for market, the Daily Summary Report should be examined. The Daily Summary Report allows the manager to view actual numbers of animals in desired weight ranges.

Open the Daily Summary Report for a selected scale or location by right clicking on the scale or location, and then left clicking on the Daily Summary. Enter Weight 1, Weight 2, Weight 3, and Weight 4 to define different weight group ranges. These values must be in ascending order, (W1 < W2 < W3 < W4), or else the report will show erroneous data. Although these values are similar to the Weight 1 - Weight 4 values on the scale, they are independent, used only in this report, are not transferred to the scale, and do not affect the scale operation. Typically the Weight 3 would be the Low Market Weight and Weight 4 would be the High Market Weight. Weight 1 and Weight 2 would both be values lower than Weight 3 and could be set to show animals that will be ready for market in the future, based on their current weights and ADG. Click Apply to update the chart. The chart will visually represent how many animals are in each weight range as well as showing a count of animals in each range on the day highlighted on the right hand side.

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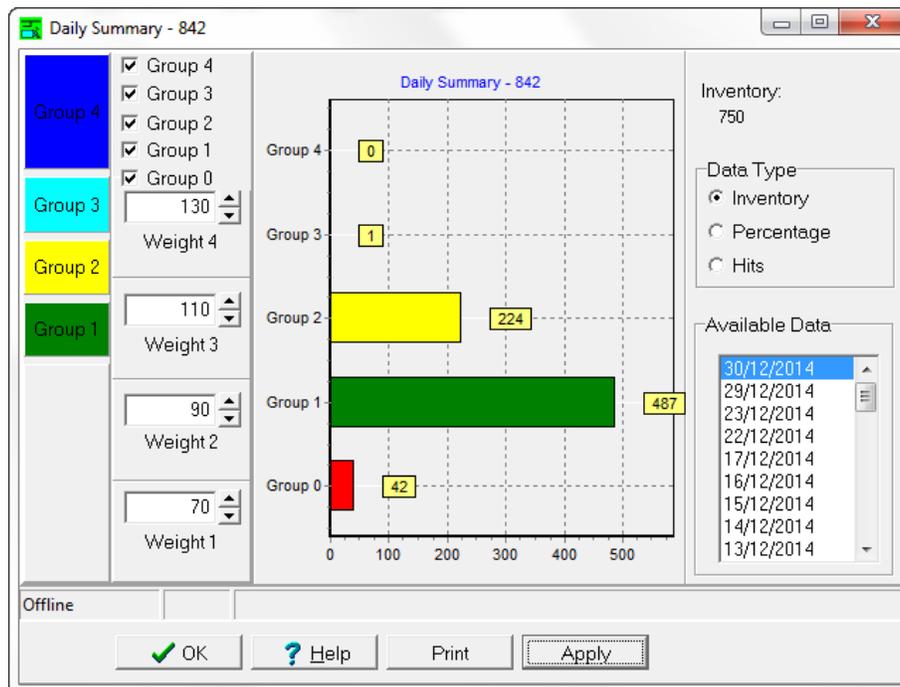
The illustration on the previous page shows one animal to be in the weight range of 110 to 130kg, 224 animals to be between 90 and 110kg, 487 to be between 70 and 90kg, and 42 to be less than 70kg. This data is useful when preparing to Market Sort because it shows how many animals are within the Market Weight Range and available for sorting on a specific date.