PigGas Report 22 – 660 sow, farrow to weaner, conventional piggery, Qld December 2013



Production details

This is a small conventional piggery which produces weaners which are grown out on a secondary grower site. Weaners are transferred to the grower unit at three weeks of age.

Feed consumption

Pigs are fed a diet sourced from a local commercial supplier. The diet is based on locally grown cereals. The annual feed consumption on this site is 827 tonnes.

Sales/Tranfers

15,834 pigs/yr are sold with a total dressed weight equivalent of 98 t/yr.

Waste management systems

Manure is flushed from each shed in an underfloor pull-plug system into two separate lagoons on different sides of the farm.

Manure reuse systems

Treated effluent is pumped from the anaerobic holding ponds and utilised to irrigate pastures adjacent to the piggery that are used for livestock grazing.

On-Farm Baseline Emissions

The current baseline emissions for this piggery total 1,162 tonnes CO_2 -e/yr with an on farm emissions intensity of 16.68 kg CO_2 -e/kg HSCW.





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On-Farm Emissions Reduction Scenario

Like most conventional piggeries with anaerobic ponds, the majority of emissions on this piggery come from pond methane. As it was anticipated that the cost of generating electricity on the site would be potentially impractical, a scenario of covering the ponds and flaring the biogas was investigated.

This scenario (see table below) reduced on-farm emissions **from 1.162 t/yr to 403 t/yr** and reduced **from 16.68 to 5.79 (65% reduction)**.

If carbon emission were to be further eliminated by generating electricity (meeting 60% of the piggeries needs) and reducing feed wastage to 5% the on farm emission could be reduced to 230 t/y or an intensity of 4.19 kg CO_2 -e/kg HSCW. This would represent a 75% reduction in carbon emissions intensity from the current baseline.

Given the current scale and infrastructure of this piggery and prevailing industry profitability levels it is unlikely that any of these option would be economically viable at this time.





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Annual Greenhouse Gas Emissions Profile (calculated using PigGas)

Emissions	Current Emissions	Reduction Scenario
	Baseline	(kg CO ₂ -e/yr)
Pre-farm		
Grain	206,640	206,640
Milling & delivery	39,675	39,675
Pig freight	1,458	1,458
Straw & bedding		
Total Pre-farm	247,773	247,773
On-farm		
Fuels & energy		
Purchased electricity	128,480	128,480
Fuel - stationary	10,731	10,731
Fuel - transport		
Enteric CH₄	28,284	28,284
Manure management		
MMS CH ₄	855,129	95,014
MMS – direct N ₂ O	12,389	12,389
MMS – Atmos. deposition N₂O	49,554	
Waste applied to soil		
Soil – direct N ₂ O	74,207	123,762
Soil – leaching & runoff N ₂ O	2,978	4,966
Offsets		
Total On-farm	1,161,751	403,625
Post-farm		
Pig freight	2,435	2,435
Meat processing	39,362	39,362
Exported manure		
Total Post-farm	41,797	41,797
Dressed weight sold - HSCW (kg/yr)	98,405	98,405
Coult on footswint	(h- co - / h- ucou)	// CO / / UCCU!
Carbon footprint	(kg CO ₂ -e / kg HSCW)	(kg CO ₂ -e / kg HSCW)
Pre-farm	3.56	3.56
On-farm	16.68	5.79
Post-farm	0.60	0.60
Total	20.83	9.95

