

Answers: Lean Production in the Pork Industry(Helping Pig Farmers Increase Efficiency)

Questions to discuss:

1. In order to raise healthy pigs, what do farmers need to provide?
 - a. Good quality feed
 - b. Access to clean water
 - c. Clean bedding and shelter
 - d. Company
 - e. Medical treatment if needed
2. List the arguments for and against indoor pig units – consider the needs of different stakeholders and the reality of setting up a new indoor unit.

For	Against
Better able to manage and monitor	care Less natural environment for the pigs i.e., pigs can't forage and eat only manufactured feed.
Less chance of illnesses/injury infrastructure	Expensive to build, complex
Not such an eyesore for locals	High running costs
Smaller area of land required	Staff require more training

3. Why do you think food assurance schemes such as the Red Tractor are important for...
 - a. Consumers
 - Demonstrates a level of care within the food production process
 - Able to make informed decisions around food choices, reducing the need to research independently
 - Increases confidence in consumer choices
 - b. Producers
 - Recognises the additional care and costs involved in producing food to a higher standard
 - Adds value to the product so that a premium price can be charged
 - Helps to cover the additional costs involved in more considerately produced food.
4. When beginning to implement Lean Production, Neil Feddon recommends a 'waste walk' take place. How and why does he recommend this happens?
 - Conduct a waste walk by working through each of the processes that take place on the farm, recognising any inefficiencies and areas which could be improved.
 - It may help to use post it notes to break down the processes into separate stages.
 - By recognising inefficiencies, it is then possible to determine how they can be resolved and what savings in terms of resources can be made.

5. In pairs, think about the last time you made a cake, take a 'waste walk' and consider whether you could have been more efficient? How would you have increased efficiency in the following areas:

- Transport –
- Inventory/stock –
- Motion –
- Waiting –
- Overprocessing –
- Overproduction –
- Defects –
- Skills –

6. Mark Feddon then recommends focusing on the quickest, easiest and most beneficial opportunities to reduce waste. Why do you think this is?

Small improvements will, in time, have a large impact on efficiencies and staff motivation. By starting small it makes it easier to then introduce and implement more complex and perhaps unwelcome changes.