



Nutrition Update: Seasonal Diet Formulation for PIC Pigs

April 2018

It seems that the supply and demand theory works pretty well in pig production. Historically, as pig supply reduces in summer months, pig prices increase. This may vary across the globe as different regions might be affected differently by the changes in temperature and humidity across the different seasons of the year. However, at the end of the day, there will still be some changes in supply as the year goes by (Figure 1).

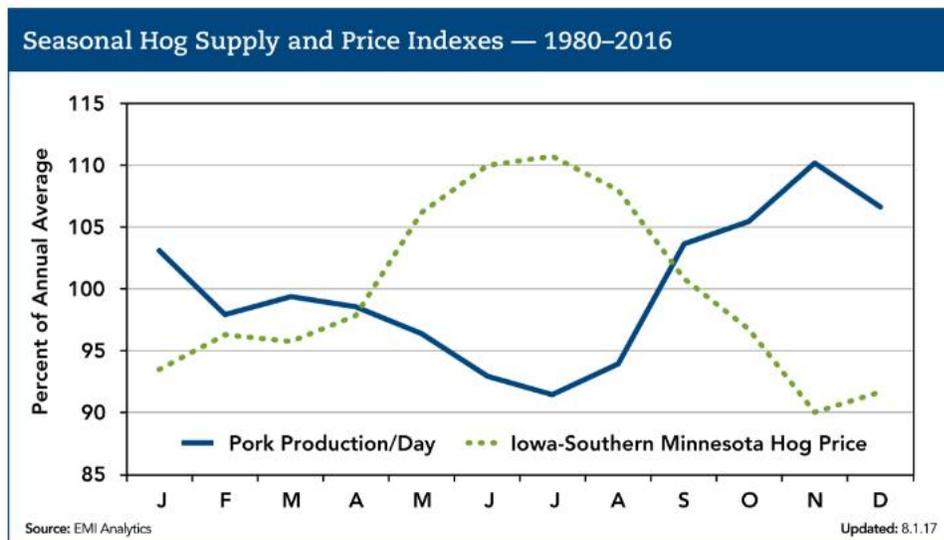


Figure 1. Seasonal pig supply and price indexes from 1980 to 2016 (EMI Analytics).

The above graph showcases the reduction in pig supply, which is likely linked to suppressed farrowing rates from seasonal infertility from summer matings and fall farrowings; increased disease outbreaks during winter and reduced growth due to lower feed intake during warmer months. In order to make the most out of the increased pig price during summer

months, the nutritionist and production team need to focus on strategies to increase weight gain in the months prior to summer. Some of the strategies that can be applied are listed below. The application of each strategy will depend on the current level already used in the production system and specific pricing scenarios available. Common strategies include:

- Increased energy levels
- Increased Lysine and other amino acids levels, such as tryptophan and valine
- Increased copper levels
- Ractopamine and/or other growth promoting additives

PIC has developed an Excel-based tool (Figure 2) to aid nutritionists and producers with a calendar identifying dates to update each diet in order to get the most out of the high pig price during the summer months (Figure 3).

Specifically, this tool assists nutritionists to calculate when the growth promoting intervention should be implemented, and when it should cease for each weight range/phase. As you can see in Figure 2:

- 1) You enter in the “best window” cell the time period in which you want the increased weights
- 2) Select the pigs gender
- 3) Enter the weight range of each diet
- 4) Select your present level of gain / performance from the systems constraint tab

This tool calculates the implementation/start date and ending date for the inclusion of the growth increasing intervention.

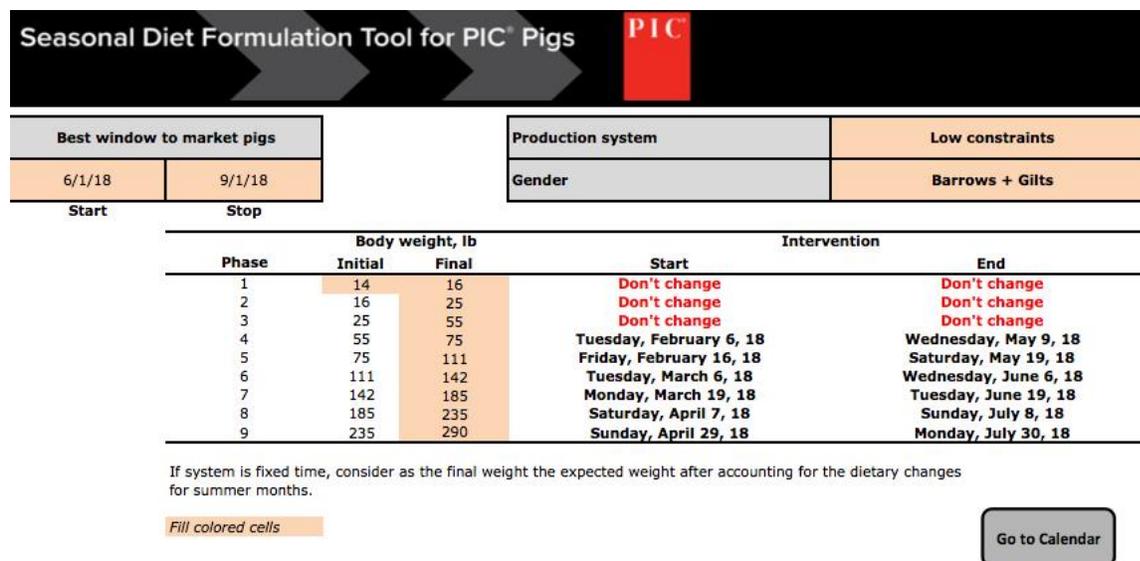


Figure 2. Seasonal diet formulation tool.



The start and ending date by phase is displayed in two ways. One display is the color-coded blocks on the calendar, the other is the start and finish columns where start and finish dates of the intervention are shown by phase (Figure 3).

[Click here to download the Seasonal Diet Formulation Tool.](#)

If you have any questions or comments, please contact your PIC Account Manager or the PIC nutrition team for additional information or support at any time.

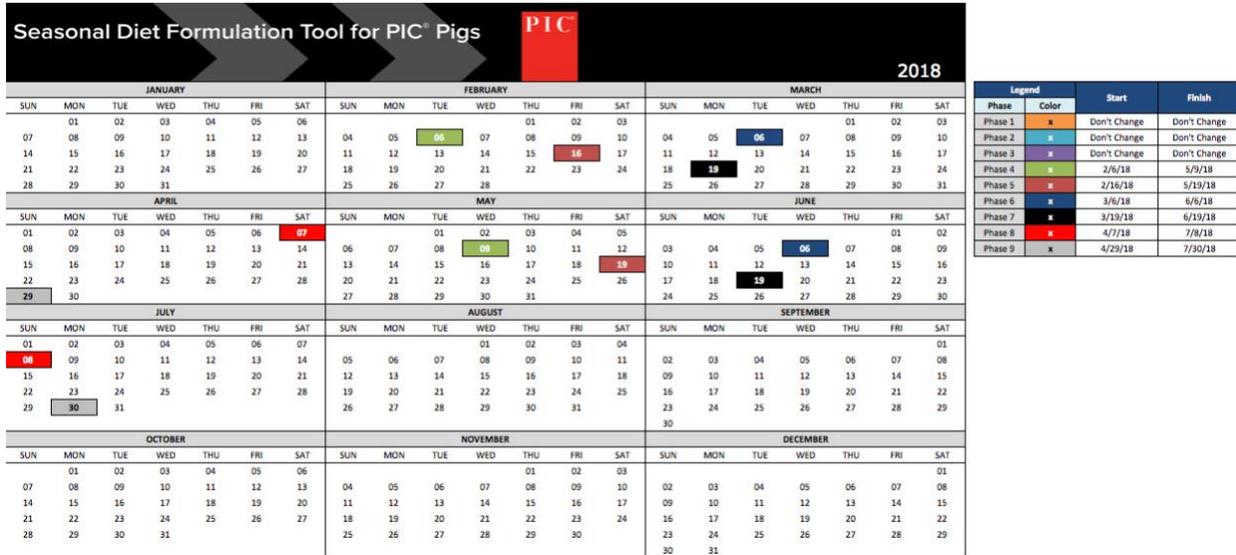


Figure 3. Calendar with dates for expected diet changes.