

Qualitatively an important increase in ham imports can be noted during the last ten years. It has probably been encouraged by an increasing, per capita, of ham consumption and also by progressive specialization of the slaughtering, carcass cutting and meat processing sectors and may mean that French pork consumption is beginning to change.

French foreign trade in pork also shows conjunctural variations mainly due to seasonal production fluctuations.

The competitive power of the countries supplying France has been studied by comparing the different prices, where the advantage for the French market of Belgian and Dutch carcass exporters appeared.

Analysis of the E.E.C. foreign trade in pork

J. VANDERHAEGEN, A. VIGNE

I.T.P., Service Économie, 34, bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex

Pork trade within the E.E.C. has materially increased between 1968 and 1977 on the one hand because of the accomplishment of the Common Market which abolished impediments to free trade and on the other hand because more or less important changes in production and consumption in the different countries.

Self-supply in E.E.C. with 6 countries, then E.E.C. with 9, slightly fluctuated around index of 100 for the last ten years. This fact however conceals important differences between the pork importing countries (FRG, France, Italy, U.K.), the structural deficit of which increased—except for the U.K. at the expense of a consumption decrease—and the exporting countries (Netherlands, Belgium) which have strengthened their position or maintained a considerable, even though diminished, surplus—as Ireland and Denmark.

E.E.C. import from other countries have followed fluctuations of the production: the maximum being reached in 1975, slack season in the E.E.C. production (self-supply: 99 p. 100). Since 1973, imports mainly come from Central Europe and Russia—with a preference for G.D.R.—because of their commercial relations with F.R.G.

E.E.C. export to other countries remain low for the products in the present survey (only 5 p. 100 of trade quantities inside E.E.C.). Denmark alone stands for 50 p. 100 of export.

Trade structures between different countries has also changed. Each exporting country has a privileged customer, more so in Denmark than in Holland or in Belgium, according to the specificity of the exported goods—here bacon.

Among importing countries, F.R.G., Italy and the United Kingdom have more specific supplier (Netherlands for F.R.G. and Italy and Denmark for the United Kingdom). France shares its import between Belgium and Holland. The F.G.R. Italy, United Kingdom and France import between 10 and 15 p. 100 of their supply from other countries.

Monetary fluctuations and pig production

A. VIGNE, J. VANDERHAEGEN

I.T.P., Service Économie, 34, bd de la Gare, 31079 Toulouse Cedex

Since a few years, monetary fluctuations have been a very important factor in competition between E.E.C. pork producers.

The « monetary-agricultural policy » adopted to avoid distortions between the different countries proved to be a handicap for countries having depreciated currency and an advantage for countries with a high currency. Distortions due to the use of « green » exchange rates and to M.C.M. concern pork prices as well as production costs.

A simulation of the development of prices and incomes without monetary-agricultural policy shows that at the medium-term, low currency countries might remain handicapped as compared with high currency countries. Until European currency exists, a true Common Market concerning pork necessarily depends on the stabilization of exchange rates.

**Pig herds in cereal cultivation areas:
application of a financial model to the analysis
of different production systems**

J. RENARD, J. Y. TIRILLY

*Chambre d'Agriculture du Loir-et-Cher,
5, rue de la Paix, 41000 Blois (France)
Institut Technique des Céréales et des Fourrages,
8, avenue du Président Wilson, 75116 Paris*

As only few studies have been devoted to an analysis of the relationship between animal production and farm structure, we decided to examine this problem in a particular regional context involving several types of pig herds in order to estimate their impact on the financial output of the farms.

This study was made during the first three months of 1978 by the Department of Economics of the Chamber of Agriculture and the E.D.E(*) of Loir and Cher, as well as the I.T.C.F.(**) together with a group of farmers. The technical references used take into account the regional data.

Among the « models » studied, we choosed a farm structure including 30 hectares of arable soil subjected to the usual rotation of that region : winter wheat, (15 ha) winter barley (7.5 ha) rapeseed (3.7 ha), maize (3.8 ha). In the models including pigs, the rapeseed was replaced by maize cultures representing in that case 25 p. 100 of the total surface. The yields and subsequent gross margins examined corresponded to average values recorded in the Loir et Cher. This farm exhibited a relative financial autonomy as shown by its « own capital/permanent capital » ratio of 68 p. 100. It was used as a reference model for the different simulations.

Five pig producing farms processing their own cereals were studied. The different feeds were manufactured on the farm, except the starter feed for piglets and the formulation of the diets was based on I.T.C.F. data. Farm I was a classical pig fattening farm with an animal production of 800 pigs subjected to restricted feeding and consuming almost 100 p. 100 of the farm's cereals. Farm II of the same capacity as farm I was also specialized in pig fattening and used the Belgian system of accumulated beddings. Farm III was specialized in piglet production with a total of 42 sows. The piglets were sold at 25 kg live weight. In farm IV, the piglets were both reared and fattened, the piglets being produced in the same conditions as in farm III and the bacon pigs fattened in a piggery of the Belgian type (farm II). Farm V was also a piglet rearing farm like farm III, but the piglets replacement came systematically from outside.

The different results obtained during this study show the advantage of using the pig as a processor of the cereals produced on the farm. Thus, the income of a 30 ha farm only specialized in pig production will be about 2-3 times improved as compared to the cereal production provided that the technical results obtained are very good. In terms of financial risks it seems more advisable to begin with production of fattening pigs and then breeding sows three years later.

The influence of the technical choices on the result is very important. The advantage of *ad libitum* feeding as compared to feed restriction essentially depends on the type of pigs produced. A 17 p. 100 growth gain with this technique is sufficient for its application.

In the piglet rearing farms and in comparison with production of replacement piglets on the farm, the systematic purchase of future breeding animals requires an animal production gain of 1.90 piglet per sow.

(*) E.D.E. : Établissements Départementaux de l'Élevage.

(**) I.T.C.F. : Institut Technique des Céréales et des Fourrages.