



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Osborne Introduces New Features for its *Weight Watcher*<sup>™</sup> Growth Management System**

Inventory tracking, water consumption, and temperature profiles have all been identified as important parameters for total management of pig growth. Now these key indicators have been added to the Osborne Daily Weigh<sup>™</sup> software for the *Weight Watcher*<sup>™</sup> Growth Management System, according to Ron Thibault, Vice President for Engineering at Osborne Industries, Inc., Osborne, KS.

The *Weight Watcher* System (WWS) manages the growth of up to 600 head of pigs in large groups by daily weighing and separating of pigs as they move from a water pen to feed pens. The WWS has been tested for nearly eight years on the Osborne Demonstration Farm, using time-lapse video capture and radio-frequency identification (RFID) ear-tags, says Thibault. He adds that with RFID and video tracking, Osborne research has shown the close linkage between daily temperature changes and feed intake.

Thibault adds that “we have added the temperature tracking feature to Daily Weigh software so that we can correlate the beneficial influence of temperature control on feed intake and growth variability. Temperature also effects water intake so our Daily Weigh software now also includes a water-tracking feature. The system graphs and summarizes water consumption. This feature automates the water charting procedure recommended by Dr. Mike Brumm at the University of Nebraska. These two added features provide an added dimension of control, not previously possible.”

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According to Thibault, inventory tracking is also now possible with entry of inventory updates either at the Survey Scale or with the Daily Weigh software. This feature enables more accurate close outs for each pen of pigs.

A live-animal WWS seminar at the World Pork Expo, June 9-11, will be the first general introduction of these new features, says Claudio Faundez, Osborne show manager. The seminars will demonstrate the WWS pen lay-out and the use of all of these new features including the use of RFID for individual pig tracking and will be repeated several times each day to accommodate as many visitors as possible.

Osborne Industries, Inc. is a diversified manufacturer of livestock equipment and custom-engineered composites and elastometric materials located in Osborne, KS. For more information, call 800-255-0316 or visit [www.osborne-ind.com](http://www.osborne-ind.com)

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