Boehringer Ingelheim

Choosing wisely: PCV2 vaccines

Together, we get it right.

Life forward

View the trial report

Scan the code to view the production-scale trial report, including robust design and initial findings.

☑ You can also opt to receive ongoing updates and access to education modules

At a glance

- 2,700 sow, farrow-to-finish commercial facility
- Testing confirmed the presence of PCV2 virus during the trial
- Pigs were weighed individually at the time of vaccination and at the time of slaughter
- Vaccinations were carried out by farm staff (overseen by a veterinary consultant)
- Alternating weekly batches of approx. 1,100 pigs per vaccine group; replicated in triplicate for a total of 6,608 pigs studied
- 1 mL Ingelvac CircoFLEX®; or 0.2 mL of an intradermal PCV2 vaccine was administered at 3 weeks of age

> little improvements in productivity add up to big changes in profit.

A large-scale Australian farm trial[1] has revealed new data that quantifies real-world differences in herd health and farm profitability based on vaccine selection.

The reliability of this new data puts a renewed premium on vaccine selection, with implications flowing through to tightening of production cycles and finishing.

Porcine circovirus type 2 (PCV2) has been associated with multiple disease conditions in pigs, with signs including weight loss, abortions and stillbirths. It presents a major challenge in the swine industry that can hit hard on farm productivity. While the protective power of PCV2 vaccination is well-established, the broader impacts of vaccine choice have been less clear, until now.

A recent full-scale production trial, the largest of its kind in Australia, has evaluated the two market-leading PCV2 vaccines, carefully comparing production metrics to quantify the impact on farm profitability. The outcome revealed significant differences, reaffirming the value of Ingelvac CircoFLEX for Australian producers.

Ingelvac CircoFLEX® provides active immunisation of pigs as an aid in the prevention and control of diseases associated with PCV2.

Results

Analysis of the data showed that pigs vaccinated with CircoFLEX performed better on key productivity metrics. With higher average daily weight gain, more CircoFLEX pigs were marketed by batch closure (22.5 weeks of age), pulling forward revenue and delivering a net profitability advantage.

7 g/day

CircoFLEX pigs grew more per day AND more consistently throughout the production cycle, on average

8.7%

more pigs were marketed by 22.5 weeks of age with CircoFLEX

$2.04

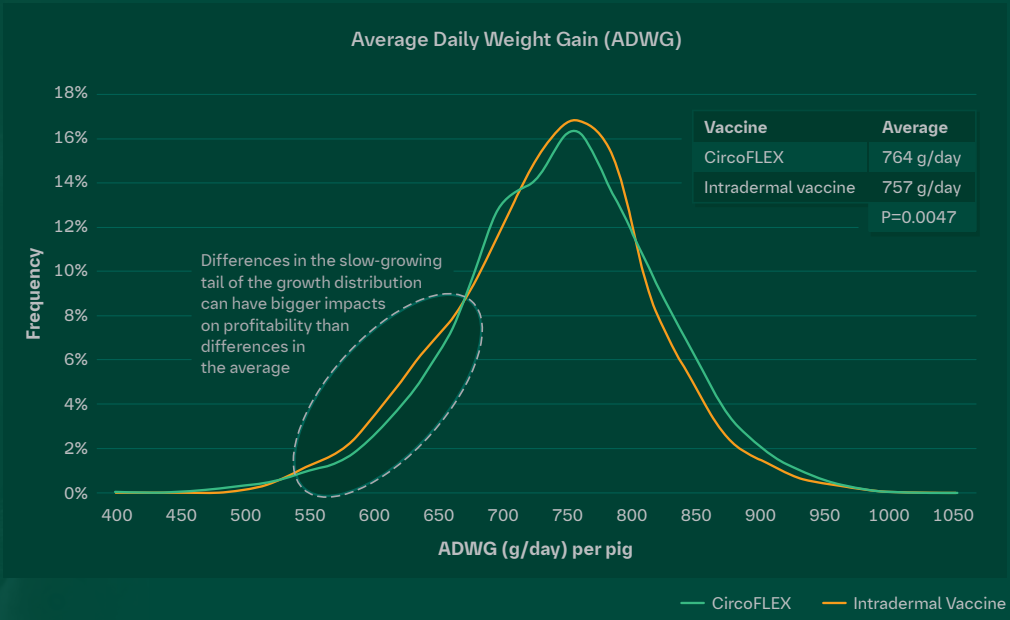
CircoFLEX pigs created more profit per pig (based on typical market conditions[2]), delivering a significant return on investment

No matter which way you slice it, CircoFLEX generated a premium outcome for the farm and business alike.

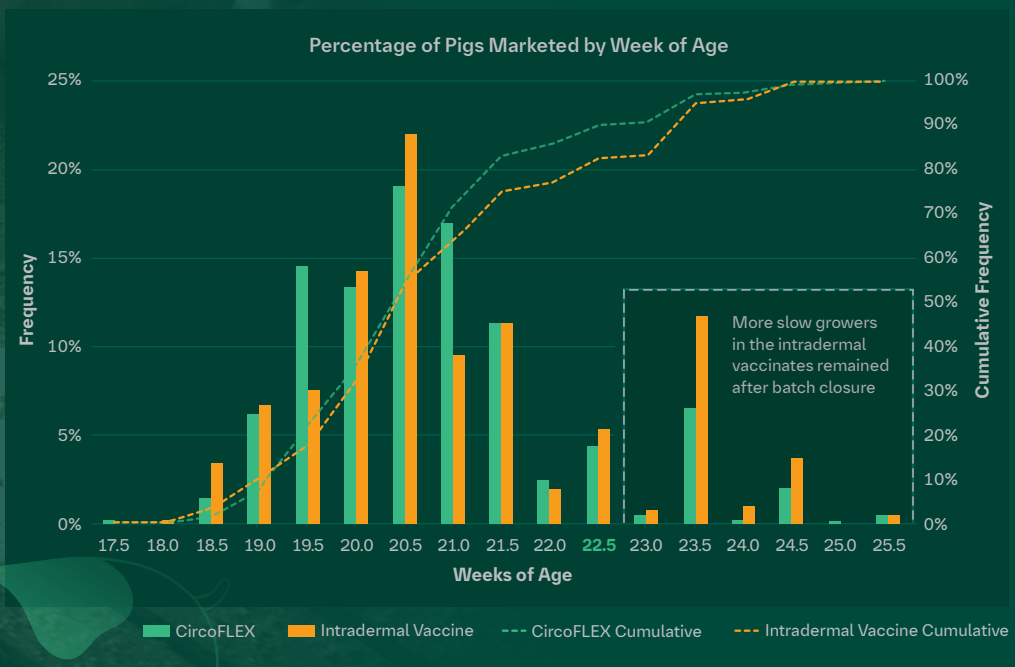
Average daily weight gain

One of the most significant outcomes of the trial was that CircoFLEX pigs grew faster.

On average, there was a 7.0 g/day difference (P=0.0047) between the vaccine groups. Most importantly, this resulted in fewer slow growers, generating a cascade of productivity and profitability gains.



Age of pigs when marketed



With faster weight gain, **85.8%** of the CircoFLEX group were marketed by batch closure at 22.5 weeks.

In contrast, only **77.1%** of the intradermal vaccinates were marketed by the same time. The cost burden of sustaining a higher number of slow growers extends beyond feed and human resources, as it also reduces the turnover rate of finishing barns which limits the number of possible production cycles per year.

The number of marketing events per batch can have a dramatic effect on annual profit per pig space.

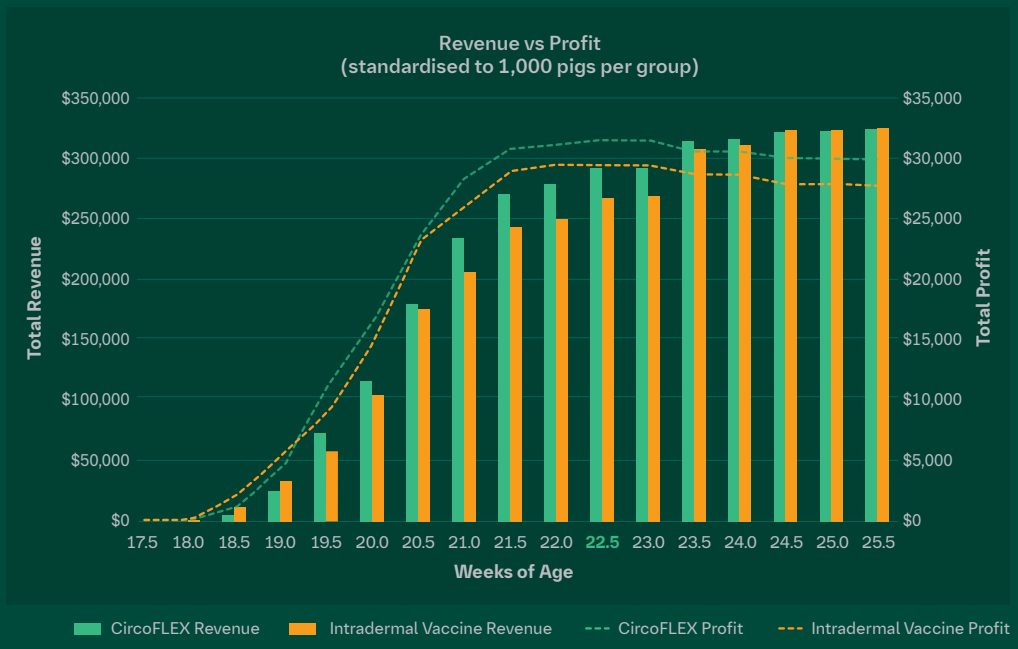
In the trial, herd profitability peaked between 22 and 23 weeks. Beyond that, ongoing feed costs, delayed shed turnover and labour demands eroded profits.

Revenue & profitability

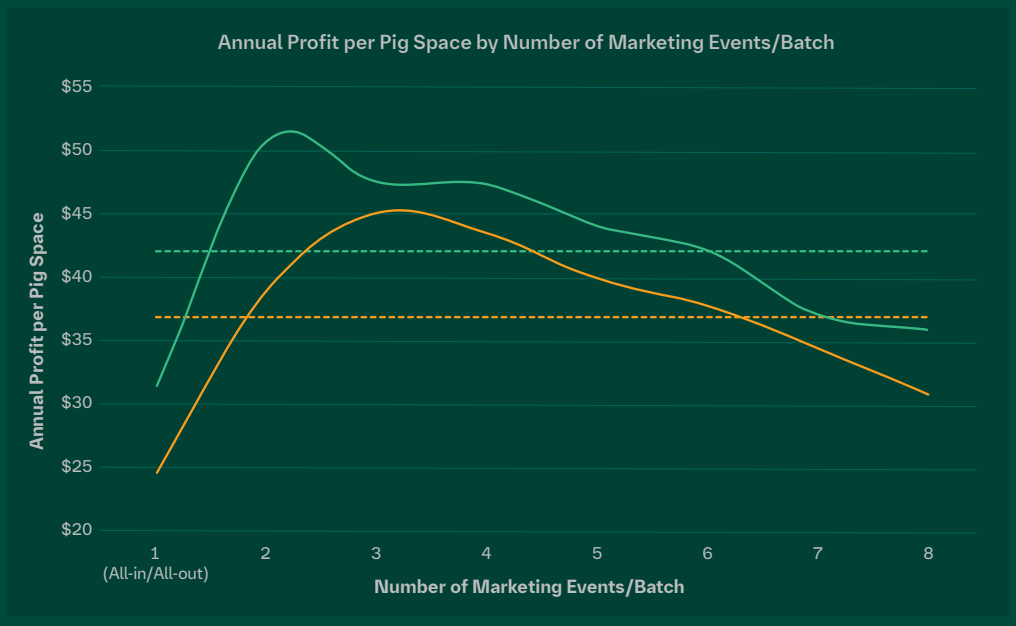
Revenue and profitability was analysed across all six batches, then segmented by age at marketing. With more slow growers, the revenue for the intradermal group was lower at batch closure.

While revenues eventually equalised, the high cost of finishing larger numbers of pigs resulted in a permanent gap in profitability.

Based on typical market conditions[2], the average profit differed by $2.04 per head (P=0.011).



Optimised production



Modelled using typical Australian feed and pork prices[2]

Modelling the trial data to incorporate improvements in weight gain and potential increases in production cycles per year, CircoFLEX maintains a superior profit performance across various marketing scenarios.

Overall, CircoFLEX delivered a higher average profit outcome for the farm, at $5.20 more per pig space per year.

- The largest ever Australian swine trial of its kind, conducted in a commercial facility under typical market conditions, has accurately quantified **real-world productivity differences** between the two leading PCV2 vaccines.
- Seemingly small improvements produced **significant gains** in profitability - a reminder that vaccines are not all equal.
- The wise choice for PCV2 management is **CircoFLEX**.

Every decision in swine health management is an investment toward optimal returns. Compromising on disease prevention can lead to significant losses down the line. When we partner together with the right solutions and mindset, the future looks bright.

Contact your veterinary consultant or local Boehringer Ingelheim representative, and discuss how our high-quality disease control solutions can deliver more value to your herd.

Together, we get it right.

References: **1.** Data on file, Report for Boehringer Ingelheim study number 2023-3551. **2.** Australian Pork Limited Eyes & Ears report 07 Mar 2025, Issue # 1130. Accessed at: https://australianpork.com.au/market-reports/eyes-and-ears-reports.

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