

# A Farmer's Testimony (Pig farmer)

Mr John Verhoijsen



Smart Farming for Europe

Value creation through **Precision Livestock Farming**



EU Grant Agreement no.: 311825

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# Introduction

- Family farm Verhoijesen
- Mixed Pig and Poultry farm
  - Semi closed farm
  - 3 locations
  - 1300 Sows
  - 7000 Fattening pigs (building in progress 3800 pigs)
  - 63000 Broilers chickens



Home location  
Sows + broilers



2<sup>nd</sup> location  
Fattening pigs



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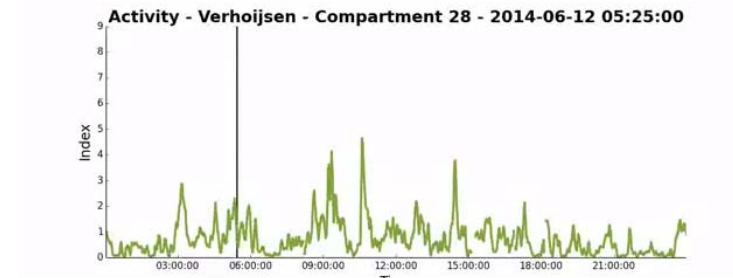
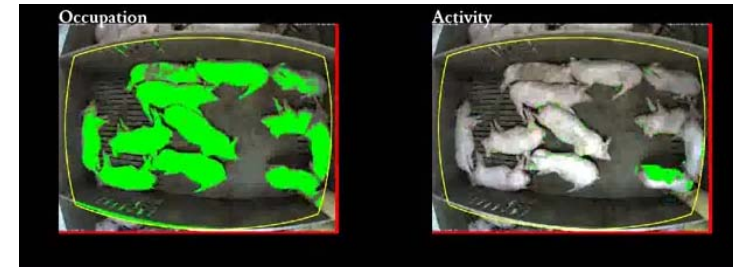
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# Introduction

- PLF sensors on farm
  - eYeNamic (Behaviour)
  - PCM (Health)
  - eYeScan (Weight)
  - Feed
  - Water
  - Climate



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# Benefits

- PLF are tools to develop insight in:
  - **Daily growth performance**
  - Animal behaviour
  - Animal health
- Automation and PLF give me a peace of mind
  - **24/7 alertness on farm**
- Control external factors
  - Limit the effect of the daily temperature changes
    - Climate Management per compartment → drill-down
    - Confidence in equipment
- Data logging → simple to look back



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# PLF gained more interest in community

FINISHERS



Accurate data gives confidence to pig farmers

Precision agriculture is moving ahead very rapidly. Automatic data acquisition on an individual level...

Special editions published by **PIG PROGRESS**

FUTURIS 4 months ago

Big farmer is watching! Surveillance technology monitors animal wellbeing



Big data analyse, zegening of gevaar?



dinsdag 26 juli 2016

aangepast: woensdag 27 juli 2016

Big data zijn hot! Het aantal publicaties, gesprekken en bijeenkomsten over dit onderwerp dat ik in de afgelopen periode heb bijgewoond is bijna niet te tellen.

last updated: 09/05/2016



Humans have long been under CCTV surveillance, but now chickens and pigs are being watched too

Pigs Broilers Layers Mushrooms



How we use data to make better decisions



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# Current disadvantages

- Not always plug-and-play
  - I don't trust the new systems yet
  - Not ready for the big market
- Not accurate enough (for 100% trust)
  - Don't need to be 100% accurate, but 100% reliable!
- It is hard to get a complete overview
  - Need for one integrated system
- No feeling for data, but for animals



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# Farm extension: new pig house

- Will there be PLF-technology? **No**(t yet)
  - Water, feed and climate control are a must
  - EUPLF sensors have not provided me added value; we did not experience problems that these sensors could pick up (e.g. coughs)
  - Financial break-even point not visible for PLF technology
  - I am not an early adaptor: new technologies first have to prove their value!
  - Not enough trust in the current systems
  - PLF sensors → only detection; not a solution
    - Staff member can do both detection and provide solution



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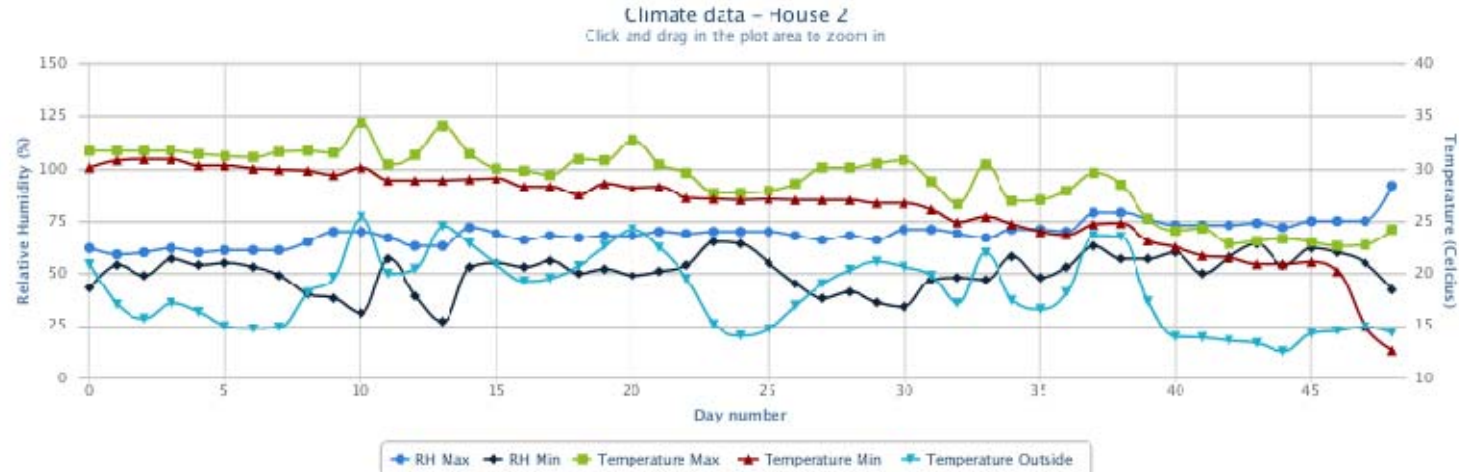


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# Points for improvement

- Simplicity of PLF-systems
- Reliability of the systems
- Standardization of the output
  - Data → information



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# Tips

- Invest time to learn the PLF-systems
- Staff needs the correct competences
  - Animal caretaker
  - Data scientist
  - Electrician
  - Engineer
  - Business Intelligence



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# Application of PLF

- Better monitoring of animal health
  - Improve climate control and reduce effects of unexpected events
  - Optimise feed supply, feed composition and feed quality
  - Optimise growth performance
- Visualisation of pig quality
  - Monitoring of farm staff



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# Added value of PLF

- Look back and improve
  - Optimise farm strategy and vision at operational level
  - Being more conscious about
    - Feed
    - Climate
    - Growth performance
    - Pig weight distributions
- ➔ Finding answers to many unresolved questions



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# Added value of PLF

- Need for individual attention
  - “You don’t grow 1000 pigs, but a thousand times 1 pig”
- The continuity of the farm is top priority
  - Being competitive → scaling up
  - PLF is the next step



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# Added value of PLF

- More attractive for social life
  - Other way of time management
  - More time for others (or more animals)
  - Fixed working times (9 to 17) possible
    - More attractive for staff



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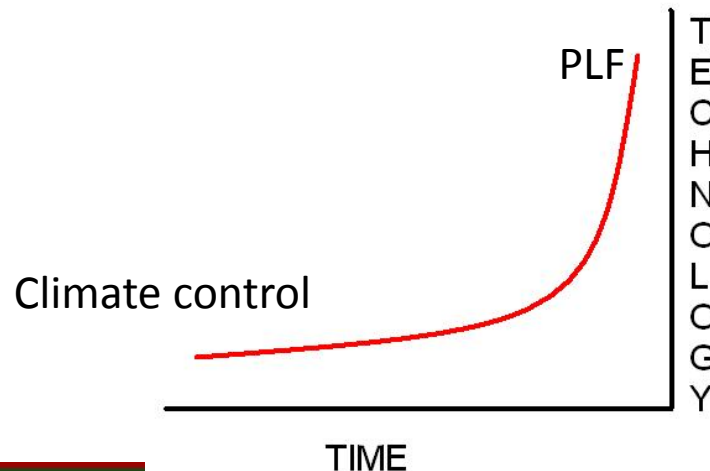
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EU - PLF



# Conclusion

- The EUPLF project made me more conscious about the processes on my farm
- I am not ready for PLF / PLF is not ready for me
- But I am convinced of the potential of PLF



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