

News Letter no. 123



In this issue:

Briefly about upcoming DFA activities

Briefly about completed DFA activities

News from members

Overview DFA activities in 2022-23

Global Pork Meat Prices

Advertises

Short News from Abroad

Overview Company-members

Newsletter 123 – overview of content

Prospects for raw materials - & pork market

Webinar 26 August in corporation with DSM

[Read more](#)

DFA-courses for midlevel managers in stable and fields

MSP Pig start September. CMP Crop – start February 2023

[Read more](#)

New DFA website

New layout and logo for the association

[Read more](#)

Conservation Agriculture in England

Resume of DFA Study Trip 20-23 June

[Read more](#)

Impressive learning in England

Report from participant at the Study Trip

[Read more](#)

Informative inputs on new technology and climate-challenge

Resume from DFA Summer Conference 14 June

[Read more](#)

ERFA-group visit Hog Slat in US

Report from impressive study trip

[Read more](#)

Does New ASF-Vaccine help the pig industry?

Tomasz Trela present his answer

[Read more](#)

Global Pork Meat Price

Overview by Genesis

[Read more](#)

DFA networking activity plan 2022-23

[Read more](#)

Advertises

Job at farm in western Ukraine and News from IFU

[Read more](#)

Short News from Abroad

[Read more](#)

DFA Company members

An overview

[Read more](#)

Briefly about upcoming DFA activities



Webinar:

“Business Intelligence webinar” on the prospects for raw materials & pork market

DFA invites members and others to a webinar on Friday, August 26 2022 at 15.00 to 16.30 CEST on “Teams”. It is offered in collaboration with DSM.

The program includes the following:

- Brief introduction to the webinar by Johannes V. Hansen, DFA and Richard Markus, DSM, Austria
- The outlook for the raw material & pork market - as DSM sees it. v / Adolfo Fontes, DSM, Holland
- Q&A

Registration to the DFA secretariat via mail or phone latest **Wednesday 24 August**.

DFA courses for middle managers in crop- and pig production

The **DFA MSP course** for pig managers starts in week 38 (September 20-23) with the first seminar. The following three will be held during 2023.

We have succeeded in assembling a team of 12 pig managers - and registrations are still open.

An updated course folder with the timeline can be found on the DFA website [here](#).

DFA CMP course for Crop managers is planned to start in week 8, 2023 (21 - 24 February) with the first seminar in Denmark. The second of three will be held in Romania (June 14-16) and the final in Slovakia in November 2023.

Further information about the two courses can be found [here](#).

Contact course leader **Povl Nørgaard** on + 45 31720145 or mail: povl@povlnorgaard.dk or the DFA secretariat for more information about the two courses.

DFA website - now in a new layout

A new DFA website has seen the light of day this spring - and it is now available in both a Danish and English version.

After 10 years there was a need for a renewal of the website and the DFA logo - users decide whether the renewal has also led to improvements in usability and clarity. Take a look at the website [here](#)

Briefly about completed DFA activities

35 DFA members on a technical study trip in England

The Study trip 20 - 23 June in England was a good experience for the 35 participants. After arriving at Stansted, Luton and London City airports, the group met at the Ibis Hotel in Luton.

From here the trip went on Tuesday to the area north of Birmingham, having first visit to Tim Parton, Brewwood Park Farm, Coven. After a good lunch, Clive Baily, TWB Farms was visited. Most of the group had met him at DFA Winter Conference, where Clive had a virtual presentation.



Tim Parton talks about his crop farming

After an overnight stay near Birmingham, the group continued Wednesday 22 June towards "Groundswell - Regenerative Agricultural Show & Conference" - an exhibition and conference held for the 6th time on 22-23 June.

This is an experimental farm, which on these two days are filled with machines for environmentally friendly farming, as well as with tents where a large number of presentations were submitted about new environmentally friendly cultivation methods in agriculture.

There were many things for the group to look at and many professional presentations to listen to. The exhibition was in the middle of a large experimental field. For most of the group, the day ended with a visit and a glass of beer at Agreena's stand, where Ida Boesen welcomed and talked about the company's CO2 trade.

It was a good and educational day for all the participants. A handful from the group chose to visit the show day 2 as well. See Bente Andersen's professional report below.

Lots of professional inputs on the trip to England

By Bente Andersen, Crop advisor, Skanderborg

Crop manager **Tim Parton, Breward Park Farm** is in charge of running the farm for a family working outside agriculture. Low amounts of nitrogen were used, and the use of synthetically produced fungicides

was omitted with few exceptions when the courage failed. In return, Tim bought portions of microorganisms, which he propagated in a fermentation tank. Then they were sprayed on the crops. He also composted grass and horse manure. The compost was filtered, and the liquid sprayed on the crops. He also sprayed amino acid products onto the crops. The next day at the exhibition "Groundswell" we met several dealers of preparations targeted at crop managers such as Tim. Tim was very interested in plant nutrition, which he himself studied a lot. His goal was to strengthen the resilience of the crop by spraying e.g. silicon. He took analyzes of the crop, which he sent for analysis in the Netherlands. Based on these analyzes, he fertilized the crops.



Clive Bailey in the field together with the group

Clive Bailey, Hammerwich House Farm perform Conservation Agriculture. His focus is largely on the importance of the living soil and the influence of the various crops in crop rotation system. Normally he always has only first year wheat, but this year due to the prices of grain, he had fallen for the temptation and sowed 2nd year wheat. He showed us the field while emphasizing that what one usually learns most from, as a visitor, was when the host showed the things that had not gone so well. Even though it was very dry in England, the 2nd year wheat in the no-till field now looked really nice... and the field was clean of weeds.

Clive showed us his large pile of compost, which was to be spread on the fields. Right next door was a large winter rape field, which had not been sprayed against fungi at all, and the fertilizer had been spared a lot. Several of us now agreed that the rapeseed was best closest to the compost pile. After the visit, no one can doubt that Conservation Agriculture works in practice with Clive Bailey.

Groundswell Exhibition

"Groundswell" is an agricultural exhibition that in many ways resembles the Swedish exhibition at Borgeby in Sweden. The focus on "Groundswell" is, however, "Conservation Agriculture" and "Regenerative Agriculture". There are experimental plots, which, however, look bad due to the drought. There were many different types of machines for plow-free cultivation, as well as lots of stands where various micro-nutrient preparations, amino acid products, etc. were advertised, all for spraying on the crops as a

substitute for fungicides and commercial fertilizers. There were also several exhibitors of sampling equipment for i.a. determination of the soil's carbon content.



Entrance to Groundswell Exhibition

Several exciting lectures were held in the tents at the exhibition. They were held in parallel, so that there was something for both the very theoretical and for the more practically interested listener. Highlighting is **Jill Clapperton**'s vivid description of the living soil and all the microorganisms and larger organisms found in the soil. The fertility of the soil which is of fundamental importance for the crops and for the health of the population and the environment of the planet.

Dwayne Beck should also be highlighted. He has deep insight into Conservation Agriculture and into its practical execution. He advises a lot of practitioners just like Jill Clapperton does. Finally, also by Professor **Peter Hammond**, who described how CCM technology uses collected carbon dioxide from industrial electricity production to stabilize a range of materials (such as ammonia and phosphates) from agricultural and industrial waste (food waste, sewage sludge, residues from organic fertilizers (biogas)) and use these to create new fertilizer products with significantly lower than normal carbon and resource footprints. There were nice posts about weeds, catch crops, no-till in potatoes, etc.

It is recommended to repeat the visit again next year at this exciting exhibition

Very informative DFA Summer Conference on 14 June

50 members had found their way to the DFA Summer Conference on 14 June, which this year was held at Hotel Trinity near Fredericia. There were also participants with online connection via Teams and direct interpretation into English.

Chairman Jytte Rosenmaj welcomed and then handed over the management to **Tom Axelgaard** and **Hans Henrik Kofoed** respectively. The first post came from **Michael Bundgaard, Klitgaard Agro**, who presented their mode of operation briefly with No Till on the 1000 ha out of the farm's total cultivated area of 9,000 ha. And with a note that No Till is not suitable for all soil types. Michael is very inspired by Gabe Brown.

Michael introduced the company Gran-IT, which is a "management storage" system for use i.a. for biogas operation. He also presented the company Dansk Planteinspektion, which he has invested in together with the drone company Hectodrone, owned by **Andreas Siggaard**. That company has just

received regulatory approval for a drone to fly unattended over fields - and thus inspect the need for weed control - or even spray the necessary areas in the field. They distinguish between data drones that collect results of monitoring and then spray drones with a 3 m spray boom that can handle the fight. They see that drones have a potential of 75% cost reduction for spraying and a reduction in chemical consumption. The key figure is DKK 53 per hectare for spraying.

Andreas Siggaard's presentation on drones raised many questions and answers.



Morten Krusborg, Semler Agro together with **Morten Schau** presented an overview of John Deere's development work with automation of tractors. Several models for automated control have been tested together with the electric drive. Status is that they sell a diesel-powered self-driven 8R tractor. Legislation prevents it from being sold in the EU.

Mathias Brink, Rockstart introduced 2 of the 44 startups in which the venture company has invested in 2021. Their overall purpose within their Agricultural section is to make "early stage" investments in promising startups globally in energy and emerging technology.

The company Fieldsense is funded by Rockstart. **John Smedegaard** presented how they via algorithms seek to translate commonly available weather observations into useful information for the farmer. They have developed a weather station that can be leased for 420 Euro / year + 400 Euro in start-up. Observations of soil temperature and local weather information are linked with the general observations to a forecast about optimal sowing time and for spraying needs. The 2000 stations sold in Northern Europe are linked together and data from this are included in their overall analyzes.

The company Carbon Space - also funded by Rockstart was presented by **Andrew Samodin**. This company is developing an algorithm model to calculate CO₂ emissions from satellite measurements. With that, they expect to be able to make a local mapping of an area's emission per ha, so that one can see the variation in relation to the actual crops on the land.

Jan D Johannesen, Arla Foods presented the dairy's work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from factories, transport and production at cattle farms. The goal is "Carbon Net Zero" in 2050 validated via the

system "Science Based Targets". By 2030, they expect to have reduced emissions from manufacturing and transportation by 63%. And in milk production at farms by 30%.



Holger Nehmdal, Conterra presented a tool for calculating the farm's CO₂ emissions based on the farm data collected by the Danish Landbrugsstyrelse and key figures in the norm database for emissions per hectare crop or animals. IPCC guidelines are used to calculate CO₂ emissions. As the calculation is based on standard figures, the tool does not take into account the individual variations that operating methods can lead to. They have also made a calculation tool for Forestry.

Hans Roust Thyssen, SEGES presented the newly opened tool - "esgreentool" for calculating the farm's CO₂ emissions. He pointed out that there is a need for further studies of several key figures in the calculation model - e.g. the extent of the build-up of CO₂ in the soil and the size of the nitrous oxide emissions from fertilizers. Experiments must shed light on whether the standard figure for nitrous oxide of 1% from fertilizer is lower - this will help a lot in crop production emission figures, as nitrous oxide is a very potent greenhouse gas. The current key figure for carbon build-up in the soil is: Out of 4 tons of mulched straw, 10% will be back in 100 years. There is also a lot of research in this area at the moment.



Anne Toft Sørensen, DK Embassy in Ukraine was online via a Teams connection from Kyiv. She said that the embassy, together with other countries, takes part in initial discussions for a reconstruction of Ukraine - having the Ukrainian government as the leader of the work. They are concerned on both the temporary reconstruction of infrastructure and the long-term plan for the reconstruction of production facilities. Currently, the war is affecting 20% of the country's GDP revenue from production in the war-torn areas of the east and south. Infrastructure has currently been destroyed for DKK 106 billion dollars. There are 20-25 million tons of grain in stock from last year's harvest. And only 77% of the agricultural area is sown this year compared to 2021.

Anne Libak, Weekendavisen presented a razor-sharp and frightening picture of the current crisis between Russia and Ukraine. She said: "There are two camps - those who believe Putin invaded Ukraine because he feared NATO, and those who believe that Putin invaded Ukraine because he did not fear NATO. I belong to the last ones"

The outlook is not bright. We are back in the bi-polar world. And this time China is not on our side. And the only thing that can stop Putin is that we in the West are winning this war. It is not just a war in Ukraine.

ERFA group visits Hog Slat in the USA

With a 2-year delay, DFA ERFA Group 2 finally in May succeeded in completing a planned trip to Hog Slat in the US. It was a study trip provided by a professionally very competent host - Hog Slat, which has both a large pig production and is the United States' largest producer of stables and equipment for both pig and poultry production.

The group flew to Chicago and visited two of Hog Slat's farms in Indiana - first a brandnew sow farm with 5,500 year-sows with piglets to weaning and subsequently an almost new slaughter pig farm with pigs from weaning to slaughter.

Here, the group gained an insight into American thinking when it comes to efficient pig production - and how to think in simple solutions first and foremost. Having only 17 employees to look after 5,500 year-sows was a good proof that it also succeeds – very impressive.



Hog Slat sowfarm housing 5.500 sows

In the finisher stables, the pigs start with "double stocking" to optimize the pen utilization. Later, they are moved to pens where they must be up for slaughter.

From Indiana, the group flew to North Carolina, where Hog Slat has their production of slates, equipments and pens. Also there head office is there. An impressive company established in 1969 by Billy Herring, who was originally a pig producer but turned to slates-production as he could not find the type he wanted. Since then, things have gone well for the company, which in addition to a huge production of equipment for stables also has 35,000 sows with fattening pigs fattened on contract.

The company is today owned and operated by the founders' sons - Will and Tommy Herring. Hog Slat has approx. 1,000 persons employed plus approx. 1,400 subcontractors.

Can ASF vaccine from Vietnam be a lifesaver for pig producers?

African Swine Fever is still a threat to pig producers in several countries - not least in Romania. Therefore, it was also good reading, as the agricultural press in early June was able to report that Vietnam has developed a thoroughly tested ASF vaccine, which they are now preparing for export.

We therefore asked **Tomasz Trela, ASF expert at Boehringer Ingelheim** if there is a fact in it. His answer is as follows:

"This information is not a surprise. Already last year in April, in my presentation for DFA I have mentioned this US-Vietnam project starting in the end of 2020.

The recombinant ASF Virus strain called ASFV-G-Δ1177L in which 6 genes were deleted, was developed by Plum Island Animal Disease Center, part of the US Department of Agriculture and then provided to Vietnam State Vaccine Institute and its branch NAVETCO, with the idea of commercial production and usage in field. This was repeatedly delayed. Information about market introduction were hitting the news regularly over the last few years. Several attempts of market introduction failed. Finally, Vietnam has announced last week that the ASF Vaccine based on US recombinant candidate strain is ready to be launched.

We are still missing any data about field trials, we don't know when, where and how the vaccine will be used. I think, the possibility that this vaccine will enter Europe in near future is very limited. It is important to observe and follow up the situation after the launch in Vietnam and other Asian countries, only then we can say more.

Until then, still the biosecurity and wild-boars control are the most important measures against ASF in Europe. Sorry, but I don't have any other information".

Global Pork Meat Prices

Source: Genesis, 22 June 2022



Price as of June 22nd, 2022

	Domestic price (own currency)	US dollars (liveweight lb.)
USA (CME constructed price)	110.58 USD/100 lb. carcass DW	81.83 ¢
Canada (Ontario base price)	259.91 CAD/100 kg carcass DW	72.78 ¢
Mexico (national average)	40.79 MXN/kg liveweight	92.26 ¢
Brazil (South Region)	6.42 BRL/kg liveweight	56.07 ¢
United Kingdom	180.57 GBP/100 kg carcass	80.34 ¢
Spain	1.598 EUR/kg liveweight	76.64 ¢
France	1.699 EUR/kg carcass	68.28 ¢
Russia	102.60 RUB/kg liveweight	87.36 ¢
Vietnam (national average)	56,000 VND/kg liveweight	\$ 1.09
South Korea (national average except Jeju)	5,704 KRW/kg carcass	\$ 1.53
Philippines (national average)	194 PHP/kg liveweight	\$ 1.62
China	15.87 CNY/kg liveweight	\$ 1.07

We see the highest price in the Philippines corresponding to DKK 27.61 per. kg live weight (35.18 DK/kg carcass weight), while Brazil is the lowest with a listing of DKK 8.76 per. kg live weight (11.16 DKK/kg carcass weight).

Overview DFA Networking Activities

Month	Days	Activity	Location	Coordinator
August	Friday 26	Webinar about the development of raw materials	Teams	Adolfo Fontes, DSM
September	Wednesday 7- Friday 9	DFA Development Group meeting	Brussels	Johannes V. Hansen
September	Wednesday 14 – Friday 16	DFA – Ø-Vet course	Bratislava	Inger Morthorst Møller
September	Monday 19 – Wednesday 21	DFA - ERFA 4 meeting	France	Henrik Nielsen
September	Tuesday 20 – Friday 23	MSP course for pig managers	Denmark	Povl Nørgaard
September	Monday 26 – Wednesday 28	DFA HR-Group meeting	Poland	Sofie Hammer-skov
2023				
January	Tuesday 10.	DFA Annual Meeting and Winter Conference	Hotel Pejsegaarden, Brædstrup, Denmark	DFA secretariat
January	Tuesday 17 – Friday 20	MSP Course for pig managers	Denmark	Povl Nørgaard
February	Tuesday 21 – Friday 24	CMP Course for crop managers	Denmark	Povl Nørgaard
May	Wednesday 24 – Friday 26	MSP Course for pig managers	Slovakia	Povl Nørgaard

Advertisises



Employee for modern pig production in the peaceful, western part of Ukraine

Halychyna Zahid runs a full-line pig production on 6,000 sows with Danish genetics and technology in the stables. Halychyna Zahid is 100% Danish-owned and directly employs 250 employees, 90 of whom work in pig production. The farm is located 10 km from a provincial town with approx. 70,000 inhabitants. It is 70 km south of L'viv, a modern city with an international flair.

We are looking for a committed employee who will be part of the management team in our pig production. The daily work tasks will include participation in the management of employees as well as in the daily work tasks primarily in our so-farm.

Do you want to be part of a dynamic team that has a common interest in pig production across different nationalities, maybe this is something for you? Professional skill, technical flair and readiness for change are necessary qualities to perform among the skilled Ukrainian employees. You will be part of a team of other Danes.

You get the opportunity to participate in management and pig courses, among other things through Danish Farmers Abroad, where you get the opportunity to develop your leadership and pig skills. We offer free housing and cars as well as international health insurance.

Contact: Questions and applications should be directed to Operations Director **Jesper Krogh**, mob: +380 67 578 888, or mail: jk@halwest.com.ua.

Two thirds of IFU's investments went to Africa in 2021

IFU's annual report 2021 shows that the fund's investments in the private sector in developing countries again contributed with positive development effects. At the end of 2021, IFU's portfolio companies employed 300,000 people, serviced 18 million clients with small loans and reported DKK 3.2 billion in local tax payments.

In 2021, IFU invested DKK 650 million DKK in Africa, which corresponds to 65 percent of the total investments. In addition, IFU continued its focus on investing in the poorest countries on the continent. It happened i.a. via additional funding to Horn of Africa-Fund, which contributes to the development of smaller companies in Somalia.

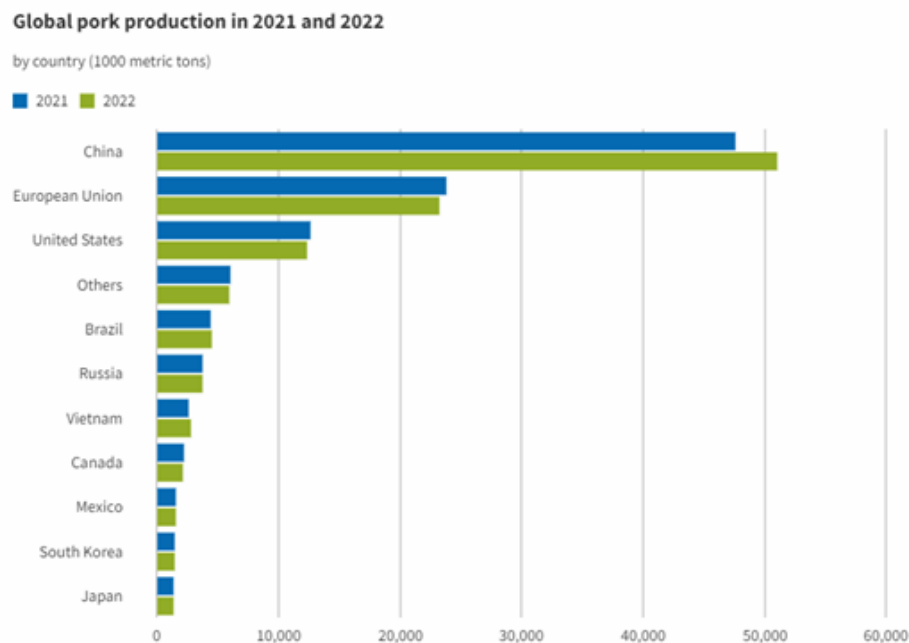
See IFU annual report [here](#)

Short news from abroad

Global pork production amounted to about over 100 million metric tons in 2021

Source: Pig Progress, 24 June 2022

Global pork production is being led by China, which is estimated to produce over 50 million metric tons of pork by the end of 2022. The European Union and the United States hold the second and third positions, respectively.



[Read more:](#)

As Russia Chokes Ukraine's Grain Exports, Romania Tries to Fill In

Source: Black Sea Grain, 28 June 2022

The question is whether Romania will be able to take advantage of them by expanding its own agricultural sector while helping fill the food gap left by landlocked Ukraine.

In many ways, Romania is well positioned. Its port in Constanta, on the western coast of the Black Sea, has provided a critical — although tiny — transit point for Ukrainian grain since the war began. Romania's own farm output is dwarfed by Ukraine's, but it is one of the largest grain exporters in the European Union. Last year, it sent 60 percent of its wheat abroad, mostly to Egypt and the rest of the Middle East. This year, the government has allocated 500 million euros (\$527 million) to support farming and keep production up.

[Read more:](#)

Romania has surplus grain crops for export, agriculture minister says

Source: Romanian-insider.com, 24 June 2022

Romania's grain harvests this year will not be as impressive as the one in 2021 but still surpasses the domestic consumption, allowing the country to export the surplus and ease pressures on the global food market.

In 2021, Romania harvested a record 11.3 million tonnes of grain. The country's farmlands often produce two or three times its domestic consumption. As a result, the country is among the largest grain sellers in the EU. Its agricultural exports also reach the Middle East, with Egypt buying the lion's share.

The surplus could not come at a better time. Flour mills in Asia are likely to buy wheat from France and Romania, with Ukraine's crops still blockaded by Russian fleets and mines.

[Read more:](#)

Ukraine's pig industry is in critical condition

Source: Pig Progress, 16 June 2022

The Russian invasion has put Ukraine's pig industry in jeopardy as large breeding, slaughtering and processing capacities are located in the occupied territories, said Daniil Getmantsev, head of the financial committee of the Verkhovna Rada following a meeting with the Ukraine Meat Industry Association.

Among the companies impacted by the Russian invasion, Getmantsev listed Ukraine's largest pork producer APK-Invest, and several major processors: Slobodskoy agricultural plant, Myasnoy Meat Processing Plant, Saltovsky Meat Processing Plant, and East Ukrainian Meat Processing Plant.

[Read more:](#)

Ukraine increases grain exports by 50% every month amid sea blockade

Source: Black Sea Grain, 27 June 2022

In the context of the blockade of Ukrainian seaports, the Ministry of Infrastructure is working daily on the reorientation of logistics to land, in particular to the western borders of Ukraine with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania and Moldova.

As the Minister of Infrastructure Alexander Kubrakov said on the National Telethon, in order to solve the global food crisis provoked by Russia by blocking ports, grain exports are increasing by 50% every month.

Every month we grow grain exports across the western borders by almost 50%. If it weren't for the fact that the previous year's harvest needed to be exported urgently, we could reach the normal average monthly volume we had before with the help of ports in a few months," the Minister commented.

[Read more:](#)

Why grain can't get out of Ukraine

Source: Black Sea Grain, 23 June 2022

Approximately 20 million tons of grain sit in storage in Ukraine, with few ways out of the country. It is a slow-moving crisis that is choking Ukraine off from the global economy, and cutting the rest of the world off from Ukraine's critical supply of grains.

Ukraine provides about 10 percent of the global share of wheat exports, and almost half of the world's sunflower oil. Alongside Russia, Ukraine makes this region one of the world's "breadbaskets."

Ukraine exported a lot of its 2021 crop before Russia's invasion, including a lot of its wheat, but some of that, and products like corn, are still in storage. Exporters are struggling to get what's left out, because Ukrainian ports on the Black Sea, like the key city of Odesa, are under blockade. Russian fleets are blocking the route, and the area is heavily mined.

Now this season's harvest is beginning, but with limited places to put the new crops. This backlog means that some crops could rot, and as long as they're sitting there, they remain vulnerable to Russian attack or theft. Ukraine is still shipping out its grains west, through Europe.

[Read more:](#)

Pig production in Argentina on the way to a new record high

Source: pig333.com, 23 June 2022

High hog slaughter levels at the start of 2022 bode well for a new record in hog production this year.

Between January and April, 2.37 million head have been slaughtered in Argentina and a record hog production is projected for this year. The Rosario Stock Exchange estimates that from May to December 2022, slaughter will reach 5.17 million head, with a total slaughter for 2022 of 7.53 million head.

Annual increases in pork consumption underpin and stimulate slaughter levels. The province of Buenos Aires concentrates half of the national hog slaughter, with about 51% of the production.

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