



## SCHAUER Agrotronic Case Study



**Farmer Family Förthmann in Niedersachsen (Germany):**  
Pig production with Controlling-Power at the highest  
level with our Spotmix multiphase feeding system!

**SCHAUER®**

PERFECT FARMING SYSTEMS



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**The Förthmann family is one of the few sow farms that want to expand and is ready to get local residents to agree with their plans by using expertise, tenacity and exemplary public relations work.**

**The basis for this is the extremely professional and successful piglet production.**

The Förthmann family knows how to use modern feeding technology to finely tune the systems to optimize performance and reduce feeding costs.

Bernd Förthmann is a pig farmer, Anette Meier - his wife - is a banker who has introduced a sophisticated cost and sow management system in order to optimize the economic efficiency of the sow operation. Son Jan, who is only 13 years old, is already involved with the enterprise. The motto of the family is clear: economics before biology, but without biology there can be no economics.

The arable land is managed externally, all fodder is bought in. With the available human resources, it would not be possible to operate arable farming and pig production simultaneously. The manure is sold to farmers in the neighbourhood via manure contracts at favourable rates.

Exhaust filters are mandatory. Not least because exhaust filters help to ensure that you get along well with your neighbours and that gives the opportunity for future growth.

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**Spotmix multiphase feeding is the central tool for optimizing production costs.**

The Förthmann family has trusted the technology and cooperation with Schauer for a long time. Compident on-demand feeding has been in use for waiting sows for 23 years and Spotmix multi-phase feeding has been in use in the sow barn for 22 years.

With the construction of the new piglet house for 4200 piglets 3 years ago, Spotmix multi-phase feeding became the central tool for optimizing growth performance and feed costs. This was possible using very special feeding strategy that is extremely flexible and adapted to the different weights of the piglets.

Bernd Förthmann uses 6 different premixes, from pre-starter to pre-fattening feed, which are initially adjusted daily for each kg of live weight with their own feed curve and according to the actual consumption of the various feed components. In order to develop these feeding curves so precisely, all piglets were weighed regularly for a year.

It was very important to the Förthmann family to be able to automatically change the feed curve according to actual weight. This avoids excessive feeding of more expensive feed

mixtures (pre-starter) to faster growing piglets and thus reduces costs. All piglets are weighed when they are housed and sorted again after 4 weeks.

**Results to be proud of.**

Piglet losses are 1.3%, feed costs 13 € / piglet, 2 € better than the year before. 2 to 3 € less than the average costs in the piglet production working group. At the same time, the daily weight gain with the Spotmix multi-phase feeding in the new barn was increased from 400 g to 470 g without changing the feed mix. The feed conversion rate is 1: 1.55.

**Whoever writes stays - is an old saying that the Förthmann family has made their moto.**

Lists are posted in front of each compartment, where the employees regularly record all relevant data on piglet losses, treatments, animal weights, etc. The data is entered in a very extensive Excel file developed in-house and enriched with sales data. The economic and biological results of piglet production for any period or production unit can be called up at the push of a button. As a former banker, Annette Meier can use her passion for controlling to finely tune the systems. In this way, the Förthmann's always have an overview of their production and can ensure profitably even in economically difficult times.

**Special coaching offer for pig farms**

The Förthmann family has great experience in sow management and in controlling in a clearly structured way and has developed knowledge with advice, guidance and experience, especially feeding management as well as using an in-house developed Excel evaluation tool, for the sow farmer.

They would like to offer their services to interested farmers on request. Contact: Bernd Förthmann, Tel. +49 4273 94130, Email: foerthmann@ewetel.net.

**Company profile:**

- Agricultural area: 50 ha, but not producing their own feed mixtures
- Piglet production with 700 productive sows, piglet rearing house for 4200 piglet places

ring house for 4200 piglet places

- Genetics: Danbred with Pietrain with self-restoration 45%. Own insemination station for self-insemination
- Workers: 2 full family members plus 4 external workers
- Participation in the animal welfare initiative. Level 1, e.g. 4 weeks suckling time, organic occupational material,
- Memberships: Member of the DLG top companies group, piglet production working group

**Key figures for sow shed:**

- Sow losses 2 %.
- 15 piglets born alive per litter
- 32 weaned piglets / sow and year.
- Suckling pig losses 10% without dead piglets

**Key figures for the piglet rearing house:**

- 470 g average daily weight gain at 13 € feed costs per piglet up to the 6.5 kg weaning weight.
- The feed conversion in piglet rearing is 1: 1.55 and piglet losses are 1.3%.

***We wish the Förthmann family continued success with our Spotmix multiphase feeding system!***

**WATCH FULL VIDEO NOW!**





# PERFECT FARMING SYSTEMS

SUSTAINABLE, ANIMAL FRIENDLY & SUCCESSFUL!



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