



Case study: Tim's Conversion story



Tim has been a BQP farming partner since 2001, when the family decided to join BQP after many years as an independent pig breeder and finisher. Now running a high performing wean to finish system, Tim has converted and updated his buildings to ensure that they are well equipped to produce an efficient, high welfare pig.

Tim's family have been in the business of pigs since 1967 when Tim's father who was originally a plumber, moved from Essex to Suffolk, bought some land and started farming with a few sows. The family grew their herd of indoor sows to 160, as well as finishing all of the progeny using by products as part of the rations. In 2001, with the change of regulations surrounding pig feed and the feeding of by products, the family approached BQP after a recommendation from another BQP farmer.



The family now run an arable operation growing wheat, barley, oats and sugar beet as well as finishing pigs on two sites. The piglets start off their lives in tents on the farm a couple of miles away from the finishing accommodation. Having separate rearing and finishing accommodations means that Tim has doubled his capacity for pigs on the farm, whilst also minimising the risk of disease by only having one age of pigs on each site. At the time of purchasing the tents planning permission was difficult to obtain in the area, so the tents were a more cost effective solution for housing the piglets. At around 8 weeks the pigs are then moved to the finishing accommodation a couple of miles away on the existing farmstead. Moving the pigs from the tents allows Tim to go through easily and sort any pigs according to size if necessary, creating even pens with pigs that finish closer together.

The pigs are finished between four converted buildings, the largest of the sheds originally being the farrowing house. All of the internals were removed, blocks pens were built, a feed line added along with new feeders and drinkers. Before joining BQP the finishing pigs were fed on wet feed, so the old wet feed line was removed and new dry feeders with an auger line and bulk bins were added.

Tim's pig enterprise is an example of a high-quality conversion, alongside a keen attention to detail and great stockmanship, this is reflected in the quality of the pigs he rears and finishes and the results (FCRs) he achieves. Tim's achievements also demonstrate that conversion from a breeding farm to a finishing farm can work very well practically and business wise.

