



Mark and Mandy have been on the site in East Yorkshire for 28 years; building a successful farm which comprises 4 second-hand chicken sheds imported from as far afield as Cumbria and South Wales which they erected on site themselves. Originally the farm was a broiler site producing 79,000 chickens which ran alongside another 2 rented sites producing 90,000 chickens per year. 15 years ago, the family reduced the flock size to stay under new IPPC regulations which resulted in them having two redundant buildings.



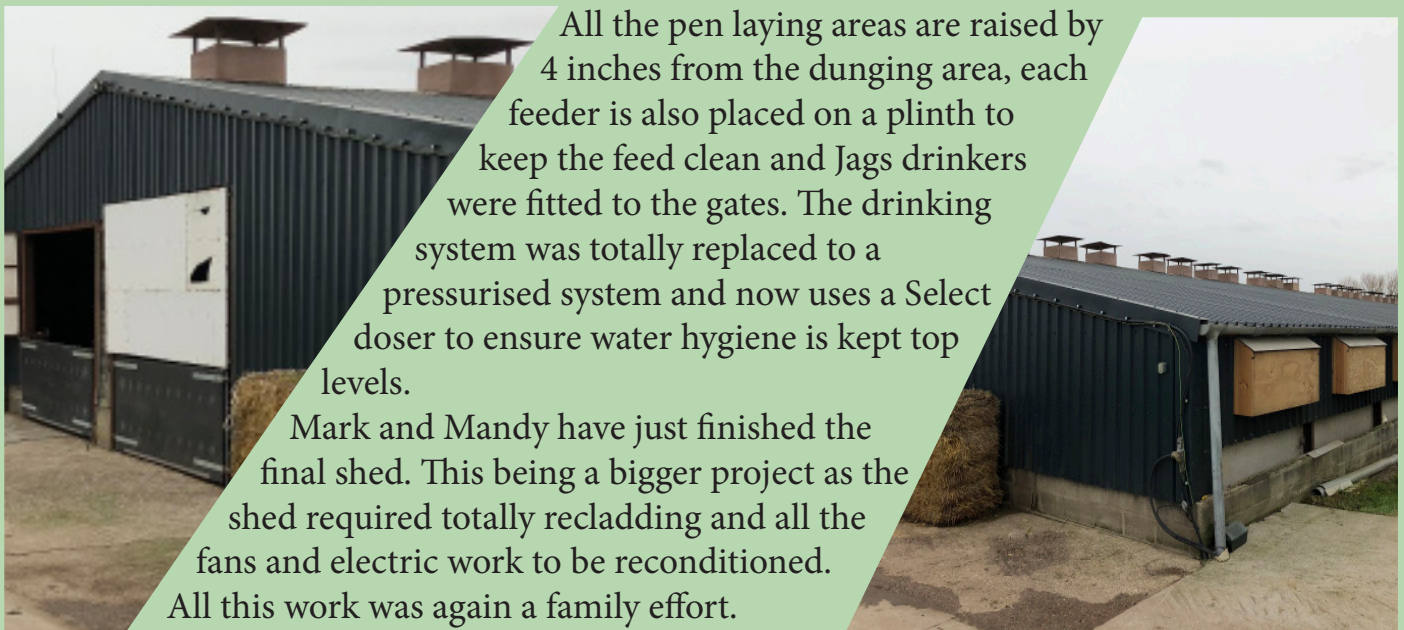
These two buildings were then converted into simple pig accommodation of two yards per shed; taking the pigs from weaning to 35kg - supplying a finisher for another company. In January 2014 Mark and Mandy moved to BQP along with the finishing farm having converted all the houses to pigs along similar lines, supplying in the region of 5,300 weaners to BQP finishing farms.



In January 2016 Mark and Mandy decided to take pigs through to slaughter. The pig numbers reduced to 3,500 but still in large yards. Ironically, they now come under IPPC regulations but with BQP support this gave them the confidence with IPPC procedures to move the business forward.

After a couple of wean to finish batches the family quickly realised raising and sorting pigs in large yards required an awful amount of work and wasn't very efficient, so a plan was agreed alongside BQP to further improve the farm by penning out the buildings using the BQP Reinvestment Scheme.

This scheme is open to all BQP farmers allowing them to make improvements on their farms and over several batches BQP pay a premium above the contract price to go towards the funding of the project. In 2018 the first shed was converted by Mark and Mandy into pens holding 60 pigs a piece. Due to the low eaves the decision was made to have the dunging passages in the middle of the buildings, running the risk of the cold air falling into the back of the pen and causing issues. Fortunately, this problem has not arisen and if it does the pens are large enough to access with a skid steer to remove the soiled bedding.



All the pen laying areas are raised by 4 inches from the dunging area, each feeder is also placed on a plinth to keep the feed clean and Jags drinkers were fitted to the gates. The drinking system was totally replaced to a pressurised system and now uses a Select doser to ensure water hygiene is kept top levels.

Mark and Mandy have just finished the final shed. This being a bigger project as the shed required totally recladding and all the fans and electric work to be reconditioned. All this work was again a family effort.

The farm has now been totally refurbished using the BQP Reinvestment Scheme and the buildings now have another 20+ years of efficient production in them.



Mark and Mandy felt confident with the financial commitment of BQP into their buildings this project should happen. They say now working with the company for a few years they are financially safe, there is always someone from BQP to support them and nothing is too much trouble for BQP. In Marks words "look after the pigs right and reap the benefits."