

SortAll® Revolution 2 Questions & Answers

Q: *How long has Schick Enterprises been working on the SortAll® system?*

A: Approximately five years ago we installed the first system in the United States.

Q: *How many systems have already been sold?*

A: This past year (2006) we have sold close to 150 units with an average of 1,200 pigs on each system.

Q: *How many pigs can be handled in the two pens?*

A: The maximum total number is 1,400 head or two pens of 700.

Q: *What makes SortAll® Revolution 2 different from other hog sorting products?*

A: Our approach to sorting is different from all the other companies, because we believe that you cannot restrict pigs from feed by making them go through the scale every time they want to eat.

Q: *What are the advantages to SortAll® Revolution 2?*

A: Here are just a few of the advantages:

- With one scale per two pens our investment is less
- With this automatic system we can collect very accurate data on average daily gain, average daily temperature, weight distribution in each pen, weight graphs on pigs in the market pen. Also each group is managed the same allowing for consistent growth.
- With this type of automation we are not relying on humans to make decisions that may or may not be beneficial.

Q: *Do the pigs ever avoid the scale?*

A: It is highly unlikely that a pig will avoid the scale. And this is why—the pigs must walk down an alley to get to the scale, this creates a viewpoint for the pig that he is walking straight onto the scale. If the scale is being used or the pig doesn't want to cross the scale, he must turn hard right or left not to cross the scale. Also note that the smart gates are called "smart" because they have sensors that make the gates open if a pig is in the gate when the gate is trying to close or open. This is important. The reason the pigs readily cross the scale is because it never scares them or gives them a bad experience, so when they are guided to the scale it is not a problem for them to choose to cross the scale.

Q: *How many times a day do the pigs eat?*

A: They always have free access to the feeders, so they typically will eat four times a day (by passing through either the gate or the scale).

Q: *How many pigs per feeder, and how many waterers?*

A: This depends on the type of feeders. We like to use a wet dry feeder with waterers between each tube. This allows any pig to have food and water no matter where he stands.

Q: *Why do you use additional gates next to the weighing scale?*

A: We added smart gates around the scale to control pig flow allowing us to make the pigs train themselves; we also did this so that one scale can be used for two pens.

Q: *What are the changes in the second version of the system?*

A: SortAll® Revolution 1 "Rev1" basically worked the same in the barn, but the user interface and the control screen has changed. SortAll® Revolution 2 "Rev2" is more automated and only needs a computer to give it a command. Rev 2 also has more in depth reports and graphs.