

A growth target is a curve, not a single number.

Three genetics programs — PIC, Genesus, Topigs Norsvin — read straight from the tables.

Two things every genetics program agrees on

1. Daily gain rises to a peak, then eases off

Topigs TN Tempo castrate curve: 657 g/day at 25 kg → peak ~1,170 g/day near 100 kg → back to ~1,070 g/day by 150 kg. The target moves with the weight.

2. Feed conversion gets worse at every stage

Genesus gilt FCR climbs 1.79 → 2.50 → 2.68 → 2.84 → 3.47 across the bands.
PIC: nursery 1.31, grow-finish 2.33. Every kilo gets more expensive to add.

PIC's published targets — three tiers, per stage

STAGE	ADG, g/day target / average	FCR, kg:kg target / average
Nursery (5.5-28.6 kg)	487 / 473	1.31 / 1.46
Grow-finish (27-126 kg)	955 / 927	2.33 / 2.59
Wean-to-finish	805 / 782	2.13 / 2.37

"Target" is optimized health and environment; "average" is today's system average and should be repeatable. PIC also prints an intervention level (ADG 835 g/day, FCR 2.80 in grow-finish) — the threshold where you stop and troubleshoot. One stage, three numbers.

The same journey, band by band (Genesus gilts)

	ADG g/day	FCR
Grower 27-43 kg	970	1.79
Grower 43-64 kg	880	2.50
Finisher 64-82 kg	930	2.68
Finisher 82-100 kg	910	2.84
Finisher 100-123 kg	770-850	3.36-3.47

Gain peaks in the grower and early finisher, then falls away over 100 kg — while FCR keeps climbing the whole way. This is the tension in the last stage: the pig is still growing, but each extra kilo now costs the most feed it ever will.

Where the three programs disagree

End weight

PIC to 126 kg · Genesus to 123-125 kg · Topigs curve to 150 kg

Peak daily gain

Topigs model potential ~1,170 g/day vs Genesus field bands 930-1,030 g/day

Sex split

Genesus prints separate gilt and barrow tables; PIC gives one blended target

The rule this deck is arguing for

Don't chase one headline gain figure. Match the target to the weight band and the sex, watch FCR climb so you know when the last kilos stop paying, and switch stages on the pigs' actual weight-for-age — not on a fixed day count that assumes every pig is average.

Based on PIC Wean-to-Finish Guidelines (Table 1.1), Genesus Grow-Finisher Feeding (Tables 2, 3A) and Topigs Norsvin TN Tempo finisher manual (Table 1). Full provenance: 01-monday/SOURCES.md

PIC prints three numbers for every stage

PIC Wean-to-Finish Guidelines 2019, Table 1.1 — Performance Targets, Full Program

Target, average, and intervention

PIC does not give one number per stage — it gives three. Target reflects optimized health and environment. Average is today's system average and should be repeatable. Intervention is the threshold where you stop and troubleshoot before it costs you the close-out.

AVERAGE DAILY GAIN, g/day

	TARGET	AVERAGE	INTERVENTION
Nursery (5.5-28.6 kg)	487	473	383
Grow-finish (27-126 kg)	955	927	835
Wean-to-finish	805	782	704

FEED CONVERSION, kg feed : kg gain

	TARGET	AVERAGE	INTERVENTION
Nursery	1.31	1.46	1.66
Grow-finish	2.33	2.59	2.80
Wean-to-finish	2.13	2.37	2.56

Read the gap between the columns

Grow-finish gain of 955 g/day is the target; 927 is what a good system averages; below 835 is where PIC says stop and investigate. That 120-gram spread between target and intervention is a fortnight of close-out weight on a full barn. A single 'expected ADG' hides which side of that line you are on.

Why nursery FCR looks so good

Nursery FCR of 1.31 is not the finisher doing badly — it is physiology. A young pig converts feed to lean cheaply; an older, heavier pig spends more feed on maintenance and lays down fat. The number was always going to climb. Page 3 is that climb in full.

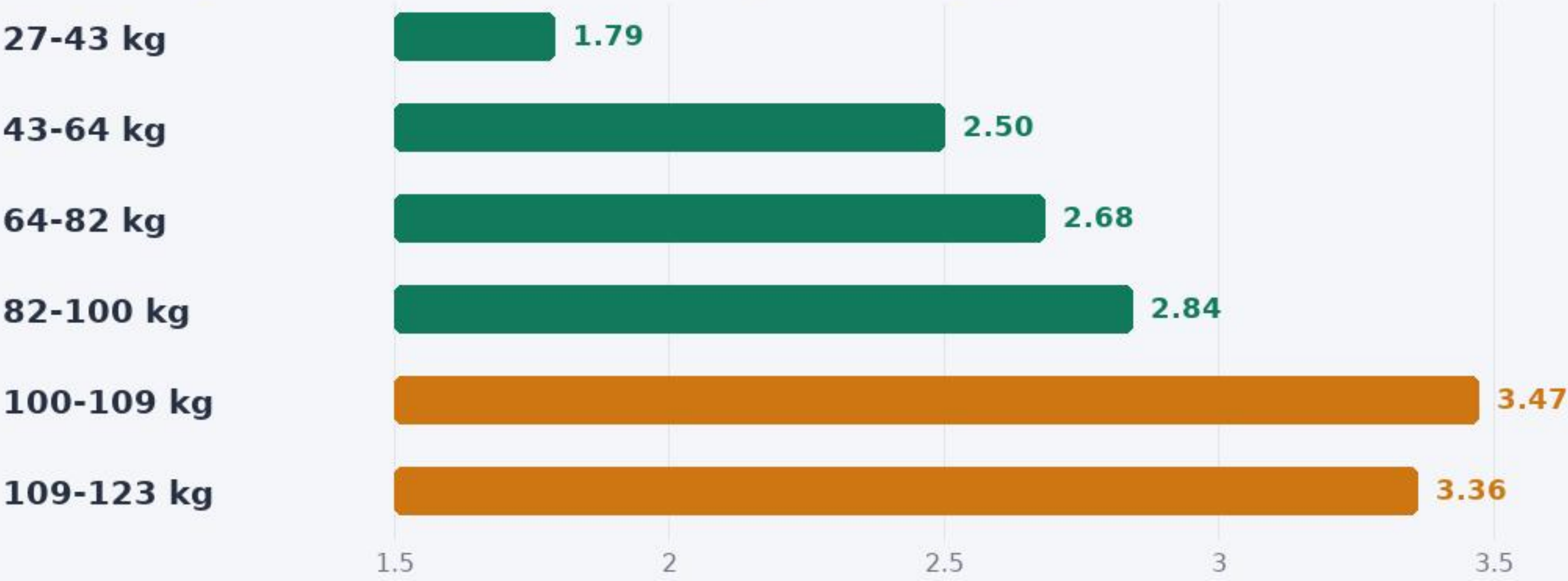
Feed conversion only goes one way: up

Genesis Grow-Finisher Feeding 2022, Table 3A — FCR by weight band, gilts and barrows

Every extra kilo costs more than the last

Feed conversion ratio is kilos of feed per kilo of gain — lower is better. It rises across the whole grow-finish period because maintenance grows with body size and late gain carries more fat. No genetics program escapes it; they only differ in how steep the climb is.

Genesis gilt FCR by weight band (kg feed : kg gain)



The step from grower to late finisher nearly doubles the feed cost of a kilo of gain.

Gilts and barrows climb differently

Barrows (castrated males) eat more and finish faster, but their FCR is worse stage for stage — 2.20 / 2.54 / 2.77 / 3.15 across the same bands, against the gilts' leaner curve. Feed the same ration to both and one of them is being over- or under-served. Genesis prints the two tables separately for exactly this reason.

The economic reading

There is a weight where the next kilo stops paying — where the feed to add it costs more than the carcass it buys. That point is an FCR-and-price calculation, not a fixed weight, and it moves with feed and pig prices. The FCR curve is the input every close-out needs.

Daily gain peaks in the middle, not at the end

Genesis 2022, Table 3A — ADG by weight band; gilts vs barrows, g/day

WEIGHT BAND	GILTS	BARROWS	FCR (g/b)
Grower 1	970	880	1.79 / 2.20
Grower 2	880	910	2.50 / 2.54
Finisher 1	930	1,030	2.68 / 2.77
Finisher 2	910	980	2.84 / 3.15
Finisher 3	770	860	3.47 / 3.62
Finisher 4	850	880	3.36 / 3.60

Gilt bands: G1 27-43, G2 43-64, F1 64-82, F2 82-100, F3 100-109, F4 109-123 kg.
Barrow bands: G1 27-39, G2 39-59, F1 59-77, F2 77-95, F3 95-107, F4 107-123 kg.

The shape, not the single number

Gain builds through the grower, tops out in the early-to-mid finisher (barrows hit ~1,030 g/day at 59-77 kg), then falls in the last two bands. An 'average ADG for the barn' averages a rising limb and a falling one — and hides both.

Barrows gain faster, gilts convert better

In the finisher the barrow out-gains the gilt (1,030 vs 930 g/day in Finisher 1) but does it on worse FCR at nearly every band. Faster is not cheaper. Which one you optimize for depends on whether your close-out is paid on days-to-market or on feed cost.

What page 1 compressed into one line

"Gain rises to a peak, then eases." Here it is band by band, for two sexes, from one genetics program's own field tables. The peak sits in the finisher, not at the door out.

The curve is a clock: which weight, on which day

Topigs Norsvin TN Tempo finisher manual, Table 1 — castrate weight-development curve

Days-in-finisher against body weight

Topigs publishes a modelled weight-development curve: for a castrate entering the finisher at 25 kg on day 1, the expected body weight on each following day. It is the 'expected weight-for-age' a target is really made of — and the yardstick a pig is on or off.

DAY IN FINISHER	BODY WEIGHT, kg	IMPLIED GAIN, g/day
Day 1	25.0	— (entry)
Day 29	47.9	~800-940
Day 57	77.8	~1,090-1,130
Day 78	102.2	~1,170 (peak)
Day 92	118.6	~1,170
Day 120	149.7	~1,070

Reading days-to-weight off the curve

That castrate reaches ~120 kg around day 92 in the finisher — about 92 days from a 25 kg start. Implied gain (the derived g/day between rows) rises from ~657 g/day at entry to a ~1,170 g/day plateau near 100-120 kg, then eases. The 'days to market' number every barn plans on is just this curve read at your exit weight.

Model potential is a ceiling, not a promise

Topigs states these are genetic-potential figures from its Pig Growth Model, at optimal nutrition and environment. Real barns run below the curve. That is the point of having it: the gap between the modelled weight-for-age and the pen's actual weight is the loss you can act on — if you can see it early enough to act.

Why this belongs on a targets deck

Gain (page 4) and FCR (page 3) are rates. This is the position — how heavy a pig should be on a given day. Miss the weight-for-age and every rate downstream is being judged against the wrong baseline.

Same species, three different target sheets

PIC, Genesis and Topigs Norsvin define the stages — and the endpoints — differently

They do not even end in the same place

PIC's grow-finish target runs to 126 kg. Genesis's finisher tables close at 123-125 kg. Topigs's published curve carries all the way to ~150 kg. A 'finisher ADG' quoted without its weight range is comparing three different journeys and calling them one.

HOW EACH PROGRAM FRAMES THE TARGET

PIC

One blended grow-finish target, 3 tiers (target/avg/intervention), to 126 kg

Genesis

Separate gilt and barrow tables, ADG + FCR per feed phase, to ~123-125 kg

Topigs Norsvin

A modelled weight-for-age curve to 150 kg, plus castrate/gilt/boar splits

Peak gain: potential vs field

Topigs's model puts peak castrate gain near 1,170 g/day. Genesis's field tables top out around 930-1,030 g/day for the same weights. Neither is wrong — one is genetic potential under ideal conditions, the other is what a real feeding program logged. Read the label on the number before you benchmark against it.

So what do you actually compare?

Not headline ADG. Compare like-for-like: the same weight band, the same sex, and whether the figure is a potential or a field average. A target only means something once you know which of those it is — and to what weight it runs.

The one thing they agree on

Read across all three and the shape is identical: gain arcs up then down, FCR climbs the whole way. The disagreement is in the calibration, never the direction. The biology is the same pig; the sheet is a house style.

You can only hit a target you can see

A weight-for-age target assumes you know each pig's weight — most barns weigh it twice

Every number on this deck needs a weight

ADG is a change in weight over days. FCR is feed over that gain. Days-to-market is the weight curve read at your exit. All three collapse if you don't know what the pigs actually weigh between the day they arrive and the day they leave.

Weight-for-age

The position on the curve — are these pigs on target for their day, or behind?

Within-pen spread

The pen average hides the tail. Uniformity is a target too, not just the mean.

When gain rolls over

The finisher peak-then-fall (page 4) is only visible if weight is tracked, not assumed.

The measurement gap

Most finishing pigs are weighed at placement and at sale — maybe a spot-check in between. Between those points the growth curve is assumed from the genetics sheet, not measured in the pen. So the pigs that fell behind, and the day gain rolled over, are invisible until close-out — when it is far too late to feed to it.

What it would take to close it

Not a better table — the tables are good. It would take knowing what each pen, and ideally each pig, actually weighs through the finisher, continuously, so the target on the sheet could be checked against the pigs in the barn. Wednesday's paper shows camera weighing can reproduce the growth curve; DeepLoop is working on reading that curve as it forms.

Save this and check one thing

Pull how many times your last finishing group was actually weighed. If the answer is twice, every target on this deck was being judged on an assumption in between.

Based on PIC Wean-to-Finish Guidelines, Genesus Grow-Finisher Feeding and Topigs Norsvin TN Tempo finisher manual. Full provenance and the DanBred/SEGES limitation note: 01-monday/SOURCES.md