

## **‘Leaps of Faith’ : A Case Study of EM Use on a New Zealand Pig Farm**

**Grant M. Williams**

*Southbridge, Canterbury, New Zealand*

---

***Abstract** : The study was done in a pig breeding/grower unit in 40 hectares where observations were made in three phases, namely, pre-EM use, transition to EM use and current use of EM. The outdoor breeding unit had 90 sows and 8 boars exposed to natural mating with piglets weaned when 4 weeks old. The indoor grower unit had 600 pig places in 30 pens with the pigs being moved progressively through increasing pen sizes and slaughtered at 20 weeks.*

*During the pre-EM phase wormers and antibiotics were used which were progressively phased out during the transition phase and completely stopped during the current phase. There was a noticeable improvement in the health of weaners aged 4 - 7 weeks. The age of slaughter of pigs was reduced due to improved growth, odour control in grower sheds improved and when irrigating effluent on to the pasture. Moreover there was a dramatic reduction of costs of infeed wormers, infeed antibiotics and De-oderase.*

---