



Dr Katie McDermott



Opportunities and challenges for the pork industry from circular livestock waste management systems

Dr Katie McDermott is the academic deputy director for the National Pig Centre and a lecturer in Sustainable Livestock Production in the School of Biology, University of Leeds, UK. Katie's broad research interests include studying sustainable ways of improving animal health, efficiency and productivity whilst reducing feed waste, minimising land use and decreasing environmental pollution. Katie recently led two Innovate-UK funded grants. The first of these looked at reducing carbon emissions from pig farming via valorisation of waste (i.e. slurry) and exploring the feasibility of on-farm disruptive technologies to generate green energy. The second involved using black-soldier fly larvae to valorise slurry using the National Pig Centre's commercial demonstrator insect rearing unit. Katie's recent work also includes a large-scale study on adaptive farrowing and exploring the use of polyphenol rich agri-food by-products in the diet of the newly weaned pig as an alternative to pharmacological levels of zinc oxide.