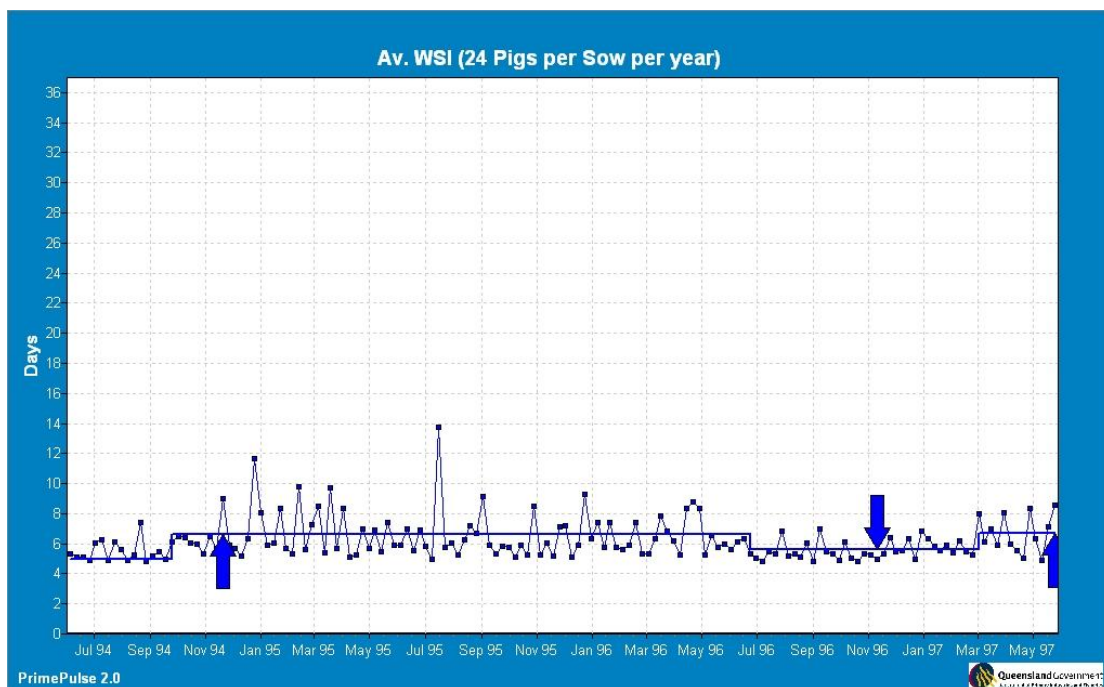


WFSI Case Study

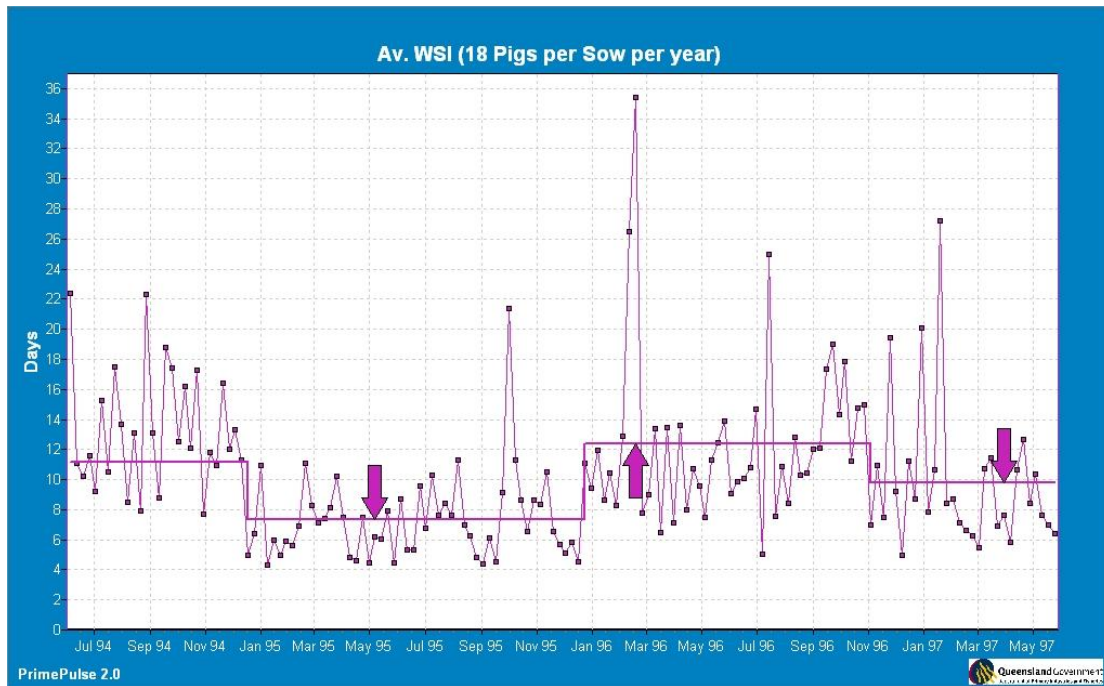
30 farms were compared to rank these herds according to the number of pigs weaned per sow per year. The best farm averaged 24 Pigs Weaned per Sow per year and the worst farm averaged 18 Pigs Weaned per Sow per year.

An analysis of various reproductive traits contributing to Pigs Weaned per Sow per year revealed that no particular trait was responsible for the difference observed. It was more an issue of moderate depression in many traits than a major depression in just a few traits.

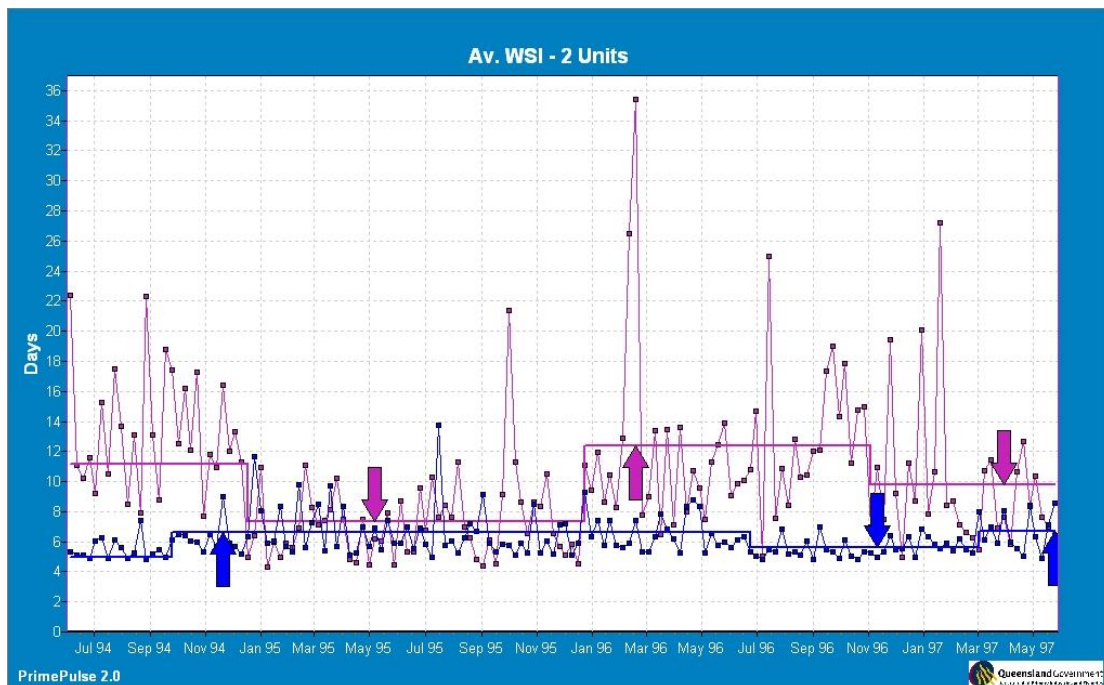
The extent of the problem observed in Weaning to First Service Interval is representative of the general effect observed to depress production over a wide range of traits influencing Pigs weaned per Sow per year.



The farm achieving 24 Pigs Weaned per sow per year has achieved remarkable control over WFSI. Note that the week to week pattern of variation is consistently tight. The narrow band of variability makes it easier to pick up smaller and smaller changes in performance. So better control makes it easier to find smaller issues to address and resolve to give even better control to find even smaller issues and so on.



The farm achieving 18 Pigs Weaned per sow per year has achieved much less control over WFSI. Note that the week to week pattern of variation is much wider. Consequently WFSI is elevated for much of the period observed. Interestingly, this herd has managed to perform at comparable levels to the high performing herd for a significant period (nine months commencing January 1995).



This tends to suggest that housing, feeding and breeding are not limiting performance and that perhaps management is at fault. This herd has certainly demonstrated the potential capacity to perform well, but has not been able to perform to that potential for much of the time. The introduction of

Standard Operating Procedures adopted by the successful farm are likely to resolve many of the issues limiting this farms performance. It is the SOP's that are required to protect production from the affects of the transient issues depressing productive performance.