



R&D Snapshot

Can feeding lupins or mineral salts decrease backfat in immunocastrated male pigs?

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Purpose:

- Immunisation of entire male pigs increases feed intake and growth rate, but also increases backfat.
- To determine whether feeding lupins or mineral salts (3% calcium chloride + 1.6% sodium tripolyphosphate) *ad libitum* for up to 28 days prior to slaughter can suppress voluntary feed intake of immunocastrated (IC) male pigs and reduce backfat.

Take home messages:

- IC male pigs fed the mineral salt diet ate less feed with no effect on growth rate compared with pigs in the control group, but was not effective in reducing backfat.
- Feed intake, body fat and backfat were reduced in IC male pigs to similar levels of entire males when fed lupins at 20% of the diet, but growth was adversely impacted.
- These findings highlight that:
 - Further work is required to determine the appropriate levels of lupins in the diet to optimise growth performance and carcass composition.
 - Mineral salts may be useful to reduce feed intake and improve feed conversion where reducing back fat is not an objective.

Additional information:

- For further information or a copy of the full report, please contact Dr Robyn Terry at robyn.terry@australianpork.com.au on 0427 423 869.

APL Project 2014/445 – Management strategies to reduce feed intake and back fat in pigs receiving Improvac®

