



# R&D Snapshot

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

**Investigators:** Ms Karen Moore, Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia

### **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](mailto: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®

