



R&D Snapshot

Fatty acid content in sow diets reduces stillborn rates but not litter sex bias

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Purpose:

- To determine whether feeding sows a diet containing higher levels of α -linolenic acid (LNA) and linoleic acid (LA) during lactation can increase sow reproductive performance (0.27% LNA and 1.8–2.0% LA vs. 0.13% LNA and 1.1–1.2% LA)
- To determine whether feeding sows a diet containing higher levels of LA (2.5–2.7%) with 0.27% LNA increases the percentage of female piglets born in the subsequent litter

Take home messages:

- Feeding sows a diet containing 0.27% LNA and 1.8–2.0% LA improved reproductive performance (1050 liveborn and 69 stillborn piglets per 100 sows weaned) compared to diets containing 0.13% LNA and 1.1–1.2% LA (947 liveborn and 102 stillborn piglets per 100 sows weaned)
- Diets containing high levels of LA (2.5–2.7%) did not affect litter sex bias in the subsequent litter
- Review of fatty acid levels in sow lactation diets may be warranted (in conjunction with your nutritionist) to optimise sow reproductive performance.

Additional information:

- For further information or a copy of the final report please contact Dr Rebecca Athorn at rebecca.athorn@australianpork.com.au or 02 6270 8827

APL Project 2016/2215 – Alleviating seasonal infertility and increasing the female: male ratio in litters by manipulating dietary intake of omega 6 and omega 3 fatty acids

