SINGLE DIET FOR GROWER-FINISHERS

COMMERCIAL VALIDATION OF A SINGLE DIET VERSES PHASE FEEDING IN GROWER-FINISHER PIGS

Project Participants

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Problem

Previous studies have shown grower-finisher pigs fed a single diet treatment resulted in a lower cost per kilogram liveweight gain. This cost was said to be 3 cents per kilogram lower. However, these findings have not been validated under commercial conditions.

Project

As part of this study, male and female pigs housed at commercial stocking densities were given 4 different feeding programs including a conventional three-phase program, a blend feeding program, a single diet and a standard commercial feeding program. The growth and performance of the pigs was assessed.

Value for Producers

Producers should ensure their grower and finisher diets are formulated with the minimum available lysine levels (shown in Table 1) to ensure optimal growth.

Results

There were no significant differences between any of the treatments in terms of growth rate or feed conversation efficiency overall; pigs on the single diet exhibited reduced performance in the early stages, but compensated for this later on which allowed them to achieve a similar performance overall.

It was also found that the lysine requirement assumptions for this trial were too low, and so all diets were likely lysine deficient at some point during the trial.

Recommendations

This trial confirmed that the lysine requirements of modern pig genetics in Australia may be higher than is currently recognised in commercial diets and suggests the minimum available lysine levels required to support performance of grower/finisher pigs shown below (Table 1) are required for optimal growth.

Table 1. Minimum available Lysine requirements for various liveweight phases of male and female grower/finisher pigs

Liveweight phase (kg)	Available lysine requirement for males (g/MJ DE)	Available lysine requirement for females (g/MJ DE)
25 to 40	0.75	0.72
40 to 60	0.65	0.58
60 to 80	0.58	0.58
80 to 105	0.52	0.52

More Information

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