



# FEEDING FEMALE GROWER PIGS BETAINE TO REDUCE BACKFAT

## OPTIMISING THE DURATION OF BETAINE SUPPLEMENTATION IN PIG PRODUCTION

### Project Participants

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### Problem

Betaine is used as a conditional supplement in pig diets. Industry nutritionists have different recommendations on betaine usage for various stages of the pig lifecycle. The key factor which determines the cost effectiveness of betaine application in pig production is the timing and length of the betaine supplementation period.

### Project

The project aimed to determine the most suitable duration and level of betaine supplementation in pig diets for various stages of the pig lifecycle.

### Value for Producers

Adding betaine to female grower diets and lactation diets is a cost-effective way to reduce backfat thickness and alleviate heat stress and summer infertility. Producers should work with their nutritionist to implement betaine in their pig diets.

### Recommendations

Adding betaine to weaner pig (4-10 weeks old) diets has no effect on growth performance and has a negative impact when added to gestation diets.

Betaine should be added in the female grower phase diet (at 0.1 per cent from 10-16 weeks age) as an economical strategy to reduce backfat thickness.

Adding betaine to the lactation diet during summer can help to alleviate heat stress.

### More Information

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