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TITLE

COMBINATION OF A BACILLUS-BASED PROBIOTIC AND YEAST-BASED PREBIOTIC IMPROVES FAECAL CONSISTENCY AND REDUCES INDIVIDUAL ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT IN EARLY WEANED PIGLETS

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Synbiotic combination of pre- and probiotics show a high potential to prevent intestinal dysbiosis by stabilizing intestinal microbiota. This study aimed to investigate the effect of a combination of a defined probiotic and a yeast-based prebiotic on intestinal health (faecal consistency) and zootechnical performance in early weaned piglets

Material & Methods

Weaned piglets (DanZucht x Piètrain, 21 d of age, 5.66 ± 0.12 kg BW, ? + ?) were randomly allocated into two treatment groups (n = 4, 45 piglets per replicate). Piglets were fed standard diets meeting the nutritional requirements given by GfE (2006). Diets were either without any pro- or prebiotic supplementation (control) or supplemented with a combination of bacillus based probiotic and yeast-based prebiotic (Triple P®) at a dosage of 1%. For faecal consistency a subjective scoring system from 1 to 4 was used. Score 1 and 2 were considered as signs of diarrhoea, whereby score 4 represent optimal faeces consistency.

Results

In the first week after weaning reduced faecal consistency was observed in both groups. However, dietary supplementation of Triple P® improved faecal consistency at d 7 ($P < 0.05$) and reduced the time period of reduced faecal consistency compared with control. At d 7 after weaning Triple P®-fed piglets showed optimal faecal consistency, whereby faecal consistency from control piglets were reduced until d 15. Less individual antibiotic treatments were necessary in treatment groups compared with control. Average daily weight gain and average daily feed intake were numerically higher in treatment group.

Discussion & Conclusion

The synbiotic combination Triple P® improved faecal consistency and reduced the need for individual antibiotic treatments in early weaned piglets. It should be considered, that synbiotics are more potent to prevent and not to treat intestinal disturbances and supplementation before should be considered.