



WELFARE & NUTRITION

AWN-045

PRO- AND PREBIOTIC COMBINATION IN BIMULAC® PRE REDUCES DIARRHEA IN SUCKLING PIGLETS

M. Schmidt¹, A. Schlagheck², B. Hildebrand².

¹ Biochem Zusatzstoffe Handels- und Produktionsges. mbH, Lohne (Oldenburg), Germany;

² Biochem Zusatzstoffe Handels- und Produktionsges. mbH, Lohne, Germany.

Introduction

Early contact with diarrhea-causing pathogens leads to an imbalance of the intestinal microbiota. Thus, newborn piglets are faced with great challenges. As a preventive measure, the use of microbiota and immune-modulatory feed additives is reported to support the vitality of piglets. The objective of the present study was to investigate the effect of a pre- and probiotic combination on diarrhea incidence and growth performance in suckling piglets (21 days lactation period).

Material and Methods

40 DanBred sows and their litters were used in a feeding trial conducted on a commercial farm in Germany. All animals were located in one stable section and were randomly divided in a control and a trial group with 20 sows each (comparable parity number). Each piglet of trial group was drenched with 2 ml of Bimulac® Pre at day 2 and 4 after farrowing. The control animals received electrolytes and a complex of B vitamins in case of diarrhea infection. Number of infected litters with diarrhea and average daily weight gains were recorded. Bacterial pathogens in piglets showing diarrhea were determined by swap sampling method.

Results

Bimulac® Pre reduced the percentage of litters affected by diarrhea (10% vs 40%). The swap sampling indicated an *E.coli* infection in both groups. The average weight gain tended to be improved in the Bimulac Pre® group compared to control (180 vs. 160 g per head/d; $p < 0.10$). A significant difference in weight gain was detected in sows with parity > 1 (185 vs. 161 g per head/day; $p < 0.05$) higher weight gain in the trial group.

Discussion and Conclusion

The use of a complementary feeding stuff containing a pre- and probiotics combination seems to be an effective tool to prevent *E.coli*-related diarrhea in suckling piglets. Less diarrhea allows a better growth performance of piglets.