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TITLE

INFLUENCE OF LIVE WEIGHT OF GROW-FINISH PIGS ON THE FEED INTAKE FED VIA A LIQUID FEEDING SYSTEM WITH DIFFERENT GROUP SIZE AND WITH A DIFFERENT PIG-TO-FEEDER RATIO.

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CONTENT

Background and Objectives

Liquid feeding is generally used in pig farms worldwide, but little is known about the individual behavior of pigs depending on their body weight using this mode of feeding. This study examined the influence of live weight, time of day, group size and pig-to-feeder ratio on feed-uptake.

Material & Methods

In a grow-finishing unit applying liquid feed via sensor feeding in 5 blocks/day behaviour of pigs at feeding was recorded with the software VideoSyncPro during all feeding times and over a 3-day period. Before start of the observation period pigs were individually weighed and marked with a color code. In total 97 pigs in 4 pens were investigated: Group A: 13, B: 19, C: 26, D: 39 pigs; group A and C: pig-to-feeder ratio 2:1, group B and D: 3:1. Software Mangold INTERACT was used to analyze.

Results

In all four groups independent of group size or pig-to-feeder ratio it was observed that each pig was taking up feed at least once in each of the feedings blocks. The individual body weight had no influence on the frequency of food intake. Pigs with a higher live weight in the groups do not stand more often at the feed trough than lighter pigs. It has been noted that heavy pigs more frequently at the start of feeding standing at the feed trough than lighter-weight pigs.

Discussion & Conclusions

This study demonstrated that all pigs took up feed in each feeding block independent of the individual body weight. It was observed in all groups that pigs showed highest activity in feed uptake during afternoon hours. This is in line with the biphasic biorhythm of swine, with a more active behaviour during the afternoon. Further studies on other farms are ongoing to confirm that observations are not farm-related.