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EFFECT OF HIGH LEVELS OF FIBER SOURCES (ALFALFA AND SUNFLOWER MEAL) IN PIGS' DIET (60-100 KG) ON THE COEFFICIENTS OF NUTRIENT APPARENT ABSORPTION AND GUT HEALTH

T.D. Panaite, G.M. Cornescu, C. Tabuc, M. Olteanu, C. Soica, R.D. Criste.

INCDBNA Balotesti, Balotesti, Romania.

Fibre-high feed ingredients can decrease the cost of pigs diets because of their lower costs compared to the conventional raw materials. The experimental trial was conducted on 9 pigs divided in 3 groups (C, E1, E2) for a period of 8 weeks. The pigs were housed in individual digestibility cages which allowed the daily recording of the feed intake and of the excreta. Diet C was based on corn, wheat and soybean meal had: 17.50 crude protein, 3.50% crude fibre and 3232 kcal/kg ME. The experimental diets differed from group C by their fibre content: 6.5% (E1) and 7.5% (E2). The higher fibre level was obtained with alfalfa meal (4% in E1 diet; 6% in E2 diet) and sunflower meal (12.36% in E1diet; 18.38% in E2 diet). There were two balance periods of 5 days each (weeks 4 and 8); the average feed intake and excreta (dry matter basis) were recorded and samples were collected, which were analysed for: dry matter, protein, fat, fibre, ash and gross energy. During the first balance period the coefficients of apparent fibre absorption were significantly ($P<0.05$) higher in both experimental groups (62.64% -E1 and 63.59% - E2), compared to the control group (48.52%). No significant ($P<0.05$) difference was noticed, however, during the second balance between groups regarding the coefficients of apparent fibre absorption. The total number of bacterial germs in faeces registered significant differences ($P<0.05$) only between E1 (8.312±0.01 col/g) and E2 (8.342±0.013 col/g) groups for the first balance period. Regarding the total fungal count, significant differences ($P<0.05$) were recorded only between group C (3.915±0.121 col/g) and group E2 (3.017±0.408 col/g), during the second balance period. In conclusion, the use of high-fibre diet formulations (6.5 and 7.5%) for fattening pigs (60-100kg), didn't have adverse effects on pig health and performance.