



WELFARE & NUTRITION

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IMPROVING WELFARE AND NUTRITION OF WEANED PIGLET BY AMYLOFEED

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Introduction

High intestinal viscosity induced by dietary cereals (wheat/Barley) can increase pathogen flora in the distal GIT associated with enteric diseases. These stressors can alter immune systems reducing health and growing conditions. The objective of the study was to evaluate the effects of Amylofeed (multienzyme complex) on the animal nutrition and welfare of weaned piglets.

Material and methods

A total of 320 weaned piglets (7.1 ± 0.50 Kg BW) weaned at 28 days of age were used during 42 days. Treatments were: Control: Basal diet versus basal diet + 0.5 Kg/MT Amylofeed. The Barley/wheat meal basal diets were isonutritives, and met or exceeded the nutrient requirements for piglets (NRC, 1994). Prestarter diets were offered from 1-21 days, and starter diets from 22-42 days. Live weight (**LW**), feed intakes, BWG, FCR, mortality were recorded or calculated at 0, 7, 21, and 42 days of age. Veterinarian inspections were made continuously for any signs of wet droppings/diarrhea. Data were analyzed by GLM of SAS (SAS, 1990). Statistical significance was declared at $P < 0.05$.

Results

Although feed intake was unaffected by the treatments ($P > 0.10$), piglets fed Amylofeed® (D1-D42) improved ($P < 0.05$) BWG (+5.6%; $P = 0.031$) and FCR (-4%; $P = 0.031$) and showed a numerically better feces score compared with the control group. Mortality was unaffected by the treatments.

Discussion and Conclusion

The possible health effect of Amylofeed® in piglets seems to focus on the degradation of NSP of Barley/wheat, reducing its high viscosity and stimulating the growth and activity of beneficial bacteria in the GIT. Amylofeed® added at 0.5 kg/ton to Barley/wheat basal improved welfare and nutrition of weaned piglets.